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Tragic end to legacy: Wife of freedom fighter burnt alive

Chilling tales of crimes against women unfold in Manipur

PNS NEW DELHI

The aftermath of ethnic vio-lence in Manipur continues to unveil chilling stories of unimaginable horror. Just days after shocking visuals of tribal women being paraded naked by a mob of men surfaced on social media, yet another tragic incident has come to light.

In Serou village, located in the Kakching district, a heartwrenching tragedy unfolded when an armed group locked the 80-year-old wife of a revered freedom fighter inside her house and set it ablaze. This distressing event was reported to the Serou police station and occurred during the early hours of May 28 amid widespread

violence and gunfire. Once a picturesque location, Serou, situated 45 km away from Imphal now stands witness to the aftermath of the devastation, with burnt houses and bullet-riddled walls as painful reminders of its former

tranquility before May 3.

The clashes in Serou were

part of a violent conflict between the valley-majority Meiteis and the hill-majority Kuki tribe, centreed around the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribes (ST) status.

The victim, an 80-yearold woman named Ibetombi, was the beloved wife of the late freedom fighter S Churachand Singh, a respected figure honored by former President APJ Abdul Kalam. Her tragic fate was sealed as the attackers locked her inside her home before setting it ablaze.

Premkanta, aged 22 and Ibetombi's grandson, bravely shared a heartrending account of the incident with NDTV. Narrowly escaping death, he bore the scars of bullets that grazed his body during his courageous attempt to rescue his grandmother. Ibetombi's last words were a plea for her family's safety, urging them to run and return for her later. The marks on Premkanta's body serve as poignant reminders of the peril they faced that fateful night.

Knowing her advanced age and limited mobility would slow her down, Ibetombi selflessly urged her family to prioritise their safety during the hail of bullets outside, which posed a grave danger for slower movers like her.

Continued on Page 2



Gender crimes lead to political battle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The horrifying tales of murder, gang rape, and naked parading of women in Manipur during the last two months have thrust the issue of crime against women into the center of political exchanges. The BJP has slammed Opposition-ruled States for equally brutal crimes, while the Bengal police have arrested five persons on

Saturday for beating up two women and parading them half-naked on the streets in Malda three days ago.

The day witnessed three important developments on the issue of crime against women. First, the BJP highlighted

alleged atrocities against women in the Opposition-run States of Rajasthan, West Áihar, Bengal, Chhattisgarh. The party asked

Congress, TMC, RJD, and JDU to send women fact-finding delegations to their respective

Second, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that his statements about crimes against women in Rajasthan have deeply wounded the pride of the people of the State.

Continued on Page 2

4 officers suspended for taking Yasin to SC

The Department of Delhi Prisons has taken strict action and suspended four officials, including two assistant superintendents, a deputy superintendent, and a jail warden, in connection with the physical production of terrorfunding case convict and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik before the Supreme Court on

The surprise appearance of Malik in connection with another terror-related case left the judges puzzled, as there was no specific direction to bring him from Tihar Jail, where he is serving a life sentence. Director General (Prisons) Sanjay Beniwal attributed Malik's in-person appearance to a lapse on the part of the jail officials concerned and imme



diately ordered an inquiry into the matter.

"In the matter of the physical production of Malik before the Supreme Court on Friday, the Prisons Department has suspended one deputy superintendent, two assistant superintendents, and one head warder Friday night as they were found to be prima facie responsible based on preliminary inquiry," the statement issued by Tihar Jail said.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons-Headquarters) Rajiv Singh will conduct the inquiry to determine the lapse and identify the responsible offi-

Continued on Page 2

Lanka plans Indian ₹ **for** transactions



Colombo: Sri Lanka is considering the possibility of allowing the usage of the Indian rupee for local transactions just like the dollar, euro and yen to facilitate Indian tourists and businessmen, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Saturday.

Sabry was briefing the media here on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to India on July 20-21, his first since assuming office last year. He held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Detailed report on P6

Dog goes missing, Delhi **HC** former judge fumes

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm ormer\ Delhi\ High\ Court}_{\rm Justice\ Gaurang\ Kanth\ has}$ lodged a formal complaint to the Delhi Police (Security) about the "disappearance" of his beloved pet dog, a result of the negligence displayed by his security staff stationed at his office bungalow in the prestigious Lutyens' zone.

