OPINION 6

WHY ACCOUNTABILITY

IS SO IMPORTANT

WORLD 8

IMRAN URGES JUDICIARY TO HALT

VICTIMISATION OF PARTY MEMBERS

MARKETS SNAP RECORD-BREAKING

RUN ON INFOSYS SHOCKER: DOWN 1%

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BUMRAH TO PLAY PRACTICE GAMES

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 22, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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PM must speak, says

Opp; Govt retorts you

don't want discussion

MORE HORROR TALES FROM MANIPUR SURFACE

Tribal groups, MLAs reveal many incidents of rape-murder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL/NEW DELHI

After Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh made a shocking admission on Thursday that many more cases similar to the parading of a naked woman on the streets of Phainom village in Kangpokpi District took place in the State, reports have surfaced about four more such cases of rape and murder that occurred back-to-back between May 3 and May 6.
The disclosure was made

by a group of ten Kuki-Zomi MLAs, seven of them from the BJP, and later by two tribal groups to the National Commission for Women (NCW) on June 12 itself. These MLAs released a statement highlighting four other incidents where women belonging to the community have either been raped or murdered since May 3. Their statement comes in the wake of the recent cruelty to women who were paraded naked on May 4 in the Kangkopi district of Manipur.

The statement also men-

tioned a few other incidents of



Imphal; the kidnapping of a Kuki-Zomi woman from Checkon and brutally raped twice in Langol and Ngarian Hill; the lynching of two nursing students in Porompat, left to die on the streets but miraculously survived; the merciless killing of a Kuki-Zomi mentally unsound woman in the heart of Imphal city are the most inhumane and barbaric crimes against women and humanity," the statement read.

MLA LM Khaute shared the statement on Twitter also highlighting the brutal case of the beheading of David Thiek, terming these as cases of "barbarism and crimes of utmost

savagery". The Kuki Zomi MLAs strongly condemned these acts of cruelty and savagery perpetrated by the Meitei militias against their fellow helpless, defenceless, and innocent Kuki-Zo people and demanded a CBJ probe in such cases.

Meanwhile, according to CNN-News18, two tribal organisations in Manipur claimed that they wrote to the NCW on June 12 about the horrific brutalisation of Kuki women, a video of which has now gone viral, but received no response. The North American Manipur Tribal Association (NAMTA) and Kuki academics based in India and the USA had sent a letter to the commission 37 days before the video of the Kuki women being video of the Kuki women being

paraded naked and gang-raped

shook the country.
In their letter, they detailed what happened to the Kuki survivor, stating that on May 4, two women from B Phainom village of Kangpokpi District were disrobed, paraded naked, beaten and the beaten, and then encircled by a marauding Meitei mob and raped in public. The State police commandos remained mere spectators to the lynchings and torching of homes. The victims are now housed at a Churachandpur district relief

In a press statement, the NCW acknowledged receiving the complaint and said: "Another complaint was received from individuals outside Manipur out of which one was from outside India. In this regard, the D.O letter dated 19/06/2023 from Commission (NCW) was immediately sent to CS for taking necessary

Continued on Page 2

Aboth the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the second day of the monsoon session on Friday as the Opposition parties demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the pressing issue surrounding Manipur. Amid the continuous

massive ruckus ensued in

PNS NEW DELHI

were adjourned till Monday. The outrage was sparked by a disturbing video that went viral, showing two women from a tribal community in Manipur being paraded naked. The Opposition parties have been demanding a discussion

on the issue and an elaborate

protests and slogans raised by

the opposition, both houses

statement from PM Modi. In the Lok Sabha, members from the Congress, the DMK, and the Left raised slogans demanding the Prime Minister's response on the issue. The Government accused the Opposition parties of not being "serious" in discussing the matter.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Government is ready for a discussion. "Manipur incident is definitely very serious and understanding the situation, the PM himself has said that what hap-pened in Manipur has put the entire nation to shame. The PM has said that the strictest action will be taken over the incident," said Rajnath.

He added, "We do want a discussion in Parliament over Manipur. I had said this in the all-party meeting, and I reiterate this in Parliament that we want a discussion in the House over Manipur. But I see that there are a few political parties that unnecessarily want to create a situation here so that the discussion on Manipur can't take place. I am clearly leveling allegations that this Opposition is not serious over Manipur as

they should have been. Continued on Page 2

Gyanvapi masjid survey allowed

Varanasi court asks ASI to carry out excavations also if needed

PTI VARANASI

Acourt here on Friday the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a "detailed scientific survey" — including excavations, wherever necessary to determine if the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple is

built upon a temple.

The mosque's 'wazukhana', where a structure claimed by Hindu litigants to be a 'shivling' exists, will not be part of the survey — following an earlier Supreme Court order protect

ing that spot in the complex.
District judge AK Vishvesh directed the ASI to submit a report to the court by August 4, along with videos and pho-

tographs of survey proceedings. "The Director of ASI is also directed to conduct a detailed scientific investigation by using GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) survey, excavation, dating method and other modern techniques of the present structure to find out as to whether same has been constructed over a pre-existing structure of Hindu temple," the order said.

It specifically directed the use of GPR technology for survey "just below the three domes of the building in question", and to conduct an excavation there "if required".

Hindu activists, who claim that a temple existed earlier at the site and was demolished in

the 17th century on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, hailed the court order.

A throng of people outside the court received the news with slogans of "Har Har Mahadev".

The court had on July 14 reserved its order after hearing both the Hindu and Muslim sides.

The petition filed by the Hindu group, seeking the right to regular worship of sculptures of Hindu deities on the mosque's outer wall, had sought court directions to the ASI to survey the complex. It's counsel had said the sit-

uation will become clear after examining the three domes of the Gyanvapi complex, the western wall and the entire complex in a modern manner.

counsel Mohammed Tauhid Khan said it will challenge the Varanasi court's order.

cause damage to the mosque,

"It is not acceptable and we will move to a higher court against it. This survey could

er court ordered a video survey The mosque management's of the complex. The mosque management maintained that the structure is

part of the water fountain mechanism at the 'wazukhana', the reservoir where devotees perform ablutions before offer-

Apart from the mosque's

domes, the order mentions the

need to survey beneath the

western wall and beneath the

cellars. The ASI should also

conduct an exercise on the

plinth and pillars to deter-

mine the age and nature of the

ensure that there is no damage

to the "structure standing on

The Varanasi district court had on May 16 agreed to hear

a plea for an ASI survey, fol-lowing an Allahabad High

had ordered the protection of

the area around the claimed

"shivling", found when anoth-

Earlier, the Supreme Court

The order asked the ASI to

building, the judge said.

the disputed land".

Court order.

Another accused house burnt down



People set ablaze the house of Manipur sexual assault case accused, in Tuinomkhopi in Manipur on Friday

All 4 accused remanded police said. The arrests were in 11-day police custody made on Thursday, a day after the 26-second video surfaced.

PTI IMPHAL

All the four accused, who were allegedly part of a mob that disrobed and paraded two women in Manipur on May 4, were remanded in 11day police custody on Friday,

Meanwhile, the house of another suspect, who is yet to be arrested, was vandalised and torched by angry locals on Friday afternoon, police said.

According to police, the suspect's house was located at Wangjing in Thoubal district. "The suspect is yet to be arrested. He fled home after coming to know that police were look-

ing for him," an official said. The house of the key accused was torched on Thursday, hours after he was arrested by police. According to police, he was seen prominently directing the mob at B Phainom village of Kangpokpi district in the video.

Continued on Page 2

'INDIA' to meet after Aug 15



 ■ Minister Mamata Banerjee has called upon the Chief Ministers of Oppostion-ruled States to jointly take a delegation to Manipur to assess the ground situation there.

"I had a talk with Arvind (Kejriwal) and I will request other Chief Ministers too jointly visit Manipur," Mamata said, adding the date of such visit

would be made public soon. Accusing the BJP of blocking Central funds, Mamata's nephew and TMC general secretary Abhishek said that he would personally lead large



crowds of Trinamool supporters to gherao the national BJP leaders in Delhi.

"I will personally lead thousands of TMC supporters to Delhi on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi ... in order to extract our money that they have stopped,"

the junior Banerjee said.



Water pumps in use to drain out the floodwaters from the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at the Raj Ghat in New Delhi on Friday

Modi surname: SC to hear Rahul's plea on August 4

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice on an appeal filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi against a Gujarat High Court order that refused to suspend his conviction and two-year jail term in a criminal defamation case. The court fixed August 4 as the date for hearing his plea to stay the

guilty verdict.

"The whole point right now is whether the conviction has to be stayed or not," said a bench of justices BR Gavai and PK Mishra as it sought responses from BJP leader Purnesh Modi, who is the complainant in the case, and the Gujarat Government.

During the brief hearing, the court expressed surprise at the high court's lengthy judgment on the matter. Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi appeared for Gandhi,



Jethmalani represented the complainant.

Justice Gavai, at the beginning of the hearing, disclosed his family's association with the Congress party but clarified that it would not affect his judgment in the case. Both lawyers confirmed that they had no issue with Justice Gavai hearing the matter.

Singhvi argued for an early hearing, pointing out that Gandhi has suffered as an MP and missed two Parliamentary sessions due to the conviction. Continued on Page 2 | ners.



The next meeting of the Opposition alliance INDIA is likely to be held next month, probably after August 15, in Mumbai. The alliance leaders have started coordinating for several committees, with campaign management, communication, and overseeing rallies being top on the agenda.

A senior leader from one of the alliance groups said that the Mumbai meeting, coordinated by Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and NCP's Sharad Pawar, will be crucial to finalise the nitty-gritty of the alliance and seat sharing. In the meeting, the 26-party pact, known as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), is expected to discuss seat-sharing, poll preparations, and campaign

management among its part-

Probable dates for the conclave were discussed during the Opposition parties' meeting on Parliament Strategy, held at the chamber of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday.

During the meeting, Kharge expressed satisfaction with the unity observed within the members who participated in the Patna and Bengaluru meetings. The leaders decided to plan the meeting after August 15 in Mumbai, with representatives of Shiv Sena and NCP volunteering to

Sources mentioned that AAP's representative proposed holding one of the Opposition meetings in Punjab as well.

Previously, the June Patna meeting was hosted by JD (U) leader and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejaswi Yadav, while the Bengaluru meeting was hosted by Karnataka Congress.

Continued on Page 2

DGCA OK's Go First op with 114 daily flights

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved Go First's plan to restart operations with 15 air-craft and 114 daily flights, subject to certain conditions. The airline which stopped flying on May 3, is undergoing an insol-

vency resolution process.

DGCA said the airline's resumption plan for operating 15 aircraft and 114 daily flights has been reviewed and accepted. "The acceptance is subject to the outcome of the writ petitions/applications pending before the High Court of Delhi and the (National Company Law Tribunal) NCLT, Delhi," it

This comes after the airline's Resolution Professional Shailendra Ajmera recently invited Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from potential bidders. "The sale of tickets shall be



approval of flight schedule by DGCA", it said.

The airline on Thursday informed on Twitter that due to operational reasons, all its flights have been cancelled at least until July 23, 2023. Go First may resume scheduled flight operations on the availability of interim funding and approval of flights scheduled by DGCA, it said. Further, the DGCA has directed Go First to ensure compliance with all the applicable regulatory requirements and the continued airworthiness of the aircraft engaged in operations.

commenced only after the

virtual mode

Tihar produces Yasin in SC; apex court, CBI, SG shocked

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, the Solicitor General, and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) expressed shock on Friday over a serious security lapse by Tihar jail authorities and security agencies when convicted terrorist Yasin Malik was physically produced in the SC, instead of appearing through

Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta expressed their surprise as there was no specific instruction for Malik's physical appearance.

Malik, a Kashmiri separatist leader, arrived in the apex court to defend himself in a case filed by the CBI related to the killing of Air Force officers and the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed. He filed an Continued on Page 2 | appeal against a Jammu Court

order for his virtual appearance in the proceedings. Justice Dipankar Datta recused himself

from hearing the case

involving Malik's physical production in a Jammu court to stand trial in kidnapping and murder cases Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta strongly objected to Malik's presence in the Supreme Court, pointing out that the procedure requires approval from the Registrar of the Court for such appearances. Mehta rebuked the jail officials present in court for allowing Malik to appear physically and informed the Bench that Section 268 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which empowers the Government to keep convicts of serious offens-

es in prison, applies to him.

Continued on Page 2

JD(S) to work together with BJP: Kumaraswamy

PTI BENGALURU

TD(S) leader and former minister HD Kumaraswamy on Friday said his party has decided to work together as an opposition with the BJP, in the interest of the state

Stating that party supre-mo and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda has authorised him to take any final decision regarding the party, he said there is still time for Parliament polls to talk about it. Kumaraswamy was responding to a question on the discussions in the JD(S) legislature party meeting on Thursday night, which was attended by Gowda, amid reports about the possibility of JD(S) allying with the NDA ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha

polls.
"I have already said both inside and outside the assembly, as both BJP and JD(S) are opposition parties, it has been decided to work together in



the interest of the state. Even today morning, MLAs of our party discussed how to go ahead," he said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, in the legislature party meeting Gowda has advised that after gathering the opinion all the leaders, a 10-member team has to be formed with representation from all communities, for the party organisation and to raise the voice against the misdeeds of this (Congress)

government in all the 31 districts. "Still there is 11 months for Parliament elections. Let's see when Parliament election comes. It was advised to organise the party.

Also, Deve Gowda has said that he has authorised me to take any final decision regarding the party," he added. In the elections to the 224-member Assembly held in May, the Congress bagged 135 seats, while the BJP secured 66 and the JD(S) 19.

HC to hear plea against proposed demolition of Ayodhya masjid minaret

s the construction of Ram A temple in Ayodhya nears completion, a fight is on in the Allahabad High Court over a minaret of an 18th century mosque "encroaching" on the proposed Ram Path, a road leading to the temple.

The matter will be heard by the Lucknow bench of the high court on Monday (July 24). A minaret of Khajoor ki

Masjid in Gudri Bazaar in the heart of Faizabad city is said to be encroaching on the pro-posed Ram Path by three

In a tweet on Thursday, Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi alleged that "illegal attempts" are being made to demolish the minaret of the mosque for the widening of the Ram Path.

"The mosque committee has filed a petition in the high court. Trying to forcibly demolish the minaret is condemnable. UP CM should fol-

low the law and respect this historical mosque of the Shia community," he tweeted.

The mosque committee has prayed before the high court for the protection of the historical mosque via a writ

petition on March 1 this year. The high court issued a notice to the Ayodhya district

magistrate the next day.

Talking to PTI, Ayodhya
District Magistrate Nitish
Kumar said, "We have submitted our reply in the court. Thirteen other mosques falling on the way of Ram Path have been removed peacefully. We are going with the alignment of the road finalised by the government. The mosque committee had initially given its consent (for the demolition of minaret) but it later approached

the court." On April 21, the Ayodhya district administration filed its response before the court.

The mosque is said to have been built in 1750 by a Nawab

Maha landslide toll rises to 22, many feared buried

T N RAGHUNATHA

 Γ he toll in the Irshalwadi landslide rose to 22 on Friday, even as the various agencies rescued as many as 119 others from under the debris of the landslide that crushed 17 houses at Irshalwadi village in Khalapur taluka of

village in Khalapur taluka of rain-ravaged Raigad district in coastal Konkan region late on Wednesday night.

On a day when the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Gira brigade personnel from the fire brigade personnel from the nearby areas recovered six more bodies from under the landslide debris, a statement made by chief minister Eknath Shinde in the State Assembly gave rise to an apprehension that a large number of people were still feared buried under

Giving the details of the escue and relief operations being carried out at Irshalwadi, Shinde said: "In landslideaffected village (which had 48

families and a population of 228 people at the time of mishap), as many as 109 people have so far been identified. The search and rescue operation is continuing".

There are conflicting versions about the number of people rescued from under the debris.

On Thursday evening, the NDRF had pegged the number of people rescued at 98, while the official sources said that the authorities had till Friday evening rescued 119 people. Given that some people, including children, were away from their homes at the time of mishap and some others had rushed out of their homes immediately after the landslide, it is difficult to account for the number of people who are still still miss-

Earlier in the day, the NDRF, SDRF and other rescue teams, who suspended the search operation on Thursday evening, resumed the operation in the early hours of Friday.

During the search operation that saw them clear mounds and mounds of debris and loose soil from the mishap site, the rescue teams recovered six more bodies from under the bodies, taking the toll in the landslide to 22.

Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023 passed

PNS JAIPUR

Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill-Minimum 2023 was passed in the state assembly on Thursday. This has been brought in to give guarantee to ensure 125 days employment to all families in rural and urban areas in the state, minimum pension of Rs 1000 every month to elderly people, specially-abled, widows or single women under social security pension schemes in the state and

guarantee of 15% annual increase in these pensions. Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to bring such a bill from the social security point of view. It is to be mentioned that Chief Minister

Shri Ashok Gehlot in the 2023-24 budget announced to implement the Mahatma Gandhi Minimum Guaranteed Income Scheme in the coming year with a view to provide the right of social security to the needy people and families by making a law covering urban and rural employment guarantee along with all pension schemes sponsored by the state government.

With the implementation of this law, all

families in the state will get an employment guarantee of 125 days along with elderly people, specially-abled, widows or single women will get a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month. Besides this, in rural areas, the families on completing 100 days in MGNREGS will now get 25

PUBLIC NOTICE days of addi-PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Swali Sarkhala Wio, Mr. Krishan Kumar is the owner of A PLOT No. 43, AREA MEASURING 50.16 SVARDS, 41.93 SQ. METER, PART OF KHASRA NO. 365, SITUATED AT MOUJA: MAKHDUM, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT: MATHURA, UTTAR PRADESH, vide sale deed dated 13.12.2022. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Swali Sankhala Wio. Mr. Krishan Kumar is taking loan from Satya Micro Housing Finance Pxt. Ltd. Mrs. Swali Sankhala Wo. Mr. Krishan Kumar has lost sale deed dated 22.10.2012 and she has not used the same for taking loan from may Bank/NBFC/ Company or individuals. This is for the information of general public only.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata. Advocate

Is sfor the information of general public only.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)

18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Valibhav Khandi, Indirapuram
aziabad 201014.E-mail: sgassociatespk@gmail.com ail: sgassociatespi@gmaii.com Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837



CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, Lakhan Gupta S/o Ram Dass R/o KH No. 108, House No-34, Chilla Saroda Khadar, Mayur Vihar Ph-I, Delhi-110091, declare that my name has been wrongly written as Ram Lakhan in my LIC Policy No. 117803048. My actual name is Lakhan Gupta.

Property Bearing No. 15 vide Relinquishment Deed dated 05.01.2002 executed by Pol Rogistered as Doc. No-20471. The above-mentioned Mr. Jagdeep Bhandari is be owner of Ground Floor (Without Roof Rights) of both Properties Bearing No. 115 & 116 Land Area measuring 25.90 Sq. Mtrs. of both property written as Ram Lakhan in my LIC Policy No. 117803048. My actual name is Lakhan Gupta.

PD(106)C

ment in the Mukhyamantri Grameen Rojgar Guarantee Yojana (Chief Minister Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme). While in urban areas, employment of 125 days per family will be given in the Indira Gandhi Shehari Rojgar Guarantee Yojana (Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme).

It is to be mentioned that the Central Government is giving a social security pension of Rs 200 to Rs 300 per month only, whereas all the beneficiaries of social security pension that is elderly people, specially-abled, widows and single women will be given a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month by the state government. There used to be no increase in the social security pension for the last many years, but Shri Gehlot in 2019 after 6 years increased the pension amount. With this law, the base rate of the social security pension of Rs 1000 will automatically increase by 15% every year. This increase will be 5% in the month of July and 10%

'INDIA' to meet...

The alliance is also working on finalizing an 11-member coordination committee during the Mumbai meeting, as planned in the just-concluded Bengaluru meeting.

The alliance partners face challenges in easing friction between the Congress and the Left in Kerala, the Left and Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, and the AAP and the Congress in Punjab and Delhi. Differences also exist between Samajwadi Party and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, and between PDP and National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir.

The 26 Opposition parties forming the alliance are the Congress, TMC, DMK, AAP, JD(U), RJD, JMM, NCP (Sharad Pawar), Shiv Sena (UBT), SP, NC, PDP, CPI(M), RLD, MDMK, Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi (KMDK), VCK, RSP, CPI-ML (Liberation), Forward Bloc, IUML, Kerala Congress (Joseph), Kerala Congress (Mani), Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), and the Manithaneya Makkal Katchi

DGCA OK's Go First op with 114 daily...

From Page 1

The DGCA stated that none of Go First's aircraft will be deployed for operations without undertaking a satisfactory handling flight. Any change in the company that has any bearing on the resumption plan submitted by the RP must be notified to DGCA. The airline's RP submitted the resumption plan to DGCA on June 28, and subsequently, the DGCA conducted a special audit of the carrier's facilities in Mumbai and Delhi.

"RP shall submit the proposed flight schedule, commensurate with the available resources in terms of airworthy aircraft, qualified pilots, cabin crew, AMÉs, flight dispatchers, etc., for the consideration of DGCA after making requisite arrangements for the commencement of scheduled flight operations, including the interim funding required for resumption of operations," it said.

The carrier has around 4,200 employees. Its revenue was Rs 4,183 crore from operations in the financial year ended March

2022. Its liabilities are about Rs 11,463 crore. Earlier this month, Go First invited potential buyers or investors to express their interest through a court-appointed administrator, adhering to the procedural requirements mandated by Indian law. Go First filed for bankruptcy protection in May, blaming the grounding of almost half of its fleet of 54 Airbus A320neos to alleged issues with Pratt & Whitney engines. The engine manufacturer responded that the claims made by Go Airlines were unfounded and its misfortunes were of its own making.

Modi surname: SC to hear Rahul's...

The bench accepted his request and scheduled the case for August 4.