The incident occurred when the assigned security personnel failed to lock the door of his residence, allowing his dog to wander off. In addition to the distress caused by the loss of his pet, Justice Kanth raised serious apprehensions regarding the lax approach of the Delhi Police

PATANJALI[®]

security personnel and its

potential threat to his life. In a letter addressed to Joint Commissioner of Police (Security) Mangesh Kashyap, Justice Kanth also forwarded the complaint to Dr Sujoy Thaosen, DG CRPF, and Rajesh Kumar, IG (adminis-

tration) CRPF. Continued on Page 2

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Dermatologists have no permanent cure for Leucoderma, Eczema, Psoriasis. Medicines used in such cases contain steroids and different types of chemicals which ultimately make the

patient suffer from further complications. Godhan Ark + Neem Ghanvati, Kayakalp Vati, Dermagrit, Psorogrit, Melanogrit for Leucoderma along with body purification with Panch Mahabhoot Chikitsa cures these diseases. Regular yoga along with Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Panchkarma and Shatkarma

helps eradicate the problem. Arthritis

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In allopathy, there is no medicine for it. Inhalers

and steroids used to treat such situations give temporary relief and patients lungs get affected

for life. Bronchom, Swasari Gold, Vati and Swasari Pravahi in conjunction with regular practice of Bhastrika, Kapalbhati and Anulom-Vilom Pranayam and Bhujangasan etc. yogasanas are

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We'll help you in rehabilitation, **Uddhav tells landslide survivors**

 $M^{
m aharashtra's}$ former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday assured the survivors in the Irshalwadi landslide that his party would stand by them and help them in their rehabilitation, even as the toll in the natural calamity rose to 27.

"We will stand by you and work in tandem with you till you are rehabilitated. We are ready to extend you whatever help you need. If need be, we will approach the state government to seek rehabilitation of all the homeless villagers, Uddhav told the families of sur-

Interacting with the families of survivors whom he met at the local Panchayatan Temple where they have been temporarily accommodated in the wake of Wednesday's landslide, Uddhav said:

"I would not let politics get in the way of my approaching the state government on your



vivors in Irshalwadi and also

the people in natural disaster-

prone areas across the state

where the people live under the

Irshalwadi village, the former

chief minister was accompa-

nied among others by the Leader of Opposition in the

State Legislative Council

Ambadas Danve, his party

leaders Anil Parab, Bhaskar

In a related development,

Jadhav and Milind Narvekar.

During his visit to

threat of natural calamities.

behalf. My only objective is that all the devastated families in your village are rehabilitated".

The Sena (UBT) chief advised the landslide-hit villagers to exercise care and caution while choosing the rehabilitation spots that the government will soon allot them "The spots to be chosen should be away from hillocks or landslide- prone areas so to avoid any similar calamities in future," Uddhav said.

Udhav also urged the state government authorities to conForce (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and fire brigade personnel from the nearby areas recovered five more bodies from under the landslide debris, taking the toll in the mishap to 27.

Though many villagers are feared trapped under the debris, hopes of rescuing trapped people from under the debris turned bleak.

The rescue teams, which suspended their operations on Saturday evening, will resume their work on Sunday morning.

Noted playback singer Anuradha Paudwal has announced that she would help construct homes for the Irshalwadi landslide survivors through her Suryoday Foundation, as per the government policy.

On his part, chief minister Eknath Shinde has offered to adopt all the minor orphans aged 2 to 14 years who have lost their parents or families through his son's NGO, 'Dr. Shrikant Shinde Foundation'.

Bihar BJP women cell chief files complaint against CM, Tejashwi

A fresh complaint against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Tejashwi Yadav and State Government officials was lodged in a local court here on Saturday in connection with the police lathicharge on BJP workers, especially women, during a protest march in the state capital on July 13.

The complaint has been filed by Lajwanti Jha, head of the women cell of state BJP. Earlier, a similar complaint was lodged by BJP worker Krishna Singh Kallu before a court in Patna.

Talking to reporters, Jha said, "Police lathicharge on BJP workers, especially women, on June 13 was barbaric and it was done on the directions of the CM, deputy CM and other senior officials of the district administration and police."

"One of our workers, Vijay Kumar Singh, died due to the lathicharge. Action must be taken against those who are responsible. I have filed a complaint in this regard before the competent court seeking action

against them," Jha, who was accompanied by her lawyer Ratnesh Kumar, said.

On Thursday, the Patna district administration had claimed that Singh died because of a heart ailment and complications related to it.

Both the postmortem report by Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) and the histopathological examination conducted by the institute concluded that the death of Singh was caused due to a heart disease and other complications related to it," a statement by the district administration had said on Thursday.