Gandhi's appeal was filed on July 15, after the high court ruled that he had "breached modesty" and his offense involved "moral turpitude" He urged the top court to immediately suspend his conviction, stating that it would stifle free speech, expression, and thought. In his petition, Gandhi complained that a political speech critical of eco-

Minister Narendra Modi had been unjustly deemed an act of moral turpitude, setting a dangerous precedent for political dialogue. The complainant, BIP leader Purnesh Modi, filed a caveat in the Supreme Court to ensure his side is heard before any orders are passed on Gandhi's appeal.

Gandhi was convicted on March 23 by a Gujarat magisterial court for his remarks on the Modi surname. The conviction disqualified him as an MP from Kerala's Wayanad

Dhankhar adjourned the pro-

2:30 pm, Chairman Dhankhar

informed the members about

the report of the business advi-

sory committee (BAC) after its

meeting held on Thursday and

Soon after reassembling at

ceedings till 2:30 pm.

People Act. Despite his jail term being suspended, the conviction prevents him from contesting elections unless it is overturned or suspended by a higher court. His legal team aims to

secure at least a stay on the conviction in the next 10 months, allowing him to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In his appeal, Gandhi argued that the approach of the judgments mischaracterized his one-line statement and led to his exclusion from political office for

Tihar produces

requesting immediate action to

address this "serious lapse" of

security. Mehta highlighted

Court was put at risk when

Yasin Malik was brought in

physically, stating that there

escaping, being forcibly taken

Yasin in SC...

From Page 1

Another...

One of the women seen in the video is the wife of an exarmy man who had served in the Índian Army as a Subedar of the Assam Regiment and even fought in the Kargil

It may be recalled, that the complaint in connection with the viral video was lodged around a month ago – June 21 - at Saikul police sta-

tion in Kangpokpi district. The FIR filed in this case, a copy of which has been seen mayhem which occurred before the abduction and shameful behaviour with tribal women, a video of which has now formed the basis of raids and arrests of people

connected with the incident. The FIR claimed that one person was killed by the mob as he tried to protect his sister from being raped on May 4 before the two were paraded naked and molested in

More than 160 people have lost their lives, and several have been injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill

Kangpokpi district, were raped

and murdered in the Konung

that the security of the Supreme community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. were potential risks of him

away, or even killed. CBI officials condemned the decision to allow Malik's physical presence in court, stating that it was a sheer violation of security, and the jail authorities acted "callously." districts.

Mehta stated that the Central Government would take necessary steps to ensure that Malik is not let out of jail again. He later wrote to Union front of others. Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, expressing displeasure and

PM must speak, says Opp; Govt retorts you don't want... From Page 1 Manipur violence issue and the House is the house of elders. into disorder. At this point,

Gopal Nagar Extension, PH-I Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, have Parliamentary Affairs changed the name of my minor Son Minister Prahlad Joshi also Ansh Kumar Shrivastva aged 15 years maintained that his governand he shall hereafter be known as ment was ready for the debate, Riyansh Kumar Shrivastva. which will be replied to by the It is certified that I have complied with Union home minister. other legal requirements in this

The Lok Sabha was first adjourned till 12 pm by the Speaker and then for the rest of the day till Monday by Rajendra Aggarwal, presiding over the house, shortly afterward, following the continued uproar over the violence in Manipur.

Earlier, Congress MPs Manickam Tagore and Hibi Eden moved adjournment motions in the Lok Sabha, citing the need for urgent discussions on the ethnic violence in Manipur.

The Rajya Sabha also could not function for the second consecutive day with the Opposition raising a din on the Delhi Ordinance.

The Opposition made its intentions clear as soon as the proceedings began for the day when Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar started reading out the time allocated for government business. He began this

by mentioning The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill that is to replace an ordinance on services in Delhi. Even before he could com-

plete it, AAP MPs were up on their feet calling the bill "unconstitutional." Dhankhar asked them to maintain decorum in the House. But MPs from AAP, including Sanjay Singh, continued to object, saying no bill can be brought that is unconstitutional.

"I give time to everyone in accordance with the rules. This

Our conduct is being watched by more than 1.3 billion people. We have to be exemplary in our conduct so that we can be appreciated. It is not a public street. It is not a platform," the Chairman said. Meanwhile, Pramod Tiwari (Congress) drew the attention of the house to the Manipur violence.

Raising the issue of expunging certain remarks, Derek O'Brien (TMC) said, 'Three words were expunged. Yesterday we said the Prime Minister should open his mouth on Manipur. The Prime Minister got expunged. Manipur got expunged. Why?" he asked. While he sought to know if any of the words were not fit for parliamentary proceedings, the Chairman repeatedly asked what his point of order was. As O'Brien tried to explain, the House plunged

said it should be taken into account. This led to an uproar with several opposition mem-

bers raising objections over the listing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill along with the Forest Conservation Bill, saying they had already expressed their views against the proposed legislation during the BAC meeting.

Amid the uproar and with most opposition members on their feet, the Chairman adjourned the house till Monday within minutes of its resumption.

required suo moto cognizance

According to them, on May 3 at about 9 pm, mobs stormed the Manipur University campus in Imphal. They brandished sticks and knives in their systematic attempts to locate students, staff, and faculty from the Kuki-Zomi communities. Female students were forced out of their hostels, verbally harassed, and abused by the mob. Nengneivah, a Kuki-Zo Ph.D research scholar, hid in her hostel bathroom until the Assam Rifles rescued defenceless students at 3.15 am. She could hear the mobs conducting room-to-room searches

and shouting slogans such as, "Sida Kuki Nupi Leibra?" (Is there any Kuki woman here?) and "Kuki Nupi Hatlo" (Kill Kuki women).

Agnes Neikhohat and her friend, students at the Nightingale Nurse Institute in Imphal, were harassed and assaulted by a Meitei mob of about 40 people. "Rape her! Torture her! Cut her into pieces!" Meitei women shouted as the attackers pummeled Ms. Haokip, knocking out her front teeth.

Mamang area of Imphal. Meitei miscreants gagged, dragged, and confined the women in a closed room for 2 hours. Their employer could not protect them, and when the room was finally opened at about 7 pm, it was filled with a mixture of blood and hair, and the victims had succumbed to their injuries from the brutal assaults. The victims' bodies remain in the INIMS (Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences) morgue in Imphal to date, and the victims' parents cannot retrieve the bodies to conduct last rites due to the prevailing volatile situation.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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 prowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

NAME CHANGE

I, Anil Kumar Shrivastva S/o Mr.

Chanderdev Prasad R/o 70/71 B,

Public Notice
This is to inform General Public that Mr. Jagdee
Bhandari is the owner of the Ground Floor
Property Bearing No. 115 vide Relinquishmer
Deed dated 15.11.2019 executed by Mrs. Prec

connection

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. Description

Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession February 27,2023 Rs. Flat No. IVY- 102, 1st Floor, Victory Crossroads, Situated at Plot No. GH-01/C Mahender Kumar Gupta/ 30,80,154/-LBDEL00003159992 Sector 143 B, Noida/ July 19, 2023 The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: July 21, 2023

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank Limited

More

However, questions remain about the delay in addressing the issue earlier. On July 20, when the video of the violence went viral, NCW tweeted that it had taken suo moto cognizance of the incident and asked the DGP for answers. "NCW condemns the Manipur incident. Taking suo moto cognizance. The DGP Manipur has been asked to promptly take appropriate action. @sharThe letter written by the

group highlighted several instances of rape and sexual assault, urging the NCW to urgently assess the disproportionate victimization of Kuki-Zomi indigenous tribal women through brutal and inhumane acts of sexual violence, including rape, kidnapping, public lynching, immolation, and murder. They appealed for the Commission to recognize these abhorrent practices as serious abuses of the fundamental human and women's rights of Kuki-Zomi women. The letter also listed five other incidents of alleged sexual violence that

marekha @MinistryWCD" the from the NCW.

On May 4, 22-year-old

On May 5, Themnu and Chongpi, young women in their twenties, hailing from H Khopibung village of

damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisements Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Officiating Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445

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FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT RELIEF CAMPS







Yamuna above danger mark again

The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres yet again on Friday, further delaying rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected law bring areas low-lying areas.

This has prompted instructions from the Delhi government to ensure the safety of residents of low-lying areas many of whom had just returned home. Meanwhile, rainfall is predicted in the Capital over the coming week. The Central Water Central Commission's (CWC) data showed the water level reached 205.34 metres at 6 pm on Friday and may rise further to

205.45 metres by night.
There have been marginal fluctuations in the water level over the last two-three days amid rain in the upper catchment areas, primarily in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The Delhi Government has directed officials to maintain vigil in vulnerable areas and make arrangements to shift people to safer locations after rise in the water level of

river Yamuna. The Yamuna had been receding gradually after reaching an all-time high of 208.66 metres on July 13. Following the forecast, the city government advised the officials to maintain vigil in their respective areas and take necessary action at vulnerable points. The officials have also been advised to warn people living close to river embankments and make arrangements to shift them to safer places.

The water level dropped below the danger mark by 8 pm on Tuesday after flowing above the threshold for eight days. It receded to 205.22 metres at 5 am on Wednesday, before it started rising again and breached the danger mark.

In case of heavy rains upstream of Delhi, the increase the water level could slow down the pace of rehabilitation of the affected families in the inundated low-lying areas of the capital and they may have to stay in relief camps for a longer period. It could also impact the water supply in the city, which became normal only on Tuesday after being affected for four to five days

pump house at Wazirabad. According to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials, there is a shortage of 10-12 million gallons of water per day (MGD) due to inundation of some tube wells in the river flood-

due to the inundation of a

'Floodwaters drained out, Rajghat restored'

New Delhi: Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat has been freed of waterlogging, a week after waters from the Yamuna river inundated the complex. The river touched an all-time high level of 208.66m this month and flooded low-lying

In a tweet, the L-G said, "Sincere and consistent efforts since July 15 by all stakeholder agencies have resulted in restoration of the Rajghat Samadhi area and its approach." "The stagnant flood water has been substantially drained out and restoration of pavements and landscaping is underway," he said.

"Used this opportunity to pay homage to the Father of the Nation this morning. Kudos to the officials & workmen who worked ceaselessly," Saxena added. Officials on Friday said, Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena who was supervising the operation to drain flood water from the lawns and pathways of the memorial, visited Rajghat and took stock of the situation.



Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi after restoration of the Rajghat Samadhi area and its approach. The stagnant flood water has been substantially drained out and restoration of pavements and landscaping is

Water from the main area of the memorial was completely pumped out and it was dried and cleaned now. Senior officers of the Delhi government, including the chief secretary, were constantly monitoring the work on the L-G's instruc-tions," an official said. Last used, officials added.

Saxena OK's Delhi Private

inundated the Ring Road and the situation worsened with backflow from a drain in the area inundating the memorial area. The operations to drain out flood waters started on Sunday and 10 pumps were

Power demand reaches 7,398 MW in Capital

With no rain for the third day in a row, the hot and sultry weather in the national capital pushed the peak power demand in the city to 7,398 MW Friday afternoon - the highest this year so far. The State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) Delhi's real time data showed that the peak demand was 7,398 MW at around 3.10 pm. The peak power demand measures the power consumption in megawatt at any given

time within 24 hours of a day. The previous highest peak demand in this year was 7,226 MW on June 14. The highest even peak power demand of Delhi was recorded at 7,601 MW in June last year, officials Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Twitter said that despite the power demand peaking on Friday, there was 24-hour power sup-ply in the city. "... No power

I remember that before 2015, there used to be long power cuts when the power demand would reach even 6,000 MW," he said. The power discoms in the city have estimated the peak demand to cessfully managed by BSES discoms - BRPL and BYPL- in their respective distribution areas, said a company

spokesperson. Cooling load caused by extensive use of airconditioners, coolers and fans is the main reason behind Delhi's power load during the summers, they said. In fact, according to estimates, around 50 per cent of Delhi's power demand in summers is because of the cooling load, discom officials said.

A Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL) spokesperson said the peak demand was 2,163 MW in the discom's area that was met successfully, without any network constraint and power outage.

The peak power demand crossed the 7,000 MW mark for the first time this year on June 13. It has crossed the 7,000 MW-mark twice in July so far. In 2018, the peak power demand breached the 7,000 MW mark for the first time, reaching a peak of 7,016 MW, in Delhi.

The highest peak power demand in the previous years was 7323 MW in 2021, 6314 MW in 2020, 7409 in 2019 and

Service dept set to take action against 437 appointed by Govt removal of Fellows / Associate minating the engagement of

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

 $T^{
m he\ Delhi\ Government's}_{
m Service\ Department\ is\ all}$ set to initiate action against 437 private persons appointed as advisers, fellows and consultants by the Aam Aadmi Party government following the Supreme Court's ruling dismissing the plea of Delhi government seeking stay on the Service's Department order to this effect.

Top sources said the Supreme Court has not struck down its July 5 order on removal of these fellow/assistants and consultants issued by the Services Department.

The top court has dismissed the plea seeking stay of this order. "Now, action is to be taken as per the letter dated July 05, 2023 immediately for

New Delhi: Over 13,649 Booth

Level Officers will conduct

door-to-door surveys from July

21 to August 21 in the nation-

al Capital to enlist voters and

remove errors from the electoral

list ahead of the general elec-

entries in the Voter Lists and

sought their cooperation in

creating mass awareness

amongst citizens about need to

provide correct information to

visiting BLOs regarding un-

enrolled eligible citizens,

prospective voters (who will be

18 years old on or before 01.10.2024) as well as dead and

permanently shifted electors to

make electoral rolls pure,

healthy, and inclusive in all

aspects. Chief Electoral Officer

of Delhi, Dr. Ranbir Singh held

a meeting with all Recognised

Political Parties. Representatives

The BLOs will verify all

tions next year.

Month-long survey to

verify voter list starts

Fellows / Consultants, etc., failing which Services Department would be required to proceed against the Head of the Departments as per the

said letter", sources said. Appearing for the Lieutenant Governor, counsel Harish Salve submitted that the consultants were terminated because their appointment was

Arguing on behalf of the Delhi government, counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the Lieutenant Governor has terminated the contract of 437 consultants working with various departments of the government of NCTD without any consultation with the elected government. Additionally, the letter issued by the Lieutenant Governor on 5 July 2023 ter-

from Indian National Congress

(INC), Bahujan Samaj Party

(AAP), Bhartiya Janta Party

(BJP), National People's Party

(NPP) and Communist Party of

India (CPIM) attended the

In the meeting, Singh shared with them schedule and

details of ensuing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of

Electoral Rolls (with reference

to 01.01.2024 as qualifying date)

and month long door to door Survey by BLO from July 21, to

August 21. Singh briefed the

political parties about roles and

responsibilities of their Booth

Level Agents (BLAs) who are

appointed by them for each

polling station to coordinate

with concerned BLOs for inclu-

sion of left-out eligible citizens

and deletion of dead or perma-

nently shifted electors.

Aam Aadmi Party

specialists/fellow/consultants is also sought to be stayed.

The controversy erupted afterhe Delhi government Services Department issued an order that 437 private persons appointed as advisers, fellows and consultants whom the Arvind Kejriwal government hired via "back door entry" are "void ab initio" (void from the beginning) and asked the departments con-

cerned to stop their services. The Lieutenant Governor secretariat has alleged that the AAP-led government employed 437 individuals, most of whom were found to be party workers, to run a "parallel civil service" while flouting "constitutional norms of reservation", "manipulating the selection process" and "rigging the selection criterion".

Security draft rules 2023

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the long pending draft "Delhi Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2023 aimed at regulating the functioning of the private security agencies in the national Capital.

The draft rules were framed by the Home Department, Delhi govern-ment on the lines of model rules notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (Vide Notification dated 15.12.2020) and in consultation with the Law Department, Delhi government, under Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005. The rules, among other things, providepio for the procedure for verification of character and antecedents of the private security guards and supervisors, the type of training prescribed for the personnel, physical standards and

other conditions. Further, the rules make it clear that all the training agencies shall submit the details of security guards/supervisors, trained batch-wise to the controlling authority within 30 days of completion of each batch along with copy of their training certificates in online/offline mode. The rules also deal with the number of supervisors to be employed and the form in which a photo

identity card has to be issued. The Home Department sought approval of the Lieutenant Governor in the light of 'Enforcement of Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 and FDI policy'

issued by the Union Home Ministry which states that 'Public Order and Police' are state subjects and 'Internal Security' is the responsibility of the Central Government.

The matter was examined by the LG's Secretariat in terms of judgment dated 25.04.2014 of the Supreme Court, as per which, the Private Security Agency Act is a law made under entry 97 of the Union List. Therefore, it is outside the legislative competence of Delhi

Assembly. The draft rules are proposed to be notified in exercise of powers conferred under section 25 read with clause (1) and (2) of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 which provides power of state government to make rules for carrying out the provision of the Act.

government's failure in dealing

with the challenges posed by

monsoons and floods and

urges immediate action to

address the rising cases of dis-



STAFF REPORTER ■NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Friday claimed Delhi was reeling under a water crisis and the ruling AAP regime was callous towards the needs of the citizens who were also facing the danger of waterborne diseases like typhoid and cholera.

Levelling these charges here, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva also claimed Delhi Jal Board junior engineers were selling water tankers. He said Delhiites are facing a major water crisis despite restoration of flood hit water treatment plants and Yamuna overflowing.

Areas like Majnu Ka Tila, Burari, Walled City, Karol Bagh, Patel Nagar assembly to Vikaspuri assembly, Kalka ji, Greater Kailash assemblies to Mehrauli Chatarpur assemblies and Bijwasan assembly to Najafgarh assembly are getting

sparse or no water. The water supply situation is very bad in major cluster areas around Naraina, Kirti Nagar, Dwarka, R.K. Puram, Vasant Vihar, Matia Khan, Idgah, Azadpur, Jahangirpuri, Narela where even water tankers supply has been stopped, Sachdeva said.



Villages around Mahipalpur to Najafgarh which are at tail end of supply line are getting almost no water supply even after restoration of water treatment plants, he added.

Sachdeva also said situation is so bad that in Water Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj's Greater Kailash constituency there is colony called Sant Nagar where over 250 houses with over 900 families living therein have been getting erratic and dirty water supply for over a month and now the situation has taken a further

The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has cautioned the Kejriwal government to be vigilant about the increasing threat of dis-

MCD ready to combat dengue: Shelly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

mid the threat of a "signif-A mid the unreation a conber of cases of vector-borne diseases in the wake of recent flooding due to Yamuna waters, Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Friday said the civic body was all prepared to combat any such situation. Oberai said AAP MLAs and councillors will go door-to-door to educate people about dengue prevention. At a press conference, she

also said that people should cooperate with dengue breeding checking (DBC) staff when they visit households and warned of penal action in case breeding of larvae is found during the inspection of sites. "The PHED (public health and engineering department) and MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) all pre-

pared to combat vector-borne



MLAs and RWAs all stakeholders will work together in this, and I appeal to people to cooperate with our DBC staff as well," she said.

The mayor said, "We don't want to, but challan will be done if violations are found during the inspection of households, construction sites and

other places." A review meeting was held by the mayor on Friday on the dengue situation, and it was attended by Municipal Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti and heads of various departments

The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has cautioned the Kejriwal government to be vigilant about the increasing threat of diseases, especially Dengue and Influenza. He highlights the

Over 160 dengue cases have been reported in the national capital till mid-July this year, the highest for this period since 2018, according to a municipal report released this week. The report issued by the MCD also said that 54 cases of malaria have been recorded

> There is a possibility of a rise in dengue and malaria cases in the national capital this year due to flooding in several areas, Oberoi had said on Monday. Directions have been issued to departments concerned to take steps to check mosquito breeding and clear silt and sludge left by the Yamuna waters, she said.

in the same period.

India, Lanka review bilateral ties Cong holds mega rally in

Meet focusses on cooperation in energy security, economy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India and Sri Lanka on Friday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties here during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ranil Wickremesinghe. Both leaders focussed on further strengthening their relationship including economic cooperation, energy security, and other related issues.

The two sides later announced cooperation in the fields of animal husbandry and dairying, energy permit for Sampur solar power project, renewable energy, economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka and network to network agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka.

Ahead of the high-level talks between the two top leaders, Wickremesinghe also met National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and is understood to have discussed security cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi conveyed to Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe



during their joint press statement after a meeting at Hyderabad House, in New

India's expectations from Colombo to fulfill the aspirations of the Tamil community in the island nation and ensure a life of respect and dignity for it. The issue figured prominently in the wide-ranging talks between Modi and Wickremesinghe, with the Prime Minister highlighting the need for the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution.

In his press statement, Modi said "the past year has been full of challenges for the people of Sri Lanka. As close

FORM No. 3

friends, like always, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sri Lanka in this hour of crisis. And I heartily congratulate the people of Sri Lanka for the courage with which they faced these challenging circumstances."

Giving details of his talks with the President, the Prime Minister said the two sides have adopted a vision document for our Economic Partnership. This vision is to strengthen the Maritime, Air, Energy and people-to-people connectivity between the people of both countries. The vision is to accelerate mutual cooperation in tourism, power, trade, higher education and skill development. This is the vision - of India's long-term commitment to Sri Lanka, Modi said.

The Prime Minister said both sides decided that talks on the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement will start soon. This will open new possibilities for trade and economic cooperation for both countries. "We agreed to enhance air connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.

To increase business and the movement of people, it has also been decided to start Passenger Ferry Services between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and KankeSanthurai in Sri Lanka," the Prime Minister said.

He also said both countries decided that the work of connecting the electricity grids between the two countries will be expedited. The feasibility study will be done for the petroleum pipeline between India and Sri Lanka. Apart from this, it was also decided to check the feasibility of a land

bridge. Fintech connectivity will also increase with the agreement signed today to launch UPI in Sri Lanka.