The district administration also said that CCTV camera footage clearly shows that the deceased BJP functionary fainted between 1:22pm and 1:27pm in Chajju Bagh area, while the lathicharge occurred at Dak Bungalow crossing area. Singh was not present on the spot where the lathicharge had

The incident had taken place during BJP's protest march, organized against the state government's new recruitment policy of teachers.

taken place, the administration

However, the BJP termed the postmortem report as 'manipulated' and demanded a high-level independent inquiry into the medical report prepared by the PMCH.

MDNIY organises Yoga session for ASEAN delegation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) organised a Yoga session for a delegation from ASEAN countries who are visiting India for a conference on Traditional Medicine between India & ASEAN. Eminent diplomats from

ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam & Philippines, were present during the yoga

Vikram Singh, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), warmly welcomed the delegates, and further envisioned the institute's roadmap for promoting the power of Yoga.

Dr. Raghavendra Rao, Director, Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, showcased an insightful presentation, and emphasised on the benefits of Yoga in preventing and managing ailments.

Odissi dancer scintillates at IIC's Double Bill Concert series

PNS NEW DELHI

¬aurie Dwivedi, an Odissi dancer, presented a scintillating solo dance recital as part of the India International Centre's Double Bill Concert

Gaurie showcased some of the most iconic choreographies of the late Padma Vibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, a revered figure in Throughout the hour-long performance, Gaurie captivated the audience's attention with her skillful dance and expres-

She is a disciple of Guru Sujata Mohapatra and Guru Ipsita Behoora, two accomplished mentors in the field of Odissi dance. T

The recital commenced with a traditional manglacharan, an invocation to Goddess Saraswati. Gaurie's adeptness in abhinaya, the art of expression, was evident in the ashtapadi from Geet Govinda, a poetic work by the renowned Jayadev.



trayed a dialogue between Radha and her sakhi, with Radha requesting her friend to bring Krishna. The performance beautifully depicted the theme of cosmic love and devo-

The highlight of the evening was the rendition of 'Ahe Nila Saila," a popular Oriya bhajan. This piece depicted three instances where Lord Vishnu came to the rescue of his devotees: the Narsimha avatar, where Vishnu protected Prahlad, and Draupadi's cheer haran, where Lord Krishna saved her.

Gaurie expressed her he piece titled "Sakhi he delight and honor to perform sical dance forms looks promiskesi madana mudaram.." por- at IIC's Concert Series, con-

sidering it a wonderful platform to showcase her art form. She praised the audience at the India International Centre for being highly evolved rasikas (connoisseurs) who appreciate every nuance and detail of the dance, bringing out the best in the artist. Having traveled extensively and performed at prestigious festivals around the world, Gaurie considers her performance at IIC to be par-

ticularly special. With her impressive stage presence and command over both nritta (pure dance) and natya (expressive dance), Gaurie's future in Indian clasing and bright.

Dog goes missing, **Delhi HC former...**

From Page 1

The matter has drawn attention from various quarters, but Delhi police officials have so far refrained from commenting on it.

Justice Kanth expressed his emotional turmoil in the letter, dated July 12, stating, "I am writing this letter with a lot of pain and anguish. Due to the lack of dedication and incompetence of the officers assigned to secure my official bungalow, I have lost my beloved pet dog. Despite my repeated instructions to keep the door locked, the security officials at my residence have failed to comply with my directives and uphold their professional duties."

He further highlighted the gravity of the situation, emphasizing, "Such dereliction of duty and incompetence demands immediate attention, as it poses a grave danger to my life and liberty. The carelessness displayed by the security personnel may lead to untoward incidents at my residence, and I am deeply concerned for my safety.

Justice Kanth also point-



ed out the lapses in security measures, stating, "The lack of vigilance at the gate and the absence of dedication in monitoring the movement of people in and out of my residence is intolerable. I urgently request you to suspend the officers responsible for this misconduct, as they do not meet the standards expected of government servants. A thorough investigation into this matter, which could have posed a serious threat to my and my family's life, is imper-

In concluding his letter, Justice Kanth set a deadline for action, asserting, "I expect an action taken report to be submitted within 3 (three) working days from today

Gender crimes lead to political battle

From Page 1
Third, five people were detained by the police in West Bengal's Malda on Saturday in connection with a shocking incident where two women were allegedly beaten and paraded halfnaked by local shopkeepers after they were accused of

Union Information Minister Anurag Thakur, addressing a press conference, criticized Opposition States Rajasthan, Bengal, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh for turning a blind eye to the atrocities against women. He asked Opposition members to "bring lists of crimes against women in their respective States when they come for a debate on Monday"

'Over one lakh cases of crimes against women have been registered in Rajasthan in the last four years. A total of 33,000 cases pertain to sexual assault on women in Rajasthan," Thakur alleged.