Modi said the two leaders also discussed the issues related to the livelihood of fishermen. "We agree that we should proceed with a humane approach in this matter. We also talked about reconstruction and reconciliation in Sri President Wickremesinghe

told me about his inclusive approach. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka will fulfill the aspirations of the Tamils. Will drive the process of rebuilding for equality, justice and peace. Will fulfil its commitment to implement the Thirteenth Amendment and conduct the Provincial Council Elections. And will ensure a life of respect and dignity for the Tamil community of Sri

The Prime Minister underlined that ties between the two nations are as ancient and extensive as our civilisations. Sri Lanka has an important place in both, İndia's 'Neighbourhood First" policy and "SAGAR" vision.

MP, announces poll sops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress organized a massive rally in Gwalior, the home turf of former Congress leader and now Union Minister, Ivotiraditya Scindia, on Friday. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi addressed the gathering and announced several sops for the forthcoming Assembly elections. Having already held rallies and made poll announcements in the other poll-bound states-Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

The Congress is optimistic about retaining the former and aiming to wrest power from the BJP in the latter. Priyanka Gandhi's political acumen has been credited with securing impressive wins for the party in Himachal Pradesh and

Priyanka reiterated the Congress' five guarantees, including the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees, in the event of a victory in yearend Assembly polls. Addressing the 'Jan Aakrosh' rally in Gwalior, she accused the BJPled State government of being involved in multiple scams and

17,176 PACS registered as common



Nath and senior leader JP Agarwal during party's 'Jan Aakrosh' rally, in Gwalior,

urged the people to give Congress a strong mandate to prevent any attempts to topple its government. She also criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for politicizing issue of Manipur, referring to his statement on the situation in the

Priyanka Gandhi emphasized the need for maintaining political decency and criticized the current culture of allegations and counter-allegations, which she believes sidelines real issues and concerns of people. Stressing importance of

embody decency, simplicity, and easy accessibility, rather than being driven by ego in pol-Focusing on core issues affecting people, Priyanka Gandhi highlighted impact of price-rise on their lives. She expressed concern about soar-

'Satyagraha' or "fight for truth"

in İndia's freedom struggle,

she called for leaders who

ing prices of essential commodities, including cooking gas and edible oil, which have made it difficult for ordinary citizens to make ends meet.

FORM No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) Case No.: OA/637/2020

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No. 17536

ICICI BANK LIMITED Vs. DANISH JAMAL

MR. DANISH JAMAL D/W/S/O MR. KHURSHID JAMAL, R/O H. NO. W1C, WELLINGTON ESTATE, DLF CITY, PHASE-5 GURGAON-122002, HARYANA Gurgaon, HARYANA

MR. DANISH JAMAL SON OF MR. KHURSHID JAMAL RESIDENT OF B-00-0094, ANTHEA FLOORS, WILD FLOOR COUTNRY, GURGAON -122005, HARYANA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122005

(2) MR. AKHTAR JAMAL S/O MR. KHURSHID JAMAL R/O H. NO. W1C, WELLINGTON ESTATE, DLF CITY, PHASE- 5 GURGAÓN-122002, HARYANA Also At.

MR. AKHTAR JAMAL SON OF MR. KHURSHID JAMAL R/O B-00-0094, ANTHEA FLOORS, WILD FLOOR COUNTRY, GURGAON - 122005 HARYANA, GURGAON, HARYANA -122005

(3) MR. AZRA JAMAL S/O MR. KHURSHID JAMAL, R/O H. NO. W1C, WELLINGTON GURGAON-122002, HARYANA

Also At. 2ND ADDRESS OF

RESPONDENT NO. 1 TO 3:-R/O B-00-0094, ANTHEA FLOORS, WILD FLOOR HARYANA SUMMONS WHEREAS, **OA/637/2020** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **17/04/2023**.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 12254195/- (application along with copies of documents etc.

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties:

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 14.09.2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 29/04/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) Case No.: OA/1435/2022

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No. 18808 ICICI BANK LIMITED

Vs. SHIVAM GUJRAL

To,
(1) SHIVAM GUJRAL
D/W/S/O-JAGMOHAN KUMAR
SHIVAM GUJRAL SON OF SHRI
JAGMOHAN KUMAR, R/O
HOUSE NO. 420, SECTOR 16,
DISTRICT PANCHKULA
HARYANA- 134109. PAN NO.
AWNPG9059H.

2ND ADDRESS:- HOUSE NO 3020, SECTOR 20-D CHANDIGARH-160020. STEEL, PLOT NO. 411, INDUSTRIAL AREA-I, PANCHKULA, HARYANA-

PANCHKULA, HARYANA-134113. HARYANA
Also At:- HOUSE NO. 3020
SECTOR 20-D, CHANDIGARH,
CHANDIGARH
Also At:- C/O SHIVAM STEEL
PLOT NO. 411, INDUSTRIAL
AREA, 1, PANCHKULAHARYANA

(2) RAHUL GUJRAL HOUSE NO. 420, SECTOR 16 PANCHKULA, HARYANA Also At:- HOUSE NO. 3020 SECTOR 20-D, CHANDIGARH, CHANDIGARH

(3) JAGMOHAN KUMAR SON OF LATE SH AMARNATH HOUSE NO. 420, SECTOR 16, PANCHKULA, HARYANA (4) PARVESH GUJRAL W/O SH JAGMOHAN KUMAR HOUSE NO. 420, SECTOR 16, PANCHKULA, HARYANA

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, **OA/1435/2022** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **21/03/2023**. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 7494431.09/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties: attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of

sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under seria number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account fo the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposi such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 01/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and cided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 26/06/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

RS is entitled to discuss everything under planet except Article 121: Dhankhar New Delhi: In an obvious ref-

erence to avoid any confrontation between the Legislature and Judiciary, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday said the Upper House is entitled to discuss everything under the planet with one restriction provided under Article 121 of the Constitution of India. His remarks came soon

after he informed the members about business schedule pertaining to the discussion on Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (amendment) Bill 2023 in Rajya Sabha. When some members

objected over time allocation to the Bill saying the matter is subjudice and Parliament should not consider it, referring to Article 121 in the constitution, Chairman Rajya Sabha clarified. "This House is entitled to discuss everything under the



planet with one restriction. The only restriction generated in the Parliament is given to us by our founding fathers. No discussion shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court in the discharge of its duties.... except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the judge as herein provided."

"Therefore, the concept of sub-judice is totally misconceived," Dhankhar empha-



Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday that 17,176 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) have been registered as Common Service Čentres (CSCs) in less than two months. These CSCs will provide over 300 services to rural citizens, including 130 million farmers in India. The services offered include banking, insurance, and Aadhaar enrollment.

In June, the Ministry of Cooperation signed an MoU with the Ministry of Electronics and IT, NABARD, and CSC egovernance services to enable PACS to work with CSCs effectively. With approximately 95,000 PACS spread across the country, the goal is to onboard all of them for CSC operations.

Apart from essential services like banking and insurance, PACS will also offer istered themselves as CSCs,



health services, legal assistance, and various Pradhan Mantri Welfare Schemes to rural citizens.

At the inauguration of the mega national conclave on CSČ services through PACS, Minister Amit Shah expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Cooperation and the entire team for the significant achievement of onboarding more than 17,000 PACS within a short span of two months.

Minister Shah emphasized that out of one lakh existing

with 6,670 PACS already carrying out transactions. He believes that the remaining registered PACS will also begin transactions in the coming weeks. This achievement will generate employment for around 14,000 rural youth, who will contribute to strengthening the rural economy and facilities in villages.

Vaishnaw, Ashwini Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, also present at the event, noted that the number of active CSCs has increased from 83,000 in 2014 to an impressive 519,000.

Minister Shah outlined the objective of making PACS affordable for all entities at the rural level, aiming to establish around 300,000 new PACS in the next few years. He believes that CSCs are the key to achieving "minimum government, maximum governance with last-mile delivery but without corruption."

BJP seeks answer over violence against women in Opp-ruled States

PNS NEW DELHI

n the backdrop of ghastly disrobing and 'rape' of women in the BJP-ruled Manipur, the BJP on Friday sought to highlight 'atrocities' against women in the opposition-ruled state of West Bengal and Rajasthan.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat accused Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of turning a blind eye to the oppression of women and cited a recent incident of burning of four family members in the poll-bound state.

In another press conference BJP MP Locket Chatterjee 'cried' and cited a number of cases of crime against women, including alleged disrobing, during and after the West Bengal panchayat polls. The situation in Manipur also prevails in West Bengal," she told reporters.

Inter-Services Organisations Bill should be passed without amendments, says Parl panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Parliament Standing Committee on Defence has recommended that the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control, and Discipline) Bill, 2023, be passed and enacted as a statute without any amendments.

The committee presented this recommendation in its report to both houses of parliament on Friday. The bill, introduced in Lok Sabha on March 15, was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence for examination and report by the Speaker on April The armed forces are striv-

ing for better synergy to fight modern-day wars, and as they transform themselves into a single tri-service unit in various domains, officers posted in joint institutions face issues related to command, control, and disciplinary action.

The proposed bill aims to address these challenges by bringing all personnel under one rule and doing away with silos. The parliamentary panel appreciated the bill's provisions and unequivocally recommended its passage without any amendments. The committee noted that

the Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel are currently governed by separate Service Acts, leading to complexities in joint institutions like Andaman and Nicobar Command, Strategic Forces Command, Defence Space Agency, National Defence Academy, and National Defence College, where personnel from different services serve together.

Under the existing framework, the commander-in-chief or officer-in-command of inter-services organizations lacks the power to exercise dis-

authority over personnel from other services. As a result, officers serving in these organizations need to be reverted to their respective parent service units for disciplinary or administrative

ciplinary and administrative

The proposed Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, 2023, seeks to empower commander-in-chief and officer-in-command of such organizations with all disciplinary and administrative powers concerning personnel serving in or attached to them.

FIR in PMO officer impersonation case

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed an FIR against one Pawan Patel for allegedly posing as an officer in the Prime Minister's Office working in technical surveillance agency National Technical Research Research Organisation (NTRO).

The action was initiated on a January 20 reference from PMO where a complaint was received against Patel who was masquerading as a PMO officer seeking money from people for help in getting contracts, officials said.

On August 25 last year, a Shahdara-based resident had complained on a grievance portal of Union Government that Patel was claiming to be posted in "department which looks after security for PMO Intelligence and is forging people by saying that he is working with the NTRO...".

to improve road safety: MoRTH

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry has taken a significant step towards improving road traffic safety and management by introducing new guidelines for road signage on the national highways network and expresswavs. These guidelines, released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), aim to enhance road safety and ensure a secure travel experience for drivers across the country.

The guidelines, approved by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, are designed to incorporate best practices and international standards, providing improved visibility and intuitive guidance to drivers. Road signages play a crucial role in providing vital information

and instructions to drivers, and the new guidelines focus on optimizing their effectiveness. As part of the review process, MoRTH evaluated existing provisions in line with relevant Indian Road Congress (IRC) codes and guidelines, international practices, and functional perspectives. The objective was to streamline traffic regulations and create signages that offer clear and concise guidance, warnings, notices, and regulatory information to drivers, facilitating a seamless and safe journey on the roads.

New road signage guidelines

One of the primary highlights of the guidelines is the emphasis on enhancing visibility and legibility. The strategic placement of signages at appropriate heights and distances, coupled with the use of large lettering, symbols, and short legends, aims to ensure that crucial information remains easily visible and comprehensible, even during

adverse weather conditions. To cater to a diverse group of road users, including those with limited literacy, the guidelines propose the use of pictorial depictions along with text. This approach aims to effectively convey essential mes-sages, ensuring better com-prehension and adherence to traffic regulations.

Recognizing the linguistic diversity of India, MoRTH has

also advocated a multilingual approach on road signages. By using both English and regional languages, communication with road users from different linguistic backgrounds will be enhanced, promoting better understanding and compliance

IAF to celebrate 91st anniversary in UP on Oct 8

New Delhi: Keeping with the new tradition of hosting the Air Force Day celebrations in different parts of the country, the IAF will celebrate its 91st anniversary on October 8 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Last year, Air Force Day

was held in Chandigarh for the first time. Earlier, the Day used to be hosted in the national capital. The ceremonial parade this

year will be held at Air Force Station Bamrauli and the Air Display will be conducted over the Sangam area, in the vicinity of the Ordnance Depot ort in Prayagraj.

Digi healthcare consultations rise to 13 cr PIONEER NEWS SERVICE The Government's INGLIGITAL Telemedicine Service, he Government's National

eSanjeevani, launched in November 2019 as a doctor-todoctor consultation facility, has achieved significant success, surpassing 13 crore teleconsultations to date. Among the 10 states leading in utilization are Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka.

This digital healthcare initiative has also benefited approximately 5 crore women and 1 crore senior citizens, providing them with convenient access to medical services. Operating in two modes, eSanjeevaniAB-HWC and



initiative has gained immense popularity for delivering healthcare services through digital platforms. As of July 19, 2023, a total of 13,91,61,458 teleconsultations have been completed, with 1,10,12,570 rendered to senior citizens and 5,22,15,224 to women, according to government data presented to Parliament. The leading states in adopting eSanjeevani include Andhra

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, and Gujarat. The Union Health

Ministry aims to support the effective implementation of digital health initiatives, including telemedicine services, across the country.

It provides financial assistance to all States/UTs under the National Health Mission for strengthening health IT infrastructure and internet connectivity. To ensure safe and secure implementation of telemedicine services, the Union Health Ministry issued Telemedicine Practice guidelines on March 25, 2020. Remarkably, in less become the world's largest government-owned telemedicine platform. It consists of two verticals that cater to patients across all states and UTs, reaching even the remotest regions of the nation. As of July 14, 2023, a total of 2,08,569 spokes (including

than 3 years, eSanjeevani has

Health and Wellness Centres and Primary Health Centres) have been connected to telemedicine services in the Centre for country. Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali, is providing comprehensive technical training and support to users, augmenting the platform's capacity to serve up to 1 million patients per day.

'Showcasing Tripura at Varanasi' | 15,09,303 saplings to be planted conducted successfully

ripura is a unique semihilly state in the North East region of India, surrounded on three sides by international borders and home to a diverse mix of tribal cultures, natural resources, and religious groups. In order to promote Tripura as a 'go-to' business destination, the state successfully conducted an event titled, 'Showcasing Tripura at Varanasi' here on Friday. The occasion was used to display its famous GI tagged, organic Tripura Queen Pineapple and a variety of other agri horti products alongside its rich handloom and handicraft industry, tourism, rubber and bamboo produce.

The event was supported by seven departments of Tripura, viz Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Tribal Welfare Department, Forest Department, Industry Department, Handloom and Handicraft and Tourism Department. It was executed by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Ratan Lal Nath, Minister of Agriculture and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 I^{n} order to improve the power supply condition in the entire

region and check the power

theft cases, Purvanchal Vidyut

Vitran Nigam Limited

(PUVVNL) has been replacing

open/ dilapidated low tension

(LT) lines with aerial bunched

(AB) cables under the

Revamped Scheme. The PUVVNL issued a release on



Inaugural function of showcasing Tripura being held at Varanasi on Friday.

Farmers Welfare and Power, Government of Tripura, reiterated the state government's commitment to promote local produce, artisans and the land as such. He talked about the need to GI certify the unique produce and products to preserve and promote tradition. Talking about the focus of the government, he said that it was essential for the rest of India and the world to recognise the potential of the state both in terms of produce/product availability and its geography. The state is promoting innovation, food processing and allied industries and making it tourist friendly and accessible.

1,100 open LT line wires

of transformers replaced

Friday informing that the work of replacing 1,100 open LT line

wires of transformers with AB

cables has been completed so

LT lines with AB cables will

ensure quality power supply to

about 1,99,823 houses. Besides,

work is in progress to replace

LT lines of 5,373 transformers.

Giving the district-wise Kaushambi, 115 in Pratapga progress, the PUVVNL and 384 in Prayagraj so far.

The replacement of these

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, Mayor Ashok Tiwari and MLA Saurabh Srivastava were present as guests of honour, Apurva Roy, Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Tripura, UK Chakma, Secretary (Tourism) and PL Agarwal, Additional PCCF and a host of other senior officials from Tripura and Uttar Pradesh governments also graced the event. Commodore Rajiv Ashok (Retd), Managing Director NERAMAC, in his welcome address expressed and shared the idea behind the event. He said that the reason for choosing this location outside

numbers of open LT lines have

already been replaced with AB

cables in Varanasi while 68 in

Chandauli, 52 in Jaunpur, 109

in Azamgarh, 40 in Mau, 56 in

Ballia, 57 in Gorakhpur, 57 in

Deoria, 13 in Kushinagar, 16 in

Maharajganj, 15 in Mirzapur,

one in Sonbhadra, six in

Bhadohi, 28 in Fatehpur, 20 in

Kaushambi, 115 in Pratapgarh

tion Alaipur. Many other

senior officers were also pre-

the North East region was the rich heritage that the city portrays, its recognition as a promoter of a vibrant handloom and handicraft industry and naturally being an important cultural centre and an emerging commercial hub in the region. The event also saw a Buyer Seller Meet with over 50 buyers participating. They represented a cross-section of fields ranging from agri-horti sector, tourism, perfume to handloom and handicraft. The interest and intent to do business with Tripura by these buyers was the most important takeaway of the event and is sure to see linkages being established in the coming months.

Air Force Day parade to be held in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be celebrating its 91st anniversary on October 8. Keeping with the new tradition of hosting the Air Force Day celebrations in different parts of the country, this year's Air Force Day parade and air display will be held in

Prayagraj.

The ceremonial parade will be conducted at Air Force Station (AFS), Bamrauli, and the air display will be conducted over the Sangam area in the vicinity of the Ordnance Depot Fort in Prayagraj.

The scenic surroundings will add to the appeal of the stream of aircraft flying by in close formation.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

 $P^{\text{reparations are going on in}}_{\text{full swing for making the}}$ ambitious plantation campaign of the state government a grand success in the state. Both the district administration and the Forest department have stepped up their activities to achieve the target given to the district by the state government for the first phase of the drive on Saturday. In this phase, 15,09,303 saplings will be planted in the district out of 30 crore in UP. In the second phase, the plantation target of 3,66,198 saplings in Varanasi out of five crore in the state has been given for August 15. To review the preparations of this massive plantation drive, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of nodal officer of the district and Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL), Lucknow, M Devraj in which the participants discussed the preparations for achieving the first phase of the target. District Forest Officer (DFO)



UPPCL Chairman M Devraj reviewing the progress of plantation drive in Varanasi

gave details about the progress, including pit digging, availability of plants in the government nursery, plant transportation, Plantation Monitoring System (PMS), progress of Network Management System (NMS) portal, preparation of special forest, public participation, public awareness programme, medium of publicity etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of District Tree Plantation Committee and

District Magistrate S Rajalingam, giving details to the nodal officer, said 100 per cent progress of digging pits for plantation has been made for the first phase drive while dividing all areas into sectors and zones. He also informed about the deployment of sector and zonal magistrates and plans of the district level officers visiting different areas to monitor the progress of the campaign. Addressing the meeting, Devraj directed all

100 per cent tree plantation work as per the target by paying special attention to security, necessary arrangements and proper monitoring work. He said that after the drive on Saturday, the reports of tree plantation should be sent by the chief development officer (CDO) to the control room set up at the district level on time so that the process of uploading the gradual progress of tree plantation through the online control room can be done. "On the date of tree plantation, immediately after tree plantation by the departments concerned, the process of geo-tagging will be com-pleted on 100 per cent priority basis," he said, adding that all these actions are to be monitored at the state level through the departmental portal so information should be uploaded on the departmental portal within the prescribed time period.

departments should complete

Ganga level continues to rise

the water level of river Ganga continued to rise in this holy city and in comparison to a day ago, the rising speed has increased from 30 mm to 40 mm per hour here on Friday. During the last 24 hours, the water level has increased by 84 cm against 56

cm a day ago from 63.48 metres to 64.32 metres and due to this at several places the connectivity between one ghat to another has been broken. The continuous rise for the last many days due to the incessant rains in the hilly Himalayan regions and floods in many northern states has now posed flood threats in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern

Uttar Pradesh) in the coming days though at present the river level is still far below than the warning level in Varanasi. According to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level of Ganga was recorded at 64.32 metres at 8 am on Friday against the warning level at 70.262 metres. However, the upstream

trend indicates that the major water is coming from Yamuna through Sangam in Prayagraj as the level of Ganga was recorded steady at Phaphamau in Prayagraj. The Ganga was recorded rising right from Prayagraj to Ghazipur, including Mirzapur and Varanasi. However, the water level in Gomti at Jaunpur is steady.

Three railway stations of Pratapgarh to be renamed after famous deities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Three railway stations of ■ Pratapgarh will be renamed after famous deities associated with these stations. Pratapgarh Junction will now be Belha Devi Dham, Antu station will be Maa Chandrika Dham Vishwanathganj station will Shanidev Dham Vishwanath. A senior railway official said, "The Union Home Ministry has approved the change of names of these stations. Now, the Railway Board will issue a formal notification, after which the names of these stations will be changed."

Earlier, MP from Pratapgarh,

Sangam Lal Gupta, had sent a

proposal to the Railway

Ministry to change the names of Pratapgarh Junction and Antu and Vishwanathganj railway stations on the basis of religious importance of these stations. The MP had contested that since religious faith is also attached to these places, their sentiments should be considered while renaming these stations.

NEW PLAN: At a time when Sangam city is being decked up for Mahakumbh-2025 through various projects, a new plan has been proposed by the Smart City project authorities in which one side of the stretch of Motilal Nehru road, will be beautified. The 800m stretch from Mazar crossing to Bank road crossing WILL speak of the gallantry of the Indian Army through murals depicting famous battles along with military weapons, tanks among others, to inspire the youth of the city.

The stretch lies opposite to Commissioner residence, right from Mazar crossing, passing besides NCC headquarters and Gandhi Bhavan, Law and Commerce faculty of Allahabad University. All the stakeholders, including Army, Cantonment board and the district administration have principally agreed on this project. "We plan to depict war themes which played a significant role in the history of the country. Likewise, the Kargil war, Surgical strike and the 1971 Indo-Pak war, all will find on one side of the stretch of this road," said SK Sinha, Mission manager, Smart City Limited.

He added the murals of Army warriors with their weapons mounted over a structure will be created, showing the warriors fighting the war. It may also depict the wars which happened years ago. Authorities of Smart City Project have asked the Army officials for more details about the wars and to provide them with obsolete artillery including tanks and guns to be mounted on pedestals as exhibits. The aim of this project is to inspire and motivate the youth, especially students of Allahabad University (AU) and other educational institutions,

Polymer dosing plant inspected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ommissioner of Police **○**(CP) Ashok Mutha Jain, along with District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, on Friday of the Jalkal department here on Friday. During the inspec-

क्रमांक/परि.शा./न.नि./२०२३/९४६/२१९

tion, the district magistrate the spot. During this, the CP directed the officials of the Jalkal department present on inspected the 132/33 KV GIS the spot to pay special attention transmission power sub-stato the cleanliness of the premises including the plant.

"Garbage should not sent.

Plant, a water purification plant pipes should be kept tidy," he said, directing the officers to remove the mud debris from कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.)

भिलाई दिनांक 20/07/2023

E-Procurement Tender Notice Main Portal :- https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:

कार्य का विवरण |सिस्टम नं.|निविदा लागत|निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम राशि तिथि निगम क्षेत्र के प्रमुख सड़को में प्रकाश व्यवस्था। (द्वितीय निविदा)

निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज आनलाईन जमा की जाये। उक्त कार्य हेतु दी जाने वाली दरे आनलाईन (Online) दी जावें। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी https://cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंत

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road

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 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 belowmentioned 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.

Sr. No.		Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Mahalaxmi Agencies/ Mohit Singhal/ Suman Singhal/ 695505600328	Plot No-3F, 1/21, Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ July 20, 2023	February 23, 2022 Rs. 36,48,654.56/-	

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: July 21, 2023

हस्ता/

IASCH JASCH INDUSTRIES LTD

CIN: L24302DL1985PLC383771 Regd. Office: 502, Block-C, NDM-2, N.S.P., Pitampura, **NEW DELHI 110034**

Website: www.jaschindustries.com Email: skverma@jasch.biz, Phone: 0130-2216666

37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & E-VOTING The process of sending emails containing link for Annual Report 2023

and notice of 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company scheduled to be held on Friday, 18-08-2023 at 10.00 hours through Video Conference/Other Audio Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") has been completed on 20-07-2023. Members who have not provided their email id or did not receive our email, may download the same from the above website of the Company under the link "Investors/Annual Reports" or that of BSE.

Information as to user id & password and instructions for participating in the AGM through VC/OAVM and remote electronic voting (evoting), are contained in the aforesaid notice and are equally applicable to persons who have become Members of the Company after despatch of notices.

Only those persons, whose names are recorded in the register of

members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depository as on cut-off date 05-08-2023, are entitled to remote evoting, which will commence at 10:00 hours on 15-08-2023 and will not be allowed beyond 17:00 hours on 17-08-2023. A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting, but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting posted at the above website of the Company under the link "Notices".

Result will be declared within the time permitted by law and will be Grievances, if any, relating to non-receipt of the notice of AGM or relating to e-voting may be sent by email to ramap@alankit.com. for Jasch Industries Ltd Sd/- (S.K. VERMA) Vice President & Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted

Sr. No.		Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset tobe Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Mohammad Haroot, Nujhat Praveen, B 37, Third Floor, Old No 248, Gali No.1, Krishna Nagar, East Azad Nagar, Delhi 110051, Loan No.13100001992, A/c:-QZNOD00005012640	Property No.46/2-A-1, 3rd Floor (With Roof Right), Khasra No-634/2, Gali No-16, East Azad Nagar, Earlier Mohalla Dalhai, Village Chandrawali Alias Shahdara, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi- 110051	16/05/2023 Rs. 26,59,919/-	09/01/ 2023
2.	Sunil Kumar Mishra, Vijay Laxmi, B544, Gali No.33, Mahavir Enclave Part 2, Delhi 110059, Loan No. '27300000313, A/c:- QZDWA00005038497	Property Bearing No. B-1/169, Second Floo (Back Side), Mahavir Enclave-3, Khasra No-111/10/1, Village Palam, Delhi- 100023	16/05/2023 Rs. 16,55,588/-	08/02/ 2022
3.	Abhishek Kumar, Mahesh, B 50, Kesho Ram Parle, New Delhi 415124, Loan No. 09600001526, A/c:-QZDEL00005016038	Property No.52- B, Second Floor, Khasra No.593, Vill. Bindapur, Block-B, Bindapur Ext., Kesho Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059	16/05/2023 Rs. 35,46,199.99/-	31/07/ 2020
4.	Santosh Kumar Singh, Beauty Singh, Rz C 10, First Floor, Vishnu Garden, Delhi 110018, Loan No. '26600001408, A/c:- QZDEL00005022237	Property No. F-159-A, 1 Floor, Block F, Plot No.159, Gali No.2, KH. No.31/19, 22, Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden, Delhi- 110018	31/05/2023 Rs. 24,97,296/-	31/01/ 2020
5.	Rakesh Kumar, Sarita Aggarwal, 80 Block Bfh West, Shalimar Bagh, North West, Delhi 110088, Loan No. UBLJP00005070127, A/c:- QZLJP00004998234	Plot No-B-60, Out of Khasra No- 877 First Floor Back Side, Gali No.11 Village Nawada Sewak Park in Block B Uttam Nagar	06/05/2023 Rs. 3,23,784.66/-	28/02/ 2023

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

Date : July 21, 2023 Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

its place in the wall that will run said Sinha. BSES BSES Raidhani Power Limited, New Delhi

	Date: 22.07.2023								
Sealed tenders i	Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.								
NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Cost of Tender Document (₹)	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening			
CMC/BR/23-24/ RB/CR/AG/1151		1180/-	1.38 Crore	2.76 Lakhs	11.08.2023 15:30 HRS	11.08.2023 15:45 HRS			
CMC/BR/23-24/ RB/CR/KB/1152	AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HIRING OF AGENCY FOR PROVIDING TOLL FREE HELPLINE SERVICES IN BRPL.		2.19 Crore	4.38 Lakhs	11.08.2023 15:00 HRS	11.08.2023 15:30 HRS			

of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com. Head (Contracts & Materials) te Identification No.: U40109DI 2001PI C111527

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak FICICI Bank Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

This E-auction Sale notice for sale of Immovable assets is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security nterest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Durga Prasad Tiwari (Borrower) Ms. Shobha Devi (Co-Borrower) QZNOD00005016405	Property No. C-8A, 2nd Floor Rear Side Without Roof Right, Block- C, Khasra No. 333, Village Bindapur, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059. Area: 360 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 20,67,452/- (As on July 06, 2023)	Rs. 8,00, 000/- Rs. 80,000/-	July 28, 2023, From 04:00 PM to 05:00 PM	August 18, 2023 from 12:00 Noon onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com). The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till August 17, 2023 before 05:00 PM failing which, this secured asset will be

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) to ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before E) to ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before August 17, 2023 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before August 17, 2023 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before August 17, 2023 before 05:00 PM, Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the E-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8928935040/8584874809

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited., 2. Augeo Assets Management Private Limited, 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: July 21, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

www.dailypioneer.com

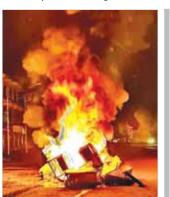
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The Manipur blot

The incident proves the destructive potential of fake news and the Govt's failure to safeguard its citizens

anipur, which has seen unprecedented violence in the last two months, has shocked the nation again. The news of shaming two women is discomforting as it exposes the government's failure to restore peace and normalcy in the state. The northeastern state witnessed a horrific incident that shook the nation's conscience when two women were paraded naked in public following the spread of a malicious fake news story. This deplorable act reflects the grave consequences of misinformation and the inability of the government to protect its citizens. The incident highlights the urgent need for both media literacy and government accountability in addressing the growing menace of fake news in our society. The incident, though it took place two months back, came to light recently as the internet was suspended. A false rumour began circulating on social media platforms and messaging apps in Manipur, claiming that the two Kuki women were involved in the kidnapping of a



Meitei child. The unverified news quickly gained traction, fuelled by the lack of fact-checking and the absence of responsible journalism in the region. As the rumour spread like wildfire, an enraged mob took matters into their own hands, setting off a chain of events that would forever scar the women's lives. On May 3, a frenzied mob confronted the two Kuki women and subjected them to an unimaginable ordeal. Driven by anger and misinformation, the mob stripped the women of their dignity by parading them naked through crowded streets. The incident was not only a grave violation of their human rights but also a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of fake news in an already sensitive and vulnerable region.

The incident also shed light on the government's failure to protect its citizens. Despite the growing menace of misinformation, there was a clear lack of proactive measures taken by the government to combat the spread of fake news in the state. The absence of regulatory frameworks to curb the dissemination of false information has left the population susceptible to manipulation and violence. Furthermore, the failure of law enforcement agencies to intervene promptly and control the mob highlights a deep-rooted issue of inadequacy in ensuring the safety and security of citizens. The lack of immediate action allowed the situation to escalate rapidly, leading to the horrifying public humiliation of the two women. In the aftermath of the Manipur incident, civil society, human rights activists and citizens demanded urgent action from both the government and social media platforms. The government must take tangible steps to strengthen law enforcement and improve emergency response mechanisms to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. Holding those responsible for the heinous act accountable through a fair and transparent legal process is essential to ensure justice for the victims.



A man helps a visually-impaired man wade through a waterlogged road amid monsoon rains, in Mumbai

Why accountability is so important



DEEPAK SINHA

Let us face up to the reality of the losses on our borders and take some firm action rather than spend time concealing facts from the domestic audience

t is a matter of immense national pride for all of us to have witnessed the successful launch Chandrayaan- 3 on its epic journey and landing on the moon's South Pole. Though well begun is only half done, one is hopeful that the team of dedicated scientists, engineers and technicians behind this project are rewarded for their wholehearted dedication and untiring efforts towards this mission with complete success.

The very fact that ISRO has achieved so much, with a minuscule budget of around Rs 650 Crores to boot, speaks volumes for its focus. Some movies cost more to make! It is therefore extremely puzzling as to why our engineers dealing with more mundane issues of town and infrastructure planning have made such a hash of things all around the country, as the monsoon plays out.

Of course, unexpected extreme weather may have been responsible for some of the havoc, but why was this not foreseen and catered for? After all a veritable army is employed, and paid for by taxpayers' money, for just this very thing! We have also had an array of civil servants and politicians, including the Prime Minister, travelling the world and attending a host of conferences and symposiums on mitigating the impact of climate change, on taxpayers money of course. These have been nothing more than holiday jaunts for the participants.

Accountability, or to be more specific, the lack of it, is the issue here In Delhi. The unseemly fight between the elected government and a puppet Lieutenant Governor, beholden to the Central Government in more ways than one, has allowed the bureaucracy to do as it pleases and get away with daylight murder. Fortunately, nobody has yet suggested we turn Delhi into another ersatz Venice, in the way MS Mamata Banerjee has attempted to make Kolkata into another imitation of London.

Somenow non- accountable ity seems embedded in our DNA. Whichever facet of governance one turns one attention to suffers human rights and alleged viofrom this cancer. Take Manipur, lations by the security forces

where by all accounts, an intense civil war rages on, with cases of rape and murder being documented almost daily, with no end in sight. Instead, as was to be expected, the Naga community now finds itself being slowly dragged into the quagmire with one of their community recently murdered.

Despite the universal condemnation, whether the Prime Minister speaks up publicly is unimportant. Though, he has now been forced to break his months-old vow of silence following the horrific and shameful video of Meitei crowds parading two naked Kuki women on mainstream media. More importantly, why has his government not substantially intervened as yet? In such circumstances what can one expect from complicit local politicians and bureaucrats awho are a part of the problem and not the solution?

But this is not an issue restricted to the political establishment or those in government. Mainstream media could not be bothered till now and paid only lip service to the issue. I nose from civil society who never lose an opportunity to focus the spotlight on



SOMEHOW NON-**ACCOUNTABILITY SEEMS** EMBEDDED IN OUR DNA. WHICHEVER **FACET OF GOVERNANCE ONE** TURNS ONE ATTENTION TO SUFFERS FROM THIS CANCER

have not uttered even a squeak. That certainly is a pointer to the disturbing fact that those who covertly financially incentivise their initiatives have felt it necessary that Manipur should burn. This is not just local politics playing out, but something far more reprehensible and sinister.

In the same vein the BJP much touted nationalistic agenda and supposedly "mus-cular foreign policy" has turned out to be a damp squib, as it has cut no ice with China. The External Affairs Minister needs to clarify if we have any realistic hope of recovering the estimated 3000 square km of territory, that some analysts have alleged, we claim but can no longer patrol, in Eastern Ladakh In this context, the wishy-

washy excuse of differing perceptions about the alignment of the LAC or whataboutism with regard to the loss of much of the Aksai Chin in the 1950s cuts no ice. As Mr Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary, points out by doing so, our side has implicitly conceded to Chinese perceptions and double-speak. The fact is if we are unwilling to categorically and publicly state our position on the alignment of the LAC, why would the

Chinese clarify their position? They see "salami slicing" actions as legitimate. We, of course, refuse to face up to the reality of the losses and spend more time concealing facts from the domestic audience rather than taking any firm action. Whinging, it seems is the default mode of all our governments.

Without accountability, we're going nowhere and it needs to start with this government holding those responsible for the Ladakh fiasco accountable. Is it worried that by doing so they would have to concede the Prime Minister had deliberately mis-spoken when he famously gave the Chinese a clean chit? Holding to account members of the security and intelligence establishment should not in any way be linked to politics. It was indeed an unhealthy trend set by Mr Vajpayee's government following the Kargil Conflict that needs to be reversed, and quickly, lest we find ourselves even more deeply embarrassed in the future.

(The writer is a military veteran, currently a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation,

Unending mysteries of neurological disorders



On World Brain Day, let us take resolve to understand and root out neurological disorders which are multiplying rapidly

orld Brain
Day is celeannually on July 22 to raise awareness about brain health. It was proposed by the World Federation of Neurology, established on this day in 1957, to commemorate their inception, and shine a global spotlight on neurological conditions. Awareness programmes are conducted globally on World Brain Day to help people understand the connection between brain diseases and neurological diseases. Simultaneously, World Brain Day stresses the importance of early detection and timely treatment of neurological disorders. The human brain is the control centre of the body. It works alongside the nervous system, which comprises the spinal cord, nerves, and neurons. This intricate system governs various aspects, such as your senses and muscle control. Damage to the brain can have extensive consequences

What are Neurological

Disorders? A neurological disorder is a severe health condition. It one stroke-related death every

affects the entire nervous sys-

tem--the brain, spinal cord and nerves. These diseases arise from injuries or abnormalities in the nervous sys-However, genetic disor-

ders and unhealthy lifestyle choices may also trigger neurological diseases in humans. The Pan American Health Organization and WHO jointly reported that rising neurological disease-related disabilities and deaths present a global public health chal-

The report further highlights that neurological conditions were responsible for approximately 533,172 deaths throughout the entire region the year 2019. Furthermore, AIIMS reveals a shocking statistic indicating

four minutes in India. Likewise, the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC) reports over 28,000 brain tumour cases annually in the country, resulting in 24,000 deaths per year. It is noteworthy that stroke, headache disorders, and epilepsy are the primary causes of the neurological disorder burden in India. **Symptoms and Risk Factors**

Neurological diseases generally start with symptoms such as memory loss, loss of balance, weakness in limbs vision problems Dizziness or vertigo, Numbness Slurred speech hearing problems convulsions/seizures. It is important to recognise these symptoms for early diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders.

Risk Factors Neurological disorders can impact individuals across all age groups, but certain conditions like Parkinson's

Disease primarily afflict the elderly population. •Inborn genetic prob-

lems and immune disorders can cause neurological diseases in children,

•Vascular disorders, medication side-effects, hor-

monal disorders (thyroid, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, family history of degenerative neurologic conditions, lack of Vitamin B12, and prolonged exposure to toxins may also cause neurological disorders. The importance of treatment

Untreated neurological diseases can cause life-threatening conditions such as brain tumours, cerebral palsy, meningitis, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and dementia. Timely diagnosis and treatment are, therefore, crucial for managing and improving patients' quality of life. Govt's Intervention

The Indian Government has implemented several welfare initiatives like Ayushman Bharat—Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna to address various health conditions, including neurological disorders. Sincere and targeted efforts are essential for the effective implementation of these initiatives, which have the potential to bring about significant positive change on a large scale.

(The writer is Director Neurosurgery, Primus Hospitall

THE EDITOR

PM BREAKS SILENCE

Sir — Having three months of violence, deaths and displacement the PM broke his long silence after a video depicting the heinous acts perpetrated on the two women. He is yet to comment on the crisis as a whole-has cost Manipur and India greatly. A word of condemnation from the PM and a strict warning against mischief earlier-Manipur has been burning since May -could have made a difference on the ground. It would have also spared India the blushes on the global stage. The European Parliament's censure is a recent example.

Mr Modi's party is in power both at the Centre and the state. The truth is that be it Manipur's prolonged suffering in recent times or the pain inflicted by the pandemic or, even earlier, by demonetisation, Mr Modi's regime has fallen short, quite often, of alleviating the misshort, quite office, ery of the people. **K Mazhar** | *Hyderabad*

OPPOSITION MEETING

Sir —The two-day meeting of oppositions in Bengaluru is over with a coordination committee set to be formed at the next meeting in Mumbai and named the party INDIA. Meanwhile, BJP also addressed NDA in Delhi including 38 parties. The NDA's parallel show of strength made it obvious that the BJP is not taking the Opposition lightly. The allimportant question is: do these parties have the firepower and cohesion to stop the BJP's juggernaut in 2024? The 26 parties account for around 150 seats in the Lok Sabha, less than half the NDA's current strength. The Congress, which is in power in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh continues to be the premier Opposition party. Much will depend on whether the Congress and its INDIA partners such as AAP and the Trinamool Congress can rise above their differences. Going by the split in the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the BJP will stop at nothing to cripple the Opposition camp.

Guard against monsoon fury



he current Monsoon season has claimed at least 60 persons in various rain-related incidents in Maharashtra, including 16 in the Raigad hillside tragedy, even as the coastal Konkan region will get more rainfall this week, the State Disaster Management Department said . The maximum number of fatalities have been reported from Raigad (16, and counting), Mumbai (12), Jalgaon (8), Buldhana (4), Washim, Yavatmal, Chandrapur

(3 each), Beed, Thane, Bhandara (2 each), and one each in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Sangli, Solapur, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Wardha, Amravati, and Gadchiroli. Given the wet conditions expected ahead, the SDRF has been deployed in Nanded and Gadchiroli, and the NDRF are stationed in Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur and Sangli in full readiness. Major rivers like Jagbudi and Vashishth (Ratnagiri), Kundalika, Savitri and Patalganga (Raigad) have shot above the danger levels owing to the heavy rains. As per the report the coastal Konkan regions were clobbered with heavy rains on Thursday - Raigad (198.0 mm), Thane (145.7 mm), Palghar (134.3 mm), Ratnagiri (129.2 mm), and Mumbai (99.0 mm). With this, the rain in coming days is going to play havoc in Maharashtra so be alert.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

HUMANITY DIES IN MANIPUR

Sir — Manipur's violence is unabated. Despite all efforts, no solution has been found. Meanwhile, outrage swept the country as a video of two women being paraded naked surfaced. From Parliament to the street, people were spotted protest-

The incident provoked an immediate response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who stated that the misery perpetrated on the two women has embarrassed 140 crore Indians. The Supreme Court has asked the government for a response after taking suo motu cognizance of the matter. CJI Justice DY Chandrachud even stated, "We are giving the government some time; it is fine if it takes steps; otherwise, we will take steps ourselves. There is no doubt that the type of occurrence revealed by the video

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had previously stayed there for three days as part of peace efforts, but this, too, had no meaningful effect. The peace committees MT.Farooqi | Hyderabad constituted on the initiative of the Union

Home Minister produced no substantial results. Not only are doubts being raised about the participation of the state government there but all information is being withheld owing to factors such as an internet ban. Members of the fact-finding team were also charged with crimes by the police.

When the Monsoon Session of Parliament opened, it was expected that at least a significant debate would occur in the House, showing the common concern and direction of the government's efforts. However, on the first day, as the opposition raised a fuss demanding the Prime Minister's statement, the ruling party shrugged, claiming that the opposition had decided not to allow the Parliament to function. This is quite unfortunate. In such serious matters, both the opposition and the government should rise above their stubbornness and ensure better use of Parliament.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

BUILDING HEALTHY INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

Interpersonal skills are important because they enable individuals to communicate



In the words of Beatrice Vincent "The people with whom you work reflect your own attitude. If you are suspicious, unfriendly and condescending, you will find theses unlovely traits echoed everything about you. But if you are on your best behaviour, you will bring out the best in the persons with whom you are going to spend most of your working hours."

nterpersonal skills, the most common word often talked about nowadays, is a specific type of social skill. It's how an individual speaks, listens and acknowledges others and acts accordingly. Interpersonal competencies help an individual interact, communicate and collaborate with others effectively. As part of an individual's development as a human being, we need to communicate with others at some point in time. Throughout each stage of an individual's life, an individual is faced with different and new circumstances in which they meet people and connect with them so that they can grow and develop an understanding and outlook on life.

Interpersonal skills are traits one can rely on when one interacts and communicates with others.

Practising good interpersonal skills help an individual to communicate more effectively with friends and family. Be it workplace or home, individuals at every stage are required to communicate and interact with a wide range of people - be it from suppliers or customers to immediate colleagues, teams, managers or any other co-worker. The individual's ability to do so effectively can make the difference between a successful working life, and one spent wondering what went wrong. There are several obvious jobs and careers such as financial advisors and brokerage, Computer programmers and developers, and Healthcare provision including doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals where interpersonal skills are vitally important. Being able to listen to; what one is saying and what they are not articulating' enables a person to provide recommendations that match their competencies. Often at times, people are not truly paying attention to a conversation by planning their next point or sentence. Practicing the art of Active listening which is a means to be fully concentrated on



what is being said is one of the most fundamental components of communication. Also, it improves performance, and effectiveness, and helps others achieve their full potential. Along with that attending workshops or online classes, seeking opportunities to build relationships, being thoughtful about ways of interactions, seeking mentorship and setting goals for oneself can provide structure thereby making the learning efficient.

Interpersonal skills are not only valuable for a leader, but they are such values that one uses in everyday life. Discovering, practising and mastering these skills will lead to the production of better teams. Interpersonal skills are important to live a happy and successful life. In every footstep of a person's life, the interpersonal skills of an individual are tested and observed, and those who have excellent interpersonal skills are always successful in both professional and personal living. The best step to form good and healthy interpersonal relationships is in the early years since the support and efforts received at that age will affect the ability to socialise and communicate for the rest of life. Remember, interpersonal skills are important because they enable individuals to communicate effectively and build positive relationships with others. When an individual improves their communication, empathy and relationship-building skills, they can enhance their emotional intelligence, increase self-awareness, and develop a better understanding of themselves and others. Be it emotional support or material support, every person must feel that they are being reciprocated. By being assertive, one can express themselves clearly, logically and with common sense. It is henceforth worth spending time developing good

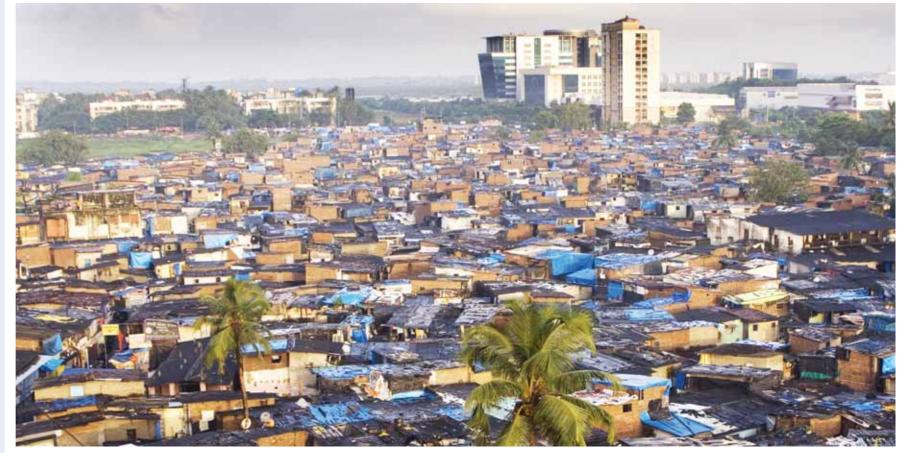
(The writer is an educator)

Dharavi: A humancentric transformation



GALITAM ADANI

On his bucket list, former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson listed two places in India that he wished to visit: the Taj Mahal and & Dharavi



y first tryst with Dharavi was in the late 1970s. New to Mumbai, I was just another anonymous youngster lured to the big city by opportunity and my optimism that I would sparkle in the diamond trade. Even back then, Dharavi was a melting pot of a diverse array of beliefs, cultures and languages from every part of India. I was mesmerised by the industrious chaos that I saw in Dharavi's alleys, where just about every Indian language seemed to echo with equal urgency. But there was order in that chaos, seemingly provided by the soul of Dharavi. I could never define it but felt it very strongly.

That visit to Dharavi was both humbling and disturbing. The community's struggle for survival, laced with equanimity and happiness, inspired me. However, it also hurned a question into my mind.

BEGINNING. IT IS A it also burned a question into my mind:

Will their fate ever change?

My amazement is no less today.
Seeing Dharavi sprawled out like a giant human quilt below the landing approach to Mumbai Airport is not only a reminder of stoic human adaptation and Mumbai's capacity to embrace settlers of contrastive origins but also a grim reminder of a community living in urban squalor, forever waiting for its revival. Against this backdrop, when this opportunity to renew Dharavi came calling, I seized it with both hands. I eagerly wanted to do it as it had a huge personal connect with my first impression of Mumbai. Perhaps, it was because of this overzealousness that our bid was 2.5 times the next highest. A new chapter of pride and purpose is beginning. It is a historic opportunity for us to create a new Dharavi of dignity, safety and inclusiveness.

As we embark on this completely uncharted journey, I am aware of the colossal challenges ahead. Even in comparison with Singapore's trailblazing project to resolve its housing crisis in the



TIMES THE NEXT

HIGHEST. A NEW CHAPTER OF PRIDE AND ed and rehoused. FOR US TO CREATE A NEW

DHARAVI OF DIGNITY, SAFETY

INCLUSIVENESS

(The author is Chairman of the Adani

1960s, Dharavi is a unique project in a league of its own for three reasons: Firstly, it is one of the world's largest urban resettlement and regeneration projects. Approximately a million people will be rehabilitated and resettled.

Secondly, rehabilitation entails the resettlement of not only the residential units but also of diverse establishments of various sizes and scales dealing with trading, shopping and other business transactions. The entire ecosphere and business fabric of diverse and distinct trades thriving in Dharavi will be rehabilitat-

PURPOSE IS Thirdly, the project will aim for comprehensive and holistic NING. IT IS A redevelopment as it caters to the housing and rehabilitation needs HISTORIC of both eligible and ineligible res-OPPORTUNITY idents. While I have no fixed ideas or preconcein 1 or preconceived notions about redeveloping Dharavi, what I do have are good intent and an iron will for a human-centric transformation with the people of Dharavi at its centre. It will be a bottomup project reflecting their views and sentiments to the maximum extent possible. We will create an institutionalised mechanism to capture the sentiments of not only the people of Dharavi but also of the finest brains and every caring Mumbaikar, who are equal stakeholders in this journey of transforming Dharavi. The new Dharavi will reflect the quintessential character of Mumbai – the spirit, grit, unity in diversity, colour and determination - without losing the timeless essence of the old Dharavi. We will also create a state-of-the-art world-class

self-assured, growing India finding its new place on the global stage as the 21st century belongs to India.

It is also my commitment that the only move the eligible residents of Dharavi will make will be to their new homes. Not only will they see their homes being constructed in front of their eyes but they will also have a say in shaping it. What their homes do not have now, we will provide gas, water, electricity, sanitation and drainage, healthcare and recreational facilities, and open spaces - and they will also have access to a world-class hospital and a school. Gone, like a faded memory, will be the pain of inadequacy. In its place will be a new

Dharavi that hums with pride. Apart from resettiement, livelihood is a big challenge. I intend to transform Dharavi into a mod-ern city hub by looking at ways and means to support and strengthen existing micro-enter-prises and small industries and by promoting new-age jobs with a special focus on youth and women. This will be achieved using a multi-pronged strategy with the help of sectoral experts and civil society. It could be a combination of training centres focused on upskilling, common facility centres for product-based as well as service-based entrepreneurship models, R&D centres, data centres, MSME help desks, etc. Another important element could be the creation of organised and systemic marketplaces in line with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Dharavi is not new but has a long

history of nearly half a century. This time, some smart changes in the tender design based on earlier learnings ensured bidders' participation and its successful completion. For example, this tender catered to the rehabilitation of ineligible tenants. Further, the inclusion of 45 acres of railway land adjacent to Dharavi facilitates in-situ resettlement and day-zero project commencement.

It is important to mention that this project would not have seen the light of day but for the unflinching support and commitment of the successive state governments and political parties of Maharashtra coupled with the present central government which provided railway land.

My team and I are aware that the design and implementation of the Dharavi project are challenges monumental in both scale and dimensions. We are also aware that the project will test our resilience, our capability and our execution skills to their limits. Over the years, the Adani Group has developed a solution-oriented culture backed by a highly motivated, experienced and energetic team. I am confident that, with the support of all stakeholders, we shall create history and make Dharavi, Mumbai and India

After we are done, if Mike Tvson does visit Dharavi again, he may not be able to recognise the Dharavi he saw earlier but I am sure that he will still find its soul as spirited and alive as ever. God willing, the likes of Danny Boyle will discover that the new Dharavi The effort to transform is producing millionaires without

Unravelling Ayushman Card's impact on healthcare

By addressing the barriers to healthcare access and affordability, Ayushman Bharat strives to improve health and reduce health inequalities

yushman Bharat, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), is a pioneering healthcare scheme launched by the Government of India in September 2018. The program aims to provide health insurance coverage to economically vulnerable individuals and families, offering them financial protection against catastrophic health expenditures. Ayushman Bharat Card (ABC) is a significant step towards achieving universal health coverage in India and improving access to quality healthcare services. This policy of the union government has shown her eagerness to provide health security to the weaker sections of the society following models of successful



DAUD SALIM FARUQUIE

(Authors are the President and Secretary of the Foundation for Evidencebased Development in India (FEDI) respectively. Views *expressed are personal*)

economies where such programs have delivered attractive outcomes.

Current State of Evidence: ABC provides Health Insurance Coverage to over 500 million individuals from

low-income households. Beneficiaries receive a health card that enables them to access a wide range of secondary and tertiary healthcare services at empanelled public and private hospitals. It strives to provide Financial Protection to vulnerable populations from the burden of high healthcare costs. Evidence suggests that catastrophic health expenditures can push households into poverty. ABC significantly reduces out-of-pocket expenses for hospitalizations from financial hardships and preventing them from falling into debt traps. ABC ensures a broad network of Empaneled Hospitals, both public and private, across the country. As of now, around

29000 hospitals have been empanelled under the scheme. This network expansion has been particularly significant in rural and underserved areas. ABC provides Coverage

for Pre-Existing Conditions including chronic diseases. By providing access to affordable care for conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer, ABC improves management, enhances health outcomes, and reduces long-term healthcare costs. The ABC thereby protecting families program has made significant

progress in Expanding Health Coverage across India. As of now, over 23.40 Crore beneficiaries have been enrolled. This expansion has improved access to healthcare services for millions of individuals who were previously uninsured or lacked the financial means to afford quality care. has leveraged Technology-Driven Approach to facilitate data collection and analysis, enabling evidence-based decision-making.

Evidence-based comparison It's implied that ABC

draws inspiration from countries where similar policies have proven their potential. To better understand the strengths and limitations of ABC, it is valuable to compare it with foreign healthcare ty for low-income individu- outcomes and reduce the

programs. That gives insights into different approaches to achieving universal healthcare coverage and assesses the potential effectiveness of ABC within a global context. This evidence-based comparison will explore similar programs in various countries, considering factors such as program scope, implementation strate-

gies & funding mechanisms. Talking of the USA at the very outset, Affordable Care Act (ACA) aims to expand access to healthcare coverage and reduce costs for Americans. It primarily focuses on reducing the number of uninsured individuals and improving the quality of healthcare services. It expanded Medicaid eligibili-

als and provided subsidies to help make insurance more

In the United Kingdom, National Health Service (NHS) provides comprehensive healthcare services, including hospital care, general practitioner services, and pharmaceuticals, to all residents of the United Kingdom. In Germany, Statutory Health Insurance, GKV, has a dual healthcare system that consists of statutory health insurance (GKV) and private health insurance. Future

Strengthening Primary Healthcare: By focusing on preventive care, early intervention, and primary healthcare infrastructure, the program can improve health

need for expensive hospitalizations.

Enhancing Quality of Care: Empanelment of more accredited hospitals, implementing robust quality assurance mechanisms, and monitoring patient satisfaction can help enhance the overall quality of care delivered through ABC.

Addressing Regional Disparities: Future efforts should concentrate on bridging the gaps by targeting underserved regions, incentivizing private sector participation, and improving the reach of healthcare services to marginalized populations.

Ayushman Card has emerged as a game-changer in India by addressing the barriers to healthcare access and affordability

Imran Khan urges judiciary to halt victimisation of his party members

Pakistan's former prime min-ister Imran Khan on Friday appealed to the judiciary to take a stand against the alleged violation of the people's fundamental rights and victimisation of members of the country's largest political party after a senior leader from his party was whisked away from a high-security jail by "unknown

Taking to Twitter, Khan, also the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, said, "Removal of Shehryar Afridi (senior PTI leader) from Adiala Jail, the day before yesterday by unknown men (a reference to intelligence agencies) is completely illegal & shows the sheer lawlessness and high-handedness in the coun-

"I urge our judiciary to take a stand and stop this complete violation of our fundamental rights and blatant victimisation of members of Pakistan's largest political



party," Khan tweeted. Afridi, 52, has served as the Minister of State for Interior from August 2018 to April 2019.Khan also sees the resurgence of the 'cipher controversy' (in which he had accused the US of toppling his government) as a bid to disqualify him from contesting upcoming general elections.On Thursday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah warned Khan that he might be arrested if he fails to cooperate with the investigation into the leaking of national secrets in what has widely come to be known as the 'cipher case.' As highlighted by Shehryar's lawyer, the

sole purpose of putting him through this torture and persecution is to coerce him into recording a 164 CrPc statement against him (Khan), the 70-year-old cricketer-turnedpolitician said.Khan is reportedly under a 'virtual house arrest' and no PTI leader or worker is allowed to see him at his Zaman Park residence in

Khan also chided the government over the arrest of over 10,000 PTI workers in the wake of the attack on military installations and state build ings in reaction to his arrest linked to a corruption case on

He said there is a law of the jungle in the country as his party leaders are re-arrested in phoney cases after securing bail from courts.

"The silence of the human rights organisations and our journalist community is shocking...," Khan tweeted. Addressing the nation through YouTube on Thursday night, Khan again accused Prime

Pakistan Peoples Party de facto head Asif Ali Zardari and former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of hatching a conspiracy to remove him from the office of prime minister in April 2022 through a no-confidence motion. "The PMLN-led coalition

government and its handlers have only a one-point agenda — disqualify me and send me To execute their plan, they have now brought forward the US cipher issue," he said and

demanded a detailed inquiry into the US 'cipher conspiracy as the Federal Investigation Agency is not competent enough to conduct the probe." The nation must know

about the real players behind the conspiracy," Khan said.Khan was removed from office through a no-confidence vote, becoming the first premier in Pakistan's history to be sent home after losing the trust of the National

'Pakistan military court must inform SC before trying civilians in May 9 violence'

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top judge on Friday directed that the military court should not begin a trial of those involved in the unprecedented anti-government violence on May 9 without informing the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial gave this direction during the hearing of multiple petitions challenging the military trial of civilians, mostly supporters of former prime minister Imran

A six-member bench, including Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik, is hearing the petitions.

The case is about the military trial of more than 100 suspects involved in attacks on military installations during a protest by supporters of Khan when he was arrested in an alleged corruption case on May 9. On May 9, violent protests erupted after the arrest of 70year-old Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

party, by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad. His party workers vandalised over 20 military installations and government buildings, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad.

The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi was also attacked by the mob for the first time. Khan was later released In May, the federal cabinet

approved that those involved in the attacks on military instal-lations on May 9, the "Black Day", following the arrest of former prime minister Khan, would be tried under the stringent Army Act.During the hearing, Chief Justice Bandial countered an argument by advocate Latif Khosa, the counsel for petitioner Aitzaz Ahsan, who equated the existing situation in the country with the reign of former military dictator General Ziaul Haq."You can't compare the present era with the era of Ziaul Haq. This is not Ziaul Haq's era, nor is martial law imposed in the country. Even if a martial lawintervene," Bandial said.

Chief Justice Badial then directed that the Supreme Court should be informed before military trials of civilians begin. "The trial of the accused in military courts should not begin without informing the SC," he said.

Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that a lot of people were involved in the events of May 9, but after exercising caution, only 102 people were pinpointed for court martial.

The government has already stated that the trial of those involved in the attack on the military facilities would be held under military laws, but it has come under criticism by human rights bodies.

The controversy landed in the Supreme Court after the petitions were filed against it by eminent people like former chief justice of the apex court Jawwad S. Khawaja, prominent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, a leading civil society representative Karamat Ali and former pre-

The provincial assembly Pakistan's Khyber

China agrees to reschedule \$ 2 bn debt of Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

China has agreed to reschedule over USD 2 billion debt of Pakistan for a period of two years, providing a major relief to the cash-starved government, which is in the process of rebuilding foreign exchange reserves through fresh loans.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday, approved the revised terms of the agreement reached between Islamabad and Beijing, according to senior Pakistani officials, the Express Tribune reported.

Pakistan has built two nuclear power plants in Karachi that have a combined generation capacity of 2,117 megawatts. The total cost of the plants is USD 9.5 billion, including the USD 6.5 billion financing from China. The loan was extended by the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of

Of USD 2 billion, over USD 625 million was maturing in this fiscal year that will now be paused. The USD 6.5 billion is a publicly guaranteed debt, and over USD 2 billion repayments were maturing in two years that China has agreed to make a pause on, according to senior officials.

The Ministry of Finance did not officially make a statement about the ECC's stamp of endorsement to the revised agreement with China.

China has, time and again, helped Pakistan meet its debt obligations through the provision of new loans and the rollover of the existing debt.

China prematurely refi-nanced its USD 1.3 billion commercial loans in June, which helped Pakistan avoid a default on its international debt obligations during the period when the International Monetary Fund program was

After the signing of the new IMF programme, Pakistan's gross official foreign exchange reserves have bounced back to USD 8.7 billion – up from the critically low level of USD 4.5 billion before the IMF deal.Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that China rolled over more than USD 5 billion in loans.

upcoming elections'

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet's Economic Coordination (ECC) and approved Rs 42.528 billion (around USD 149 million) for the conduct of upcoming elections in the cash-strapped country, a media report said

the finance minister following a request by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) demanding funds for the polls in the current financial year, reported the Business Recorder newspaper. The ECP informed the ECC that according to its constitutional responsibility, it is taking all necessary steps to conduct the next general elections and for this purpose, it has already requested the Finance Division for allocation of the funds. The

ECC approved Rs 42.528 billion technical supplementary grant for the ECP for the conduct of general elections in the fiscal year 2023-2024, the report said, adding that Rs 10 billion will be released initial-

The ECP has already declared that it was prepared to hold elections on time once the National Assembly completes its term or if the House is dissolved before the end of

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the National Assembly would complete its five-year term on August 12 and general elections will be held according to the Constitution. Former prime minister and opposition leader Imran Khan has been demanding early elections ever since he was ousted by the House in April

'\$149 mn approved for | 'Alvi expected to remain head of state post-term August 8, media reports said.

Dakistan's President Arif Alvi P is likely to continue as the head of state even after his term ends on September 8 as there will be no electoral college in the country to elect a new president in his place. According to the Constitution, a new president will be voted by the electoral college comprising the Senate, the National Assembly and all the provincial assem-

While the assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have already been dissolved, the others are set to be dissolved next month ahead of the general election. Alvi, Pakistan's 13th head

no electoral college to elect a new president in his place, the Geo News reported. Alvi, 73, was sworn in on September 9, 2018. His fiveyear term will end on September 8. Prior to becom-ing the President, he was a

of state, will likely continue as

there will be no assemblies and



senior member of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

According to Pakistan's Constitution: "Election to the office of President shall be held not earlier than sixty days and not later than thirty days before the expiration of the term of the President in office: Provided that, if the election cannot be held within the peri-od aforesaid because the

it shall be held within thirty days of the general election to the Assembly."

Therefore, the presidential polls have to be held 30 days prior to September 8. "The electoral college, at

present, is incomplete because Khyber and Pakhtunkhwa assemblies do not exist; therefore, the president cannot be elected," Rashid Chaudhry, the deputy director of programmes at the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), told Geo News.

Meanwhile, Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister on Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Kunwar Dilshad, said that the election for the president will take place once the electoral college is complete.

According to the Constitution, the president shall continue to hold office even after his term expires until a new president is elected and assumes office.

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency President

that the head of state would continue to perform his duties even after his term has ended unless a forerunner replaces

Therefore, according to the Constitution, President Alvi will stay in office until the arrival of the new president.

Pakistan's major ruling coalition partners have reportedly agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, a few days before the completion of its five-year term, to get extra time for general elec-The five-year constitution-

term of the incumbent National Assembly expires on August 12 at midnight — four days after the date on which both parties have reportedly agreed to dissolve the legisla-The Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) — the two major stakeholders in the federal government — have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on Pakhtunkhwa was dissolved on January 18 after the

Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, accepted the request for dissolution by Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, who is a leader of former prime mnister Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The move came just days

after the assembly in the country's most populous province, Punjab, was dissolved following an order by Khan, the head of PTI.Like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab too was ruled by Khan's party. The dissolution of the two provincial assemblies was seen as a bid by Khan to push for early national elections. The former prime minister has been demanding immediate polls ever since his ouster in April 2022.Khan was removed from office through a no-confidence vote, becoming the first premier in the country's history to be sent home after losing the trust of

Russia aims missiles at Ukraine's farm storage

structure.

Russian cruise missiles, flying to dodge Ukrainian air defences destroyed farm storage buildings in the Odesa region early Friday, Ukrainian officials said, as the Kremlin's forces expanded their targets following three days of bombardment of the

Hours later, seven Russian missiles also damaged what officials described as an "important infrastructure facility" southwest of the port city of Odesa, in what appeared to be part of an ongoing Kremlin effort to cripple Ukraine's Black Sea food exports. Officials did not immediately provide details of that attack.

region's Black Sea port infra-

During the night, two missiles struck the agricultural storage facility, starting a fire, and while workers fought to put it out another missile hit, destroying farm and firefighting equipment, the southern Odesa region's Gov. Oleh Kiper said.



Russia pounded Ukraine's southern cities, including the port city of Odesa, with drones and missiles for a third consecutive night in a wave of strikes that has destroyed some of the country's critical grain export infrastructure

The attack injured two people and destroyed 100 metric tons of peas and 20 metric tons of barley, according to Kiper. The attack was small-scale in comparison with barrages in recent days that put Odesa in ture after vowing to retaliate for

Russia's crosshairs after Moscow tore up a wartime deal that allowed Ukraine to send grain

through the key Black Sea port. Russia targeted Ukrainian critical grain export infrastruc-

an attack that damaged a crucial bridge between Russia and the Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula. Though Friday's strike was more muted, the recent uptick in attacks has kept people in Odesa on edge.

terror, and it's undoubtedly related to the grain deal," said woman for the Ukrainian military's Operational Command South.Both Russia and Ukraine have announced that they will treat ships travelling to each other's Black Sea ports as potential military targets.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said the recent barrages in southern Ukraine are part of an overarching strategy. "The Russian military's intensifying strikes against Úkrainian port and grain infrastructure and threats of maritime escalation are likely a part of a Kremlin effort to leverage Russia's exit from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and exact extensive concessions from the West," it said in an assessment late Thursday

The Russian Defence Ministry, meanwhile, said the navy conducted drills that simulated action to seal off a section of the Black Sea.

US sanctions target Russia's battlefield supplies, revenue

AP WASHINGTON

The US on Thursday imposed sanctions on roughly 120 firms and people from Russia to the United Arab Emirates to Kyrgyzstan in an effort to choke off Moscow's access to products, money and financial channels that support its invasion of Ukraine.

The sanctions imposed by the Treasury and State departments target dozens of Russian mining, technology and munitions firms and commercial banks. In addition, a group of Kyrgyzstanbased electronics firms and its leadership were targeted as exporters of components and other technology to Russia.

A UAE-based engineering company that sent dozens of shipments of electronics to Russia was also sanctioned. The latest sanctions build on



when the US and other Group of Seven nations rolled out a wave of global actions during a Japan summit in May.
"Since Russia launched

its full scale invasion of Ukraine, the United States, working with our allies and partners, has taken unprecedented steps to impose costs on Russia and promote accountability for the individuals and entities who support its illegal war," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. "We will con-

for as long as it takes," he said. After the invasion's one-year anniversary in February, US officials said Russia's metals and mining sector would be a focus of future sanctions actions, as well as reducing Russia's energy revenues through the imposition of a price cap on Russian oil. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo said on Thursday's actions represent "another step in our efforts to constrain Russia's military capabilities, its access to battlefield supplies, and its economic bottom line."

tinue to stand with Ukraine

"As long as Russia continues to wage its unprovoked and brutal war against Ukraine, we will impose sanctions to deprive Russia of the technology it needs and disrupt the Russian arms industry's ability to resupply," Adevemo said in a statement.

Amid signs of recovery, SL draws up calendar of events in 75th year of Independence

Sri Lankan tourism authorities have created a calendar of events to woo tourists for the next several months leading up to the 76th anniversary of the country's independence next year as the cash-strapped country is showing signs of recovery from an unprecedented economic crisis it faced last

Sri Lanka or Ceylon as it was known during the British era, threw off the colonial voke in 1948 to become a free nation, a year after India gained its independence from the imperial rule.

When the country, dubbed the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', marked the 75th anniversary of its independence on February 4 this year, it was reeling under

sis.While an official ceremony was held in Colombo to mark the occasion, the mood among many Sri Lankans was hardly celebratory despite the significance of the milestone. But, now the debt-ridden

nation, facing its worst economic crisis since independence, due to a shortage of foreign exchange reserves, riding on a resilient spirit and bailout packages from international bodies, is on the road to recov-"We are moving forward with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme, the World Bank programme, the ADB programme...all in the process... Right now, the current government is giving the solution, and moving forward," said Chalaka Gajabahu, chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism

Colombo. The fuel crisis and medicine crisis are "no longer there". Still, the economic situation is there, but it has 'improved vastly and the numbers speak for themselves," he The island nation is mak-

ing comprehensive efforts to recover from the crisis and rebuild the economy, the SLTPB said, asserting that it was "ready to conquer any challenge" and "conquer the crisis".In response to a query from PTI on the Sri Lankan government's plan to celebrate the next Independence Day, keeping in mind the debt restructuring the island nation is faced with, the SLTPB chairman said, "We are going to lead up with many, many projects."

"We have created an event

calendar for the next nine months, a lot of events going to happen in Sri Lanka, water sports, a lot of Indian stars that we are trying to bring down to Sri Lanka to have concerts, and leading to the Independence Day, a lot of projects going to come out in December itself. It is under discussion," he said. Sri Lanka's President Ranil

Wickremesinghe, Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando and a lot of other people are involved in it. "It is going to be a smashing year, next year, 2024 is going to be the year, for sure," Gajabahu asserted.Sri Lanka needs to rectify its "errors and failures' and review its strengths and gains as a nation, President Wickremesinghe said on the 75th anniversary of its independence in Colombo

Mother with 3 children dies in possible murder-suicide

Verdigris (US): A woman and her three children were found dead in an Oklahoma home Thursday evening in what may be a murder-suicide following an hourslong standoff, authorities said. The names of the victims

weren't immediately released. The standoff began in the small town of Verdigris, a suburb east of Tulsa, when a police officer driving along the street saw fireworks coming from inside the garage of a house, according to Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

spokesperson Hunter McKee. "It was at that time that officer knew that there was something wrong, went to investigate, called for backup," McKee said. *AP* McKee said.

Singapore-based regional maritime agency lauds Indian Coast Guard took place in the first half of

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

 $E_{\text{Guard and Marine Police to}}^{\text{fforts by the Indian Coast}}$ check onshore vendors, warning them not to buy items stolen from ships, have resulted in a drastic drop in high seas robberies against vessels in the Indian waters, a top official of a regional maritime agency said on Friday.

Only two offshore ship incidents were reported in Indian waters during the first half of this year (January-June 2023), compared to three a year ago and a dramatic drop from 10-12 at its peak, Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre said in its halfyearly report released on Friday. The two incidents that

this year were on ships anchored or berthed, the report said."These efforts have restricted ship robberies in the Indian waters, and I appreciate that," said Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of the Singapore-based ReCAAP.In 2019, Natarajan, the former director-general of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), worked with the local authorities and marine police to build the capability of monitoring where the items stolen from ships were sold to onshore vendors. The vendors were warned that they, along with their businesses, would face the law if caught buying stolen items, including brass products,

wires, and engine parts, among

other unsecured ship proper-

ties, he elaborated. Natarajan

now leads ReCAAP in working

with relevant authorities in Southeast Asia to stop the sale of items stolen from the ships. "It is a work in progress," he

If there is no buyer onshore, the robbers will not get money by selling stolen items from ships, Natarajan pointed out.

Overall, the ReCAAP reported 59 armed robberies against ships in Asia during the January-June 2023 period, an increase from 42 in the first half of last year. There have been no inci-

dents of piracy in Asia for the third consecutive year since 2000, according to the report by ReCAAP, which describes robbery as an incident happening in the territorial waters of a state while piracy is classified as an incident happening on

Sunak's Conservatives face heavy losses in two by-polls

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was dealt a major political blow on Friday as the governing Conservatives suffered a bruising in two key by-elections but averted a complete whitewash as the party held on to his former boss Boris Johnson's seat in London. Thursday's three-way by-

election was widely pitched as a report card on the 43-yearold British Indian leader's handling of the economy and wider prospects as party leader going into a general election, expected in the second half of

The Tories' narrow victory in the suburban seat of Uxbridge, which they won by 495 votes, spared Sunak the humiliation of being the first PM for 55 years to lose three by-elections in one night.

Conservative Tuckwell just about holding on to Uxbridge and South Ruislip,



Johnson's seat, until he stepped down in the wake of a parliamentary inquiry into party gate inquiry last month, was the only bit of good news for the party.During a visit to Uxbridge soon after the results on Friday morning, Sunak said the victory there showed that the next general election was not "a done deal".

Asked what the defeats meant for his party, Sunak replied: "The message I take away is that we've got to double down, stick to our plan and deliver for people."The Opposition Labour Party overturned a massive Tory majority of over 20,000 to decisively clinch the Selby and Ainsty constituency in northern England, a by-election triggered by the resignation of close Boris Johnson ally Nigel Adams. "This is a historic result that shows that people are looking at Labour and seeing

a changed party that is focused entirely on the priorities of working people with an ambitious, practical plan to deliver," said Labour Leader Keir Starmer. With the big win, his namesake 25-year-old Keir Mather overtook Indian-origin Labour MP Nadia Whittome as the so-called "Baby of the House" to become the youngest member of Parliament. It will be a long wait, though, for him to take his seat in the House of Commons, which is now on its summer recess and resumes only in early September.In a second bruising for the Sunakled Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats swept the Somerset and Frome byelections in southwest England. Sarah Dyke, a Somerset councillor with a farming background, secured a dramatic victory by winning 21,187 votes, with Conservative Faye Purbrick left far behind in second place with 10,179 votes.

Japanese, US, S Korean officials criticise North's weapons plan

Senior officials from Japan, the US and South Korea condemned North Korea over its recent ICBM-class ballistic missile launches and vowed to step up their trilateral cooperation to strengthen deterrence and sanctions against the North, while stressing the need for dialogue with

Pyongyang.
Their meeting Thursday in the central Japanese city of Karuizawa comes days after North Korea's solid-fuel ICBM launch last week, which landed in the water off the western coast of Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido and one day after the launch of two missiles on Wednesday.

The US special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, also said that the United States was "working hard" to gather information about an American soldier who fled to the North earlier this month. The US was seeking to ensure his safety and return him home, Kim said.

Pvt Travis King, 23, had been held in South Korea on assault charges and was released on July 10 after serving his time. He was taken to the airport Monday but did not board his flight home. Instead, he joined a tourist trip to the border and bolted to the North Korean side. Kim said he and his Japanese counterpart, Takehiro

stances of this incident and

to identify who is responsi-

force appreciates that the incident has caused under-

standable concern in the local Sikh community and

ly with key community representatives to reassure them and keep them updated as we progress our investiga-

Dodds said the police

We are working close-

Officers from our local

neighbourhood policing

teams and other well-estab-

lished community engage-

supporting our work to reas-

sure the community follow-

ing this incident," he said.

appealing for anyone with

information to come for-

ward, said a crime has been

recorded for racially or reli-

giously aggravated criminal

damage and enquiries are

ongoing to establish the full

circumstances of the inci-

dent, including how the

damaged text came to be left

where it was discovered on

St. Anne's Road.

The police, which is

ble," he said.

beyond.



Funakoshi, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, and South Korea's Kim Gunn, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, were to also discuss their leaders' summit planned for next month in the United States. In his opening remarks, Japan's Funakoshi said Tokyo seeks to further strengthen the three-way security cooperation to enhance deterrence and implement sanctions against the North over its missile advancement in violation to the United Naitons' Security Council resolutions. However, he also stressed the need for dialogue with the North.

He reiterated that Japanese Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida was willing to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "without any preconditions" to resolve the decades-old issue of North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals.

Sung Kim said the United States had "no hostile intent" and that "we are willing and ready to sit down at the negotiating table to work through our differences.'

South Korea's Kim said the three officials were to affirm their intent for dialogue with North Korea, while discussing ways to strengthen "close communication to bring North Korea back to the path to denuclearization and to encourage China's constructive role."

Muslim-majority nations express outrage over Quran desecration

 $M_{
m expressed}^{
m uslim-majority}$ nations Friday at the desecration of a copy of the Quran in Sweden. Some prepared for street demonstrations following midday prayers to show their anger. In Iran, Iraq and Lebanon, protesters planned demonstrations after Swedish police permitted a protest Thursday in which an Îraqi Christian living in Stockholm kicked and stood on a Quran, Islam's holy book, outside of the Iraqi Embassy. Hours before that, demon-

strators in Baghdad broke into the Swedish Embassy and lit a fire to show their anger at his threats to burn the book.

Iraqi Prime Minister Shia al-Sudani has ordered the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Iraq and the withdrawal of the Iraqi charge d'affaires from Sweden. But that may not be

enough to calm those angered, and another protest in Baghdad is planned for Friday afternoon. In neighboring Iran,

demonstrators also planned to take to the streets. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has written a retary-general over the Quran desecration and has summoned the Swedish ambassador."We consider the Swedish government responsible for the outcome of provocation reactions from the world's Muslims," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

The man in Stockholm also wiped his feet with a picture of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during his demonstration and did similar to a photo of Iraqi



Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, a powerful leader there.

Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah also called for a demonstration Friday afternoon. Khamenei and Iran's theocracy serve as Hezbollah's main sponsor.In Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the events in Sweden. He called on the 57nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to play a "historic role in expressing the sentiments of Muslims and stopping this demonisation?

Meanwhile, Islamists in his country have been pushing Sharif, who faces an upcoming election, to cut diplomatic ties with Sweden.

On Thursday morning, protesters in Baghdad occupied the Swedish Embassy for several hours and set a small fire.

evacuated a day earlier. After protesters left the embassy, diplomats closed it to visitors without specifying when it would reopen.Prime Minister Sudani said in a statement that Iraqi authorities would prosecute those responsible for starting the fire and referred to an investigation of "negligent security officials."Some demonstrators stayed at the site, ignored by police, after the attack. An Associated Press photographer and two Reuters staff members were arrested

while covering the protest and released several hours later without charges.

This is the second Quran desecration to involve the Iraqi Christian in Sweden, identified as Salwan Momika. Last month, a man identified by local media and on his social media as Momika burned a Quran outside a Stockholm mosque during the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, triggering widespread condemnation in the Islamic world.

The right to hold public demonstrations is protected by the constitution in Sweden. Blasphemy laws were abandoned in the 1970s.

Police generally give permission based on whether they believe a public gathering can be held without major disruptions or safety risks.

of the Quran represents a desecration of their religion's holy text. Quran burnings in the past have sparked protests across the Muslim world, some turning violent.In Afghanistan, the Taliban suspended all the activities of Swedish organizations in the country in response to the recent Quran burning.

A similar protest by a farright activist was held outside Turkey's Embassy earlier this year, complicating Sweden's efforts to persuade Turkey to let it join NATO.

UK police launch inquiry after Sikh holy text damaged

PTI ■ LONDON

The hate crime investigation has been launched by police after a Sikh holy text was found damaged outside a residential address in Leeds, northern England. West Yorkshire Police

said it received the report of the incident from a member of the local Sikh community on Sunday. The incident occurred in the Headingley area of the city on July 12. It was initially thought

the damaged pieces of the holy text had been put in the victim's bin by an unknown suspect after it had been put out for refuse collection on July 11. But this has been dis-

counted after officers visited the victim this week to get a fuller account.

"Any crime such as this which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by hostility or prejudice to their race or religion is treated as a hate crime, and we treat all incidents of this nature very Superintendent Steve Dodds, Leeds District Commander for West Yorkshire Police.

"It is completely unacceptable for someone to deliberately damage a holy text with the aim of causing offence to the victim as a member of the Sikh com-

We have launched a criminal investigation led by detectives from Leeds District CID who are carrying out extensive enquiries

3.

Period of

Completion

US military drone crashes in Polish woodland Warsaw (Poland): A US military

drone has crashed in the woods in southwestern Poland after contact was lost during training, Poland's Defence Ministry said Friday. The ministry said that no one was hurt and there was no damage from the incident on Thursday afternoon. Polish media reported that an eyewitness saw an object crashing in the woods near the village of Trzebien and notified the fire brigade. The military were already there when the firefighters arrived, Piotr Pilarczyk spokesman for the national fire command told Polish state news agency PAP. Pilarczyk said there were no explosions when the object, which had a wing span of about 8 meters (26 feet), crashed

In an email, the ministry told The Associated Press that the drone had collected by the US side. Poland's defense is on alert as neighbouring Ukraine is fighting an all-out war against Russia's military aggression. Trainers from several NATO member countries, including the UK, Canada, and Norway have been working with Ukrainian forces in Poland. About 10,500 U.S. troops are stationed at various locations in Poland. Two Polish men died in November when a missile fired by eastern Poland.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned to the public in general that my client Aditya Birla Finance, Ltd., having branch office at 17, First Floor, Vijan Building, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place

Building, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, Delhi is in the process of advancing a loan to Mismangla Tant And Disposal House/Mrs. Chamma against mortgage of Plot of land (admeasuring 118 + 118 sq., vds.), out of khasra No. 1449 (12-11), Wakya Mauja Palwal (Shyam Nagar), within Municipal limits, Palwal. Mrs. Chamma has represented that a Transfer Deed pertaining to the said property being registered as document no. 6825 on 07.10.2016 has been lost. If found by anybody or otherwise, anybody having any rights, claims, charge on the aforesaid property may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no claims shall be entertained.

KP MENON & CO. (Advocates & Solicitors)

KP MENON & CO. (Advocates & Solicitor

Judge gives trial

date for next May

TRUMP'S CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE

AP WASHINGTON

A federal judge in Florida has scheduled a trial date for next May for former President Donald Trump in a case charging him with illegally retaining hundreds of classified documents. The May 20, 2024, trial

date, set Friday by US District Judge Aileen Cannon, is a compromise between a request from prosecutors to set the trial for this December and a bid by defense lawyers to schedule it after the 2024 presidential election. If the date holds, it would

follow close on the heels of a separate New York trial for Trump on dozens of state charges of falsifying business records in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor. It also means the trial will

not start until deep into the presidential nominating calendar and probably well after the Republican nominee is clear — though before that person is officially nominated at the Republican National

from the December 11 start date that the Justice Department had asked for, Cannon wrote that "the Government's proposed schedule is atypically accelerated and inconsistent with ensuring a fair trial."

She agreed with defense lawyers that the amount of evidence that would need to be sifted through before the trial, including classified information, was "volumi-"The Court finds that the

interests of justice served by this continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and Defendants in a speedy trial," Cannon wrote.

Trump could yet face additional trials in the coming year. He revealed this week that he had received a letter informing him that he was a target of a separate Justice Department investigation into efforts to undo the 2020 presidential election, and prosecutors in Georgia plan to announce charging decisions within weeks in an investigation into attempts by Trump

In pushing back the trial vote there. Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

Advt. No.BFU-23/12 **VACANCIES** Online applications are invited on regular basis w.e.f 25/07/2023 to 16/08/2023 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment of various paramedical posts i.e **Laboratory** Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician Gr-II-(04) for TBLCDST _ab/LPA_Lab, Laboratory Attendant- (02) for TBLCDST Lab/LPA _ab, Library Assistant-(03), Junior Microbiologist-(01) at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot under Baba Fario University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For details/Updates/

Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

www.bfuhs.ac.in Nil/12/127/2023/26088 Dated CHD :- 7/21/2023

REGISTRAF

Government of Punjab Tender Notice Reference No. PIDB/Projects/2023/4

eligibility/No. of Posts/terms & conditions visit website

The Department of Finance, Punjab through PIDB invites online bids for the following:

Open Tender For creation of panel of Special Third Party Independent Techno Financial Auditor(s) .

Closing Date & Time

11.08.2023 at 03:00 PM.

Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on websites only. The RFE document can be from the above mentioned websites from 24.07.2023

Managing Director, PIDB

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL —II, DELHI. 4th FLOOR JEEVAN TARA **BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI — 110001.** Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Proce DATE: 20.05.2023

AXIS BANK LTD.

VIPIN KUMAR SINGH & ORS.

VERSUS

APPLICANT

To, Defendant 1. Vipin Kumar Singh F-112, Sect.-36 Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar Noida Up **Also At:** New Holland India Pvt. Ltd. Plot No.- 03 Udyog Kendra Noida - 201306 Also At: łouse No. 278, Hamirpur Tehsil Khurja Bulandshar Up Also At: VIPINRM82@GMAIL.COM . Ram Pal Singh House No. 101 Block C Sect. - 36 Greater Noida Up - 201306

Also At: House No. 278, Hamirour Tehsil Khurai Bulandshar Up 3. Cosmos Infraestate Pvt. Ltd. Through Its Directors 2/100 Vijayant Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow Also At: B-150 Ground Floor Sect.-63 Noida Up - 201301 Also AT:

Whereas the above-named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 16,17,949/- (Rupee Sixteen Lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Nine Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 10.08.2023 At 10.30 A.m. Take notice that in default you to hake appearance in the influence of 10.06.2023 A.m. take holice train details of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence. All the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software: (ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in (iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 20th day of May, 2023 By order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar, DRT-II Delhi

Amazon, Google, Meta agree to Al safeguards set by WH Washington (AP): Amazon, curity, the White House said in

Google, Meta, Microsoft and other companies that are leading the development of artificial intelligence technology have agreed to meet a set of AI safeguards brokered by President Joe Biden's adminis-

The White House said Friday that it has secured voluntary commitments from seven U.S. companies meant to ensure their AI products are safe before they release them. Some of the commitments call for third-party oversight of the workings of commercial AI systems, though they don't detail who will audit the technology or hold the companies accountable. A surge of commercial investment in generative AI tools that can write convincingly human-like text and churn out new images and other media has brought public fascination as well as concern about their ability to trick people and spread disinformation, among other dangers. The four tech giants, along

with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and startups Anthropic and Inflection, have committed to security testing "carried out in part by independent experts" to guard against major risks, such as to biosecurity and cyberse-

a statement. The companies have also

committed to methods for reporting vulnerabilities to their systems and to using digital watermarking to help distinguish between real and AIgenerated images known as deepfakes.

They will also publicly report flaws and risks in their technology, including effects on fairness and bias, the White House said.

The voluntary commitments are meant to be an immediate way of addressing risks ahead of a longer-term push to get Congress to pass laws regulating the technology. Some advocates for AI reg-

ulations said Biden's move is a start but more needs to be done to hold the companies and products their accountable."History would indicate that many tech companies do not actually walk the walk on a voluntary pledge to act responsibly and support strong regulations," said a statement from James Steyer, founder and CEO of the nonprofit Common Sense Media. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he

will introduce legislation to

3 Hindu sisters in Pak's Sindh province forced to marry Muslim men Karachi (PTI): Three daughters of a Hindu

businessman in Pakistan's Sindh province have been married to Muslim men who first kidnapped them and forcibly converted them to Islam, according to a leading minority rights group in the country.

The head of Pakistan Darewar Itehad, Shiva Kachhi, said that the incident took place in Sindh's Dharki area where Chandni, Roshni and Parmesh Kumari, daughters of a Hindu businessman, Leela Ram, were first abducted and then forcibly converted to

"The conversion was performed by one Pir Javed Ahmed Qadri and later they were also married to Muslim men," he said. Kachhi said despite appeals and pleas from his organisation's platform, the problem of forcible conversion of Hindu girls was continuing unabated with the police and authorities not apprehending the culprits. He said that the three sisters were mar-

ried to the same men who abducted them. Kachhi also claimed that the attacks on the Hindu community in the riverine areas have spiked since the Seema Haider incident. Seema Haider, a Pakistani woman and a mother of four, sneaked into India to live with a Hindu man, Sachin Meena, whom she befriended through an online game platform. She was ostracised by her family and neighbours for daring to defy the societal norms of a conservative Muslim country. There have been daily threats from dacoits in the riverine areas to retaliate against Hindus because of this incident, Kachhi said.

1-302, A-315 & 316, 3" Floor, RG Complex, Motia Khan, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi.-55. M.: 9990-5700-88 Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot Ph: 01639-256232, 256236 Advt. No.BFU-23/13 **VACANCIES**

Online applications are invited w.e.f 24/07/2023 to 14/08/2023 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment to posts of Registrar (UR-1), Dean (College Development)- (UR-1), Secretary to Vice Chancellor (UR-I), Finance Officer-(UR-1), Director (Advanced Cance nstitute, Bathinda)- (UR-I) under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For details/Updates/eligibility/No. of Posts/terms & onditions visit website www.bfuhs.ac.in REGISTRAR



Letter No.: 1014/Nivida/115 Date: 21-07-2023

E-Tender Notice

Name of the Construction of Proposed Construction of Digital Mushroom Spawn Laboratory | Library in Government for Horticulture Department Polytechnic Nainital. at Jyolikot. Distt. Nainital. Estimated Cost Rs. 31.95 (Excluding GST) Rs. 28.05 (Excluding GST)

4.Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 22-07-2023 (17:00 hrs) 5.Online Bid submission: End date: - 10-08-2023 (17:00 hrs)

6.Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 14-08-2023 (12:00 hrs) 7.Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Project Manager

Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani. 8.Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place : 24-07-2023 (11:00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pevial Nigam, Haldwani, 9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction

documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in PROJECT MANAGER

Markets snap record-breaking run on Infosys shocker; down 1%

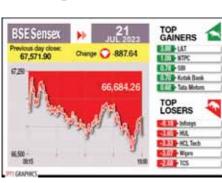
enchmark stock indices Bensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent on Friday due to deep losses in IT behemoth Infosys which slashed its FY24 growth outlook.

Snapping its six-day recordbreaking rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 887.64 points or 1.31 per cent to settle at 66,684.26. During the day, it plummeted 1,038.16 points or 1.53 per cent to 66,533.74.

The NSE Nifty fell by 234.15 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 19,745, cutting short its six-day winning run. As many as 36 Nifty shares closed in negative while 14 advanced.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys tanked over 8 per cent after the company reported a lower-than-expected 11 per cent rise in net profit for the June quarter and delivered a shocker as it slashed its FY24 growth outlook to 1-3.5 per cent on delayed decision-making by clients amid global macro uncer-

"The weak guidance from Infosys cast a shadow over the outlook of the Indian IT sector. causing a delay in Nifty's pursuit of the 20,000 mark. While the



TOP LOSERS

LAT Change -234.15 TOP LOSERS

heavyweights surrendered to the bears, the small caps demonstrated resilience," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

Global markets presented a mixed picture, with the US market struggling due to weak earnings, while UK retail sales exceeded expectations with a 0.7 per cent MoM growth, he

A decline in shares of market bluechip firms Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services also added to the bearish trend in equities. Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra were the other major laggards.

On the other hand, Larsen & Toubro rose the most by 3.88 per cent after it bagged an order of worth over Rs 7,000 crore from the bullet train project.

NTPC, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti and Bharti Airtel were also among the gainers. BSE Midcap dropped by 0.26 per cent to 29,547.28 while BSE Smallcap index edged up 0.13 per cent to 34,146.66 points.

Among sectoral indices, BSE IT fell the most by 4.40 per cent, followed by consumer durables which dropped 1.09 per

"The decline was widespread wherein the IT pack faced the maximum heat, followed by FMCG and energy majors. Meanwhile, the broad er indices traded mixed, capping damage to the market breadth," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd said. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower while Seoul and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory.

TOP GAINERS

Equity markets in Europe were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended mostly lower on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.19 per cent to USD 80.59 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark had jumped 474.46 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at its fresh alltime closing high of 67,571.90 on Thursday, extending its winning momentum to the sixth day. During the day, it rallied 521.73 points or 0.77 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of

Union Bank to sell 8 NAP accounts worth ₹3K cr to NARCL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's forex kitty

swells to \$609 bn

India's forex reserves have swelled by USD 12.743 billion to USD 609.022 billion in the week ended July 14, making it one of the strongest weekly surges in the kitty in recent times, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen by USD 1.23 billion to USD 596.28 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an alltime 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. In the week ended January 13 this year, the overall kitty had expanded by USD 10.417 billion.

For the week ended July 14, the foreign currency assets, a

DLF Q1 profit

rises 12% to

 $R^{
m ealty}$ major DLF on Friday reported a 12 per cent rise

in consolidated net profit to

Rs 527 crore in the first quar-

ter of this fiscal and

announced its re-entry into

the Mumbai property market

to develop a housing project.

The company's net profit stood at Rs 469.57 crore in

ginally to Rs 1,521.71 crore in

the April-June period of 2023-

24 financial year from Rs

1,516.28 crore in the year-ago

period, according to a regu-

bookings remained flat at Rs

2,040 crore in the June quar-

real estate market through a

partnership with realty firm Trident Group.
In 2012, DLF sold 17

acres of prime land in

Mumbai to Lodha Developers

(now renamed as Macrotech

Developers) for about Rs

2,700 crore. DLF had bought

the land from National Textile

Corporation for Rs 703 crore

joint venture with Akruti City

regulatory filing, DLF Home

to develop few projects.

DLF had also formed a

According to a separate

in 2005

The company's sales

DLF also announced its re-entry into the Mumbai

Total income rose mar-

the year-ago period.

latory filing.

₹527 cr

PTI NEW DELHI



reserves, increased by USD 11.198 billion to USD 540.166 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange

Gold reserves were up by USD 1.137 billion to USD 45.197 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 250 million to USD 18.484 billion,

fied eight troubled accounts worth Rs 3,000 crore to be sold to the national bad bank NARCL this fiscal.

doubled its net income at Rs 3,236 crore in the June 2023 quarter on improved asset quality and recoveries. The city-based bank had

already sold three accounts worth Rs 900 crore last fiscal to the national bad bank at a recovery of 33 per cent.

We have sort of identified as many as 42 troubled accounts with an outstanding of Rs 10,000 crore to be sold to the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). Of these, we hope to sell at least eight of them to that central government-

Rs 20,000 crore from writtenoffs/upgrades or one-time settlements but this year it will be around a quarter of that only, she said as the overall quantum of bad assets has fallen drastically.

The bank's overall gross

utive and managing director of Union Bank of India on Friday said it has identithe public sector lender, told reporters at the bank's postearnings presser here. Union Bank was one of the first lenders to sell its NPAs to NARCL in the first lot The lender has more than of the bad bank's such trans-

The bank had recovered

Of the Rs 20,000 crore, cash recovery alone was Rs 5,500 crore, which it expects to fall to Rs 4,500 crore this year.

bad loan ratio is came down by 288 bps to 7.34 per cent (Rs 60,104 crore) now and net NPAs by 173 bps to 1.58 per

PFC to lend Rs 2.37 lakh cr to 20 clean energy projects

PTI MUMBAI

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Friday said it has entered into loan agreements worth more than Rs 2.37 lakh crore with 20 companies.

These firms include Adani Group, Greenco, ReNew Power, Continuum, Avaada, JBM Auto, Rajasthan Renewable Energy and Megha Engineering & Infrastructure, among others. These agreements -- part of

the Maharatna company's plan to position itself as the focal funding agency for energy transition -- were signed with companies in the solar, wind, green hydrogen, battery storage, and electric vehicles space as well as manufacturers of green energy equipment.
PFC is looking to fund pro-

jects like offshore wind, pumped hydro storage, solar modules and cells, among others in the



clean energy space, the company said in a statement issued from Goa at a G20 function.

Recently, the company diversified its loan portfolio into infrastructure projects, such as refineries, ports, roads, metro, biofuels, waste-to-energy pro-

Earlier this week Parminder Chopra, the officiating chairman and managing director, said the

state-run company is awaiting the Reserve Bank's nod to launch a subsidiary from the International Financial Services Centre in Gandhinagar.

In fiscal 2023, PFC's consolidated revenue stood at Rs 77,568.30 crore, up from Rs 76,261.66 crore a year ago from which the company earned a net income of Rs 21,178.6 crore against Rs 18,768.2 crore in the previous year.

As of March 2023, its loan book stood at Rs 4.32 lakh crore, of which Rs 3.2 lakh crore have been lent to state power companies and Rs 73,000 crore to private power compa-

During the same period, its outstanding borrowings stood at Rs 3.63 lakh crore of which 63 per cent are domestic bonds and USD7.2 billion are in overseas currencies primarily in dollars

Duqm, Oman, a company state-

ment said.

Hindustan **Unilever shares** fall nearly 4% post Jun qtr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Hindustan Unilever on Friday declined nearly 4 per cent, from its market valuation after the company's firstquarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

The company's stock fell 3.65 per cent to settle at Rs 2,603.80 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 4 per cent to Rs 2,592.20.

At the NSE, it declined 3.67 per cent to end at Rs

The company's market valuation fell by Rs 23,155.22 crore to Rs 6,11,786.57 crore.

Hindustan Unilever on Thursday reported a 6.9 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 2,556 crore for June quarter 2023-24 riding on a gradual recovery in the FMCG industry despite operating in a challenging environment.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,391 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Hindustan Unilever said in a regulatory

filing.

Total income in the first quarter stood at Rs 15,679 crore as against Rs 14,757 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal year.

ACME Group secures Rs 4,000-cr loan from

in online gaming: Investors to PM The GST Council's decision to levy a 28 per cent tax on real money online gaming industry will lead to an impairment of USD 2.5 billion of investment made in the segment, a group of 30 Indian and foreign Investors

28% GST to lead to write-off of \$2.5 bn

regime for the gaming sector globally, which will lead to a potential write-off of the USD 2.5 billion capital invested in this sector," the letter said.

Investors said the GST Council's decision has caused shock and dismay and will substantially and meaningfully erode investor confidence in the backing of this or any other sunrise sector in the Índian tech

"This will also adversely impact prospective investments to the tune of at least USD 4 billion in the next 3-4 years and hence the growth of the gaming sector in India," the letter said.

Investors said if "full value of bets" is understood in a manner where GST is levied on every contest played every time with fully taxed winnings, the GST burden will increase by 1,100 per

Further, on account of taxation of redeployed player winnings, the same money will get taxed repeatedly resulting in a scenario where over 50-70 per cent of every rupee will go towards GST, thereby making the online real money skill gaming business model unviable the letter said.

Investors said that levying of 28 per cent GST on the Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) or Platform fees will lead to a 55 per cent increase in GST quantum which would make it feasible for Indian online gaming operators to survive and be a key contributor to the Indian

"However, in light of the decision by the GST Council, we humbly request your kind and urgent attention to this matter,"

RUPEE VS DOLLAR

Inflation set to overshoot RBI's target: Nomura

onsumer price inflation is Cexpected to overshoot the Reserve Bank's tolerance mark of 6 per cent again in July and August due to the sky high vegetable prices, a Japanese brokerage said on Friday.

said in a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

leading Investors Including Peak

XV Capital, Tiger Global, DST

Global, Bennett, Coleman &

Company Limited, Alpha Wave

Global, Chrys Capital, Lumikai

etc have sought the Prime

Minister's intervention in the

decision of GST Council which

is expected to hit prospective

investment to the tune of USD

4 billion in the next 3-4 years.

will set up the most onerous tax

The current GST proposal

In a letter dated July 21,

The government, which banned non-basmati rice exports earlier this week, is likely to usher in more supplyside measures to tame the price rise going forward, Nomura said in a note.

"We expect continued supply-side interventions, with inflation likely to be above 6 per cent levels in July and August, buoyed by sky-high vegetable prices," Nomura economists said.

Last year, inflation had

been above the 6 per cent mark
-- the upper tolerance level under the flexible inflation targeting set up -- for over three quarters at a go. This led to RBI writing an explanatory note to the government explaining the reasons for the price rise being above the set threshold.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started its efforts to tame inflation with rate hikes and upped the repo rate by a cumulative 2.50 per cent in policy actions from May 2022 to arrest the price rise.

Earlier this year, the central bank paused its rate hike cycle to pay attention to growth, and many analysts expect a prolonged pause in policy rates before it starts cut-

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday cancelled the registration of Progressive

Comtrade for facilitating its

clients to trade in illegal

'paired contracts' on the

National Spot Exchange Ltd

Comtrade) by providing

access for taking exposure to

'paired contracts' and did not

ĥave regulatory approval and

also by undertaking such

exposure itself on account of

its proprietary trades, thereby

raises doubts on the compe-

tence of the noticee to act as

a registered securities market

have been and could be detri-

"The actions of the noticee

"The noticee (Progressive

PTI NEW DELHI

Sebi cancels Progressive Comtrade

registration in NSEL case

The Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) rose to 4.81 per cent in June from 4.31 per cent in May, driven by a spike in food prices.

Nomura said the rice inflation rose to 12 per cent in June from 9 per cent earlier, and daily data is suggesting a further rise in the prices in July

The government had imposed a 20 per cent export tax on non-basmati rice in September last year, and with the latest move, 42 per cent of the rice exports are now banned, Nomura said.

According to the note, the late arrival of monsoons and its uneven spread is disrupting paddy sowing which, as of mid-July, is 6 per cent lower

mental to the interest of the

securities market and accord-

ingly the noticee can no

longer be called a 'fit and

proper person' for holding

the certificate of registration

as a broker in the securities

market," Sebi's Executive

Director V S Sundaresan said

the broker to allow its existing

clients or transfer their secu-

rities or funds held in its cus-

clients to withdraw or transfer

their securities or funds with-

in this period, the broker will

transfer the funds and securi-

ties of such clients to another

broker within a period of the

next 15 days therefrom, under

tody within 15 days.

advice to the clients.

The regulator has asked

In case of failure of any

 to close at 81.97 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by a rebound in the American currency and firm crude oil prices in global markets.

The rupee depreciated 4 paise

Rupee falls 4p

to close at

Rs 81.97/\$

PTI MUMBAI

Besides, a negative trend in domestic equity benchmarks also dented investor sentiment, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign

exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.03 against the dollar and settled at 81.97 (provisional), down 4 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee touched a high of 81.94 and a low of 82.05 against the greenback. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 81.93 against the gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.12 per cent to 101.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.11 per cent to USD 80.52 per

"The greenback has extended a run of gains against major currencies ahead of next week's big three central bank's policy decision," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC

360 ONE WAM Q1 PAT climbs 13% to ₹181 crore

intermediary.

360 ONE WAM Ltd on Friday reported a 13.4 per cent growth in profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 181 crore in three months ended June 2023.

In comparison, the company posted a PAT of Rs 160 crore in the year-ago period, 360 ONE WAM, formerly known as IIFL Wealth Management, said

The company's total revenues increased 17.6 per cent to Rs 434 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 369 crore in the April-June quarter of the preceding fiscal 2022-23.
"We strongly believe

India's long-term inclusive growth trends will continue to fuel overall wealth creation, and particularly for the HNI UHNI

Increasing financialisation and client sophistication will drive a disproportionate rise in this segment," Karan Bhagat, founder, MD and CEO, 360 ONE, said.

In addition, the company's board approved a second interim dividend for the financial year 2023-24 of Rs 4 per equity share. Besides, the company has fixed July 28 as a record date for this purpose.

India's coal production grows 8.55% to 223 MT in Apr-Jun

PTI NEW DELHI

Increased by 8.55 per cent to 223.36 million tonnes in the April-June quarter of 2023-24 compared to the year-ago period, an official statement said on Friday.

Coal production was 205.76 million tonnes (MT) in the same period during FÝ 2022-23, the Ministry of Coal

Developers Ltd's (DHDL) Coal India Limited (CIL) registered 175.48 MT producwholly-owned arm Pegeen Builders & Developers will allot 9,800 equity shares of Rs tion between April and June 10 each at par to Delhi-based 2023, marking a commendrealty firm Trident Buildtech. able growth rate of 9.85 per

While coal imports increased by 16.76 per cent in April-May 2023 as compared to the same period in the previous year, it is important to note that this rise is primarily attributable to the substantial decline in coal import

Import prices for coal have plummeted by over 60 per cent in the first quarter of FY24, compared to the year-

prices, the ministry said.



Once the first phase is to 1.2 million tonnes a year. The ready, about 100,000 tonnes of green ammonia is expected to be project will be powered by a 5.5produced per annum initially, GWp solar PV plant and have which will subsequently go up the capacity to generate 3.5

green hydrogen and green ammonia project in Oman," it

The ACME Group also announced the signing of a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd for a Rs 21,000-crore loan to set up four major renewable projects in the country.

The MoU was signed during the ongoing 14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th

struction soon and build one of the most advanced technologies and create a state-of-the-art facility," ACME Group Vice-Chairman Shashi Shekhar said in the statement.

Going forward, we are exploring the establishment of round-the-clock energy solutions, encompassing solar, wind, hydro pump storage, green hydrogen, and ammonia,

PFC signs MoU worth ₹2.37L cr



PNS GOA

As part of its plan to posi-tion itself as the focal funding agency for energy transition, the Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), executed various Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) of more than? 2.37 Lakh Crore with 20 companies both in public and private sector.

REC for Oman green hydrogen project Mission Innovation meeting in PTI NEW DELHI cent in comparison to 159.75 GW electrolyser, the statement MT during the corresponding $R_{ m ACME}^{ m enewable}$ energy firm ACME Group on Friday period of the previous year. "Diversified renewable India's coal production "Securing of debt for the energy company ACME Group The rest came in from green hydrogen and ammonia announced securing Rs 4,000 crore loan from REC Ltd for its said it has tied up a Rs 4,000project in Oman is an important other captive mines. crore loan from state-owned REC Ltd for its green hydrogen milestone. We will start con-

Spain crush Costa Rica in Women's WC

oach Jorge Vilda says Spain will try to eke the Jbest out of Alexia Putellas at the Women's World Cup after she made a cameo off the bench in Friday's ominous 3-0 win over Costa Rica.

The Spaniards showed why they're among the favourites with a classy display in a Group C mismatch in Wellington, firing 46 shots against opponents who spent nearly the entire game defending and were flattered by the scoreline.

La Roja threatened a rout when all three goals came in the space of six minutes midway through the first half but they couldn't score again.

The European powerhouses received a boost in the 77th minute when reigning two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas entered the match, with her fitness under a cloud after cutting short a training session on Monday. The Barcelona midfielder

produced some neat touches over the closing minutes and Vilda said her limited minutes come under advice from med-

The 29-year-old is still to complete a full game since returning in April from a serious knee injury.
"We are going to follow

their recommendations and they



Nigeria holds Olympic champions Canada with penalty save

Christine Sinclair had a penalty saved as Olympic champions Canada were held 0-0 in their opener by Nigeria, who saw Deborah Abiodun pick up the first red card of this Women's World Cup.

The 40-year-old skipper Sinclair is hoping to make history in Australia and New Zealand by becoming the first player to score at six World Cups

Cups.

But she missed the chance to reach that milestone in Melbourne as her penalty early in the second half was saved by goalkeeper Chiamaka

With few clear chances otherwise, that allowed the Super Falcons to come away with a morale-boosting draw in Group B, in which cohosts Australia beat Ireland 1-0 on Thursday.

Canada have never gone beyond the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup but are hoping to go deep into this year's tournament on the back of winning gold at the Tokyo Games in

However, they had a disrupted build-up as



the team threatened to strike over pay, funding and contractual issues.

They are also missing key players due to injury and perhaps continue to rely too heavily on Sinclair, the all-time top scorer in inter-

national football.

recommended for today that Alexia could play a little bit," Vilda said. "Every single minute from her really counts, she's a really good quality player.

"What we're going to do in the future is our best to help her and get the best out of her.'

Putellas' Barcelona teammate Aitana Bonmati was instead the game's dominant figure, named player of the match after creating numerous chances and finding the net herself.

In a match played in cold and wet conditions, the first goal

arrived in the 21st minute when Costa Rica defender Valeria del Campo sliced a low cross from Esther Gonzalez into her own

Bonmati doubled the lead before Gonzalez grabbed the third with a close-range volley.

I'll never talk about Brazil, I am the coach of Real Madrid: Ancelotti

 $R^{\text{eal Madrid coach Carlo}}_{\text{Ancelotti moved on}}$ Thursday to tamp down discussion of his possible future move to the Brazilian national team, saying he was focused on the Spanish giants and their upcom-

ing season.
"I will never talk about Brazil, about what is going to happen," the Italian told reporters in Los Angeles, where Real Madrid will play the first of four US friendlies on Sunday against AC Milan at the Rose

"I am the coach of Real Madrid and I am staying here," Ancelotti insisted, two weeks after Brazilian Confederation president Ednaldo Rodrigues indicated Ancelotti was poised almost 60 years to coach the Selecao after his Real Madrid contract expires.

That would put the Italian at the helm in time for the Copa America in the United States from June 2024, but Ancelotti said for him the subject was closed.

"I will never talk about this matter again," he said, noting that he had a contract with Real Madrid "until June 30, 2024".

Ancelotti also declined to comment on Madrid's chances of signing French star Kylian Mbappe, who is involved in a contract dispute with Paris Saint-

Mbappe "is a player who is not at Madrid," he noted. "To talk about players who are not here, it doesn't seem right to

Ancelotti did discuss his

Doherty agreed a three-year deal with Wolves, where the

right-back made more than 300

appearances during his first

spell at the Premier League

Molineux in 2020 to join

Tottenham but, after a disap-

pointing stint in north London,

he moved to Atletico Madrid in

appearances for Atletico, Doherty has got his wish to

return to the English top-flight.

BURNLEY SIGN REDMOND

League club Burnley signed

Nathan Redmond on a free

Newly promoted Premier

After making only two

January on a six-month deal.

The 31-year-old left



ture of Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who last month inked a three-year deal with Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia.

ment with a system that exploits the attacking potential of signings such as England's Jude Bellingham and Turkey's Arda

replacement for Benzema has yet to arrive, Ancelotti said he was satisfied with how the Real Madrid squad has come together for next season.

"For me, the squad has improved," he said. "We have lost a player who has been fundamental for years in Karim, whom we wish the best and who has been a club legend. But we have a very young group that we are convinced will give us a lot

He said he would experi-

Even though an elite direct

of satisfaction," he said.

Messi set for Miami debut but maybe off the bench

▼ ionel Messi should make his debut for Inter LMiami against Mexican club Cruz Azul on Friday but the seven-times Ballon d'Or winner may be limited to a role off the bench.

The Argentine arrived in South Florida last week to a wave of enthusiasm and was presented to fans at a special stadium event on Sunday. But since the initial hype, when club owner Jorge Mas described him as "America's number 10" and promised the move would 'change the football landscape" in the USA, there has been a noticable change of tone. Messi only started training in earnest this

vacation and the opening game of the new Leagues Cup — which pits MLS and Liga MX teams together in a tournament format -- may come too soon for the World Cup champion to Co-owner David Beckham said on Tuesday that Messi will play "some part of the game" and coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino, Messi's compa-

triot and former Barcelona coach, had suggest-

week after spending time with his family on

ed he might start on the bench. At the pre-match press conference, moved



to the downtown performing arts center in Fort Lauderdale due to the huge media interest, Martino said they would make a decision on

how to use Messi after training on Friday. "It is very difficult for people not to have

expectations," said Martino, "But it may take a

Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets certainly doesn't feel ready yet for a full game in what

Alba joins 'Barca reunion' with Messi in Miami

Former Spain international defender Jordi Alba has signed for Inter Miami, where he'll join up with former Barcelona team-mate Lionel Messi through 2024, the Major League Soccer Club said on Thursday. The announcement of the deal, which includes a

club option for 2025, came two days after Inter owner Jorge Mas said Alba was on the way. He will join Argentine superstar Messi and

Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, another former Barcelona player, as Inter, co-owned by former England great David Beckham, seek to reverse their flagging MLS fortunes.

The 34-year-old Alba, who has made 93 appearances for Spain, terminated his contract with Barcelona

The left-back won six Spanish league titles with Barca and was part of the team which won the 2015 Champions League. He also played in the Spain team which won the 2012 European Championship.

doors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Perez concedes Red Bull WFI elections on August 12 Asiad trials set future is in his own hands

AP BUDAPEST

Under-pressure Red Bull driver Sergio Perez admitted on Thursday that his future is in his own hands following Alpha Tauri's abrupt sacking of Dutch rookie Nyck de Vries.

Despite lying second in the drivers' championship after 10 races, although 99 points adrift of runaway defending champion and team-mate Max Verstappen, Perez conceded that his position with Red Bull was not entirely secure.

"You've seen it with other drivers and other teams," he said, referring to the pressure he felt.

"They've had difficult peri-



ods, but then they don't have 20 replacements after a session like they do with the Red Bull drifive poor qualifying performances, in which he has failed to reach the top 10 qualifying shoot-out, the Mexican told reporters ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix that he would bounce back to

"It's in my hands, that's why I am focused on myself – I am the first one. I am a winner. I don't like to have bad weekends. It's not what I am here for.

"I would rather be at home doing something else. I'm here because I know that I can do it. I've done it before and people just on the sofa forget how we have (little breathing space)."

process.

The much-delayed elections of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be conducted on August 12, it was announced on Friday, but the state of Maharashtra will not be part of the poll process as Returning Officer Justice MM Kumar declared that both rival factions were ineligible for participation.

The ad-hoc panel had scheduled the elections for July 6 but it was forced to reschedule the polls to July 11 after disaffiliated state bodies from Maharashtra, Haryana, Telangana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh approached it for a hearing, claiming that their dismissal was not appro-

The panel heard the

aggrieved representatives of the state bodies but the polls could not go ahead even on July 11 with the Gauhati High Court staying the elections after the Assam Wrestling Association (AWA) sought the right to participate in the poll

The Supreme Court then paved the way for elections on Tuesday after staying the Gauhati High Court order.

The electoral college will now have 48 members with voting rights from 24 state bodies and the nominations for

posts will be filed on August 1. The scrutiny of the nominations will be conducted on August 2 and a final list of the candidates will be published on August 7. If election is required, voting will be conducted on

doors after parents of some of the wrestlers got into a heated argument with panel members at the IG Stadium on Friday. Frayed tempers and heated exchanges was the order of the day as angry wrestlers and their family members threatened to

to be conducted

The IOA appointed ad-hoc

L committee has decided to

conduct the Asian Games

wrestling trials behind closed

behind closed

boycott the trials in protest of the exemption given to Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia (65 kg) and world medallist Vinesh Phogat (53 kg). The families of wrestlers reached the trial venue and argued with the ad-hoc panel alleging that the decision was "unfair" and "unjust". Parents of world U20 cham-

pion Antim Panghal and another wrestler Vikas Kaliraman's father Subhash Kaliraman got into a heated argument with the ad-hoc panel members.

Sensing trouble, the ad-hoc panel decided that it will be a restricted entry for the trials as no spectators will be allowed inside the wrestling hall. Ad-hoc panel member Gian Singh said the DCP of the region has been asked to have adequate personnel to ensure no one enters the hall. The trials will go ahead as per schedule and on Saturday selection will be done in six Greco-Roman and as many in women's categories. The trials for six men's freestyle divisions will take place on Sunday.

"Trials will take place tomorrow as the Delhi High Court has not given stay orders," Singh said. "Our job is to organise the trials and whosoever comes first we will send his or her name to IOA. The decision on who they (IOA) want to send to the Asian Games after that is their

Alcaraz finding it 'tough to believe' that he is Wimbledon champion

AP MADRID transfer on Friday after the former Southampton winger left AP ■ NICE

Wolves re-sign Doherty

after Atletico Madrid exit

Wolves re-signed Matt Doherty on a free trans-Turkish club Besiktas. Redmond agreed a twofer on Thursday after the vear contract with Burnley, who Republic of Ireland defender's have the option of further seaexit from Atletico Madrid. son's extension to his deal.

The 29-year-old was a free agent after leaving Besiktas following a single season in Turkey, where he scored six goals in 28

"I always had aspirations to play again in the Premier League. Burnley's project matches with my ambitions," Redmond said.

"The management team feel like they can enhance my game more and see the value I can bring on and off the field. It feels like a perfect match.

Redmond, who has one England cap, has played 264 times in the Premier League after spending six years at Southampton and three seasons

arlos Alcaraz on Friday said he finds ✓it "tough to believe" he is Wimbledon champion as the Spaniard prepares to play the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in France days after his triumph in London.

Thinking I won Wimbledon is tough believe. I can't believe that I won and beat Novak (Djokovic), probably it will take some days to believe," Alcaraz told journal-

On Sunday, Alcaraz beat Djokovic in five sets to win the second Grand Slam title of his career. "Since Wimbledon I didn't touch the

racquet, today will be the first time," said Alcaraz, who takes on 111th-ranked Belgian David Goffin later on Friday. 'I'm a little bit tired, I'm not going to

lie." he said. "I had some days off to rest a little bit. I'm feeling great right now. I'm here to make people happy watching the match."

The world number one battled past seven-time Wimbledon champion Djokovic after a defeat to the Serb in the French Open semi-finals during which he



But the 20-year-old believes that he was "not well prepared mentally" before the

"I couldn't deal with the pressure that Novak put on. I relaxed, doing some mental exercise before the match that probably I didn't do in Roland Garros, that helped

In Nice, Alcaraz teams up with 72ndranked Rebeka Masarova, against the Belgium pairing of Goffin and Elise

"We're not used to playing with women, mixed doubles. I wanted to have this experience," he continued. "It feels great. I'm really happy and

excited to be here.' After the Hopman Cup, Alcaraz will compete in the Masters 1000 in Toronto from August 7 and Cincinnati from August

"Right now my focus is on Toronto, which is a Masters 1000 and really important, and Cincinatti, but of course the main goal is the US Open," he added of the final Grand Slam of the year which begins on

August 21 and where he will defend his title.

job," he added.

Kohli hits 29th Test ton as India cruise to 373/6 vs WI

The peerless Virat Kohli capped off his 500th international appearance with a 76th hundred as India were comfortably placed at 373 for 6 going into lunch on the second day of the second Test against West Indies here on

Kohli, who missed out on a hundred in the previous Test, made a polished 121 in 206 balls, his 29th in the longest format while adding 159 runs for the fifth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (61 off 152 balls).

Both were dismissed in quick succession as Kohli fell short of his crease and West Indies' best bowler Kemar Roach (2/86 in 19 overs) accounted for Jadeja.

the Ravichandran Ashwin (6 batting) had batter-keeper Ishan Kishan (18 batting) for company as India, after a poor post lunch session on the first day, are well on their way to a healthy first innings total.

However, the first session on second day belonged to Kohli, who was hardly troubled by any of the West Indies pacers, having taken 77 runs in singles, doubles and triples apart from the 11 boundaries

Starting the day at 87, Kohli reached his century in the first half an hour while dis-



The Queens Park Oval track is certainly way better for strokeplay compared to first Test venue of Windsor Park in Dominica. One could hit through the line even though there were deliveries that were gripping off the surface and some that stopped and came onto the bat.

patching a Roach delivery wide

of point. The wide grin while

Kohli's greatness lay in his game awareness as the cornerstone of his innings was 45 singles and 13 doubles in energy sapping conditions.

He would be pleased because as many as nine of his 11 boundaries were hit on the off-side with the signature cover drive coming out of his closet time and again.
To his relief, the absence of

off-break Rahkeem Cornwall did make things a bit easier as Jomel Warrican, despite his restrictive lines, did not get a lot of purchase off the surface. Most of the deliveries

come in with the angle and it was easier to just tickle it off his hips for singles and doubles.

Kohli got an able ally in Jadeja, who got his 19th halfcentury and reaffirmed his status as a batting all-rounder

Former India opener Wasim Jaffer feels incumbent vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will have to consistently score runs to remain in the Test reck-

Rahane, 35, returned to the Indian Test team on the back of an impressive IPL this year and made a strong impression in the World Test Championship final against Australia earlier this year.

However, he has flopped twice with the bat which has raised questions about his consistency once again.

"Raĥane will have to show consistency in his game, which has been his problem even though he has played 80-90 Tests (84). Consistency has been an issue, he will have to overcome it because India have a good captaincy option in him after Rohit Sharma is done.

"Rahane will have to make runs, and then everything else will follow," Jaffer told media during an interaction organised by Jio Cinema on Friday.

Iaffer said the Indian selectors see a strong captaincy option in Rahane.

"If his form was great from that Australia series after that 36 all-out, the way he led, scored a hundred in Melbourne... had his form remained the same, he would have been the next Test captain. But he lost his form and got dropped," he said.

Bumrah to play practice games at NCA, Pant starts batting at nets

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's selection in the Indian team for the Ireland T20I tour is hinged on his fitness assessment during a couple of practice games, to be organised by the National Cricket Academy, the BCCI informed on Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action for more than 10 months, has undergone a surgery for lower back stress fracture and has had a long rehabilitation at the NCA along with fast bowler Prasidh Krishna, who also suffered the same injury.

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah informed in a release that Rishabh Pant has started his skills training (batting and wicketkeeping), while KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are recovering from hamstring and lower back surgeries respectively, are still some time away from regaining full fitness.

"The two fast bowlers (Bumrah and Krishna) are in the final stages of their rehab and are bowling with full intensity in the nets. The duo will now play some practice games, which the NCA will organise," Shah said in the

release. "The BCCI Medical Team is pleased with their progress and will make a final decision after assessing them following the practice games," the release further stated

The Indian team management and NCA medical team

want Bumrah to first assess his bowling fitness in a 20over match, and then play the Asia Cup to add miles to his legs, in the lead-up to the 50overs World Cup where his presence is a must.

It is not just about bowling four or 10 overs in a different formats but also about being able to stay on the field for 50 overs, and may be do a lot of sprinting in the deep to save boundaries.

For that, Bumrah needs to prove his overall fitness before the selectors can pick him for the Ireland tour.

Both Rahul and Iyer, who were certainties in the 50overs format, are returning from surgeries and have started batting in the nets. If one reads between the lines, it is clear that the duo will be racing against time to be fully fit for the Asia Cup in August-September.

"They (Rahul and Iyer) have resumed batting in the nets and are currently undergoing strength and fitness drills. The BCCI Medical Team will increase their intensity in terms of both skills and strength and conditioning in the coming days," it said.

The statement effectively means that currently both are on low-intensity training and will take time to regain full strength in their hamstring and lower back respec-

PANT STARTS SKILLS

The most heartening aspect of the BCCI update was Pant returning to the nets, only about seven months after a life-threatening, horrific car crash last December.

Pant has undergone a knee surgery and the road to recovery has been a long and arduous one, but to everyone's relief, he is returning towards full fitness at a faster pace than

Hafeez likley to become **Pakistan's new** chief selector

PTI KARACHI

 $F^{
m ormer}$ Pakistan captain and all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez is a front-runner to become the national team's chief selector after the conclusion of the team's ongoing Sri Lanka tour.

According to sources, Hafeez is favoured by the new chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's Cricket Management Committee (CMC) Zaka Ashraf, to be appointed as the chief selector — a post that is lying vacant after the pervious CMC was dissolved in June. "Zaka met Latif and Hafeez and spoke to them about becoming chief selector. Rashid was not keen on the job but Hafeez (has) expressed his availability for the job," the source said.

"Rashid was more interested in working on anti-corruption issues. Hafeez who played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs and 119 T20Is for Pakistan before retiring last year, made it clear that he would like the challenge of working as the chief selector,' the source added.

Haroon Rasheed was a member of the previous CMC headed by Najam Sethi and was named chairperson of the newlook national selection committee, which includes the team director Mickey Arthur and head coach Grant Bradburn. The source added that Ashraf was yet to decide whether to change the entire selection committee, which was formed by Sethi in consultation with Mickey Arthur, or just appoint a new chief selector in place of Rasheed.
"It is unlikely the entire

selection committee will be changed because of the heavy schedule of the Pakistan team after the Sri Lanka tour as Afghanistan have also con-

Brook and Stokes add to Australia's agony in fourth Test

AP MANCHESTER

Harry Brook and Ben Stokes hit fifties as England stepped up their runspree in the must-win fourth Test against Australia at Old Trafford on Friday.

England were 506-8 at lunch on the third day, 189 runs ahead of Australia's first innings 317, after Brook had made 61 and skipper Stokes

It was the first time since their 1985 series triumph against Australia that England had made 500 in a home

matches to play in the fivegame series, England must win in Manchester to maintain their hopes of regaining the Ashes.

England resumed in 384-4, already 67 runs ahead, following opener Zak Crawley's stunning 189 on Thursday. Brook was 14 not out and

Stokes 24 not out. Stokes signalled his intentions when he thrashed Mitchell Starc's second ball, a good length delivery, through

midwicket for four. Nevertheless, Stokes should have been run out by Ashes innings. substitute fielder Michael At 2-1 down with two Neser's throw from deep



Carey couldn't gather cleanly and demolished the stumps with his gloves when the allrounder was short of his

England gave Australia another run-out chance when Stokes slammed a drive to Pat Cummins at mid-on.

Both batsmen set off before deciding against a single and Brook would have been out by a distance at the non-striker's end had Cummins's throw hit the

It was another moment to forget for Cummins after he was out to Thursday's first ball before bowling 16 wicketless overs for an expensive 93 runs, as well as dropping catches and losing control in the field. Brook, whose 75 had been

third Test at Headingley, kept the runs coming against an Australia attack without allrounder Mitchell Marsh, off the field with muscle stiffness. The rising star extended

England's advantage beyond 100 runs with two classic boundaries driven through the covers off successive deliveries from Starc.

Cummins eventually took his first wicket of the innings when he bowled Stokes, who had completed a 72-ball fifty. It was the end of a stand of 86, with England 437-5.

Brook then went down the pitch to loft Cameron Green for key to England's victory in the four en route to an 80-ball fifty. Australia took the new ball 10 overs after it was available, with England 471-5.

Soon afterwards, Brook top-edged a hook off paceman Hazlewood and Starc held a well-judged catch just inside

the long-leg boundary. Chris Woakes and Mark Wood, who had finished off England's run chase at

Headingley, both fell cheaply to Hazlewood (4-105).

A in Emerging Asia Cup final

India A set up a potentially high-voltage Emerging Asia Cup final against Pakistan A after defeating Bangladesh A by 51 runs in the semifinals here on Friday. Bangladesh had India on

the ropes, bundling them out for 211, a total made possible by captain Yash Dhull's impressive 66 off 85 balls. But, the Indian spinners made use of the slightly tacky

pitch to pack Bangladesh off for 160 to celebrate a fine vic-Left-arm spinner Nishant ster came to the middle when

Sindhu accentuated Bangladesh's fall with a fivewicket haul (5 for 20). But the real protagonist for India's victory was Dhull.

He has been spoken about in

the Indian domestic circuit as a player to be preserved in cotton wool, and the day's innings showed the reason. At 20, Dhull has a far

more settled head on his shoulders. The Delhi young-



India were 75 for 2 in the 19th

Dhull immediately tackled a set of spot-on Bangladesh bowlers, who exploited a hint of turn to keep the shackles on Indian batters.

Most of them fell in their attempt to step on the gas, and the responsibility of pushing Indian innings fell on the shoulders of Dhull.

He handled the pressure

with aplomb too. Overall, Dhull batted for 30 overs in the match and he was the last man to be dismissed in the 50th over.

Dhull and Manav Suther added 41 runs for the eight wicket to carry India close to the 200-run mark, which they eventually managed to go past. Earlier, Pakistan A defeated Sri Lanka A by 60 runs in the first semifinal to enter the summit clash.

India A beat B'desh A, to face Pak | India's top order in focus in series decider against B'desh

PTI MIRPUR

Eyeing a series-clinching victory, India would expect a better show from its top order when it takes on Bangladesh in the third and final women's ODI here on Saturday.

Following a disastrous start, where the Indian women's team crashed to its first-ever defeat to Bangladesh, the visitors levelled the series with a commanding 108-run win on Wednesday.

Come Saturday, the Indian team would not only aim to secure the three-match series but also address the grey areas and continue learning the nature of pitches, given that next year's World Cup is sched-

uled in Bangladesh. In the series opener, India's batting unit left a lot to be desired as the visitors were bundled out for 113. But in the second ODI, India put up an improved batting display with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues notching



However, the top order's form continues to be a cause of

Star opener Smriti Mandhana's struggle from the T20 leg have continued in the 50-over format. She has managed to score just 47 runs in the two ODIs which is much less than the standards the Indian

vice-captain has set for herself. The Indian bowlers, on the other hand, were right on the mark in the second ODI with leggie Devika Vaidya and

who had a career best 4/3, sharing seven wickets between

Bangladesh will also hope

part-time spinner Jemimah,

for a better effort from its batters. The hosts lost seven wickets in the space of 14 runs.

Fargana Hoque has been Bangladesh's best batter, having scored 74 runs in the two innings while Nigar Sultana is the second best having manages a total of 42 runs across the two games.

Blasters, Mysuru Warriors and

Each of those franchises

Satwik-Chirag pair enters semis of Korea Open

PTI ■ YEOSU

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the semifinals of the Korea Open Super 500 tournament with a straight game win over Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi here on Friday. The world No.3 Indian

combination, seeded third here, took just 40 minutes to get the better of the fifth seeded Japanese pair 21-14, 21-17.

Satwik and Chirag will take on second seeds Wei Keng Liang and Chang Wang of China,



who are the 2021 world champions in men's doubles.

Satwik and Chirag are now India's flag bearers in the tournament after the premature exits of PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth among others.

Playing their first tournament since winning the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month, it was a neck and neck affair till the first six points before the Indians surged ahead

pocketing four straight points.
Once ahead, Satwik and Chirag managed to keep their nose in front to bag the first

The Indians made a slow start in the second game as they trailed 3-6, but lifted their game iust in time to claw back to grab six consecutive points to lead 14-

The Japanese pair, however, were in no mood to give up without a fight. They played aggressively and were also helped by some unforced errors by the Indians to draw level at

But Satwik and Chirag stepped up on the accelerator at that point to win the game to assure themselves a place in the

KSCA T20: Mayank, Padikkal among stars to go under hammer in auction

PTI BENGALURU

Prominent Karnataka state Stars such as Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal and Manish Pandey are among 700 cricketers who will be up for grabs during the player auction here on Saturday, ahead of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

This year's tournament will be held at a single venue — the M Chinnaswamy Stadium —

from August 14 to 30. Mangaluru Dragons and Shivamogga Lions have been added to the tournament,



expanding the number of participating teams to six.

The existing teams are defending champions Gulbarga Mystics, runners-up Bengaluru

will have a purse of Rs 50 lakh and they will have to purchase a minimum of 16 players and the squad strength should not exceed 18.

Hubli Tigers.

Players will be slotted into four categories. While the Category A will feature India and IPL players, the Category B will have all senior players who have played BCCI state tournaments such as the Vijay Hazare Trophy, Ranji Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.