Stepping up the counter-offensive, Thakur asked why leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Tejashvi Yadav, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are not visiting Bihar, Bengal, and Rajasthan, where violent

"In Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot sacked his own Minister who raised his voice against rising atrocities against women in the State. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot apna Iqbal kho chuke hain," said Thakur, implying that the CM has lost control over the State and gover-

He also took a dig at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for her 2022 Uttar Pradesh election slogan "Ladki hoon lad sakti hoon" (I am a girl and I can fight). "Ladki hoon lad sakti

hoon magar Rajasthan nahi jaa sakti hoon (I am a girl and I can fight, but I cannot visit Rajasthan)," he said.

Thakur alleged that Rajasthan ranks as the number one State in crimes against women, with a long list of heinous crimes in cities like Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner, and

from Rajasthan CM's residence, a mother is raped before a child and is forced to die; in Karauli a Dalit girl is gang-raped, killed brutally and dumped into a well. Nearly 22 per cent of all crimes against women in India are in Rajasthan. "In Bihar's Begusarai, a

violent crime has been reported. In Bengal, women were paraded naked. Where is Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi?" Thakur asked as he accused Opposition parties of playing politics over the debate on Manipur in Parliament. He claimed that the

Opposition did not want crimes against women in States ruled by them to be raised and was therefore evading a discussion.

"The Government has repeatedly said it is ready for a discussion. Why did the Opposition waste two days? What is the Opposition afraid of? Are they disinterested because a cartain leader in no because a certain leader is no longer an MP?" asked Thakur, taking a jibe at Rahul Gandhi. "At least, let a discussion

begin, no matter what the tant, not the rule. In any case, it is for the presiding officers to decide which rule to invoke. The fact is the Opposition is playing politics on crimes against women, and it should stop doing that," Thakur said.

Meanwhile, Gehlot, who sacked a Minister of his Government on Friday for commenting about cases of crime against women in the State, highlighted Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh's admission that over 100 incidents of rape have occurred in his State, with nearly 4,000 FIRs being lodged.Gehlot criticized Prime Minister Modi's response to the situation, stating that the PM's behaviour and expression of grief have hurt the sentiments of Rajasthan's people. Gehlot expressed disappointment over the Prime Minister's brief mention of Manipur's issues, which seemed more Jodhpur. IIKe a ioimany, eeg. "In Vaishali Nagar, 5 km gravity of the situation. like a formality, despite the

Gehlot pointed out that even if the Prime Minister couldn't visit the State in person, he could have held meetings in the PMO to assess the situation. He questioned the PM's extensive travels to various States for campaigning while seemingly neglecting the problems in Manipur, which is also a part of India with a BJP Government.

Gehlot speculated on how different the PM's response would have been if Manipur were governed by the Congress party. However, just before his

oress conference, Chief Minister Gehlot faced a sharp attack from Congress MLA Rajendra Singh Gudha, whom he had dismissed as a minister the day before. Gudha had previously supported Gehlot during his feud with former deputy Sachin Pilot but switched sides last year. Today, Gudha criticized the Chief Minister's absence from the Assembly and demanded that the home portfolio be entrusted to a more capable individual. He accused Gehlot's Government of failing to control crimes against women and emphasized the

In the case of arrest in Malda, the incident, which took place three to four days ago in Malda's Pakuahat area, caused an uproar among the local community. According to initial reports, the two women were caught by the locals on suspicion of theft before being subjected to a

need to prioritize their safe-

brutal thrashing. A video of the incident has surfaced, capturing the shocking moment when several women were seen assaulting the accused pair. Strikingly, no complaint was lodged with the police until the video emerged on various social media platforms.

The police revealed that the two women were caught red-handed while committing the alleged theft, leading to their subsequent beating at the hands of local female shopkeepers. After the incident, the women who caught them in the act also fled, and those who had beaten them up were reluctant to file any complaints due to fear.

Kerala court sentences man to death for murdering minor boy, raping victim's sister

special POCSO court here Aon Saturday sentenced to death a 44-year-old man for murdering a minor boy, and awarded him jail term till the end of his natural life for raping the victim's minor sister two years ago.

Idukki Fast Track Special Court Judge T G Varghese gave capital punishment to Idukki resident Sunil Kumar for the murder of his nephew, the six-year-old boy, and sentenced him to cumulative imprisonment of 92 years including four life terms in the 2021 case registered at the Vellathooval police station. The sentences will run concurrent-

However, the court also said the convict will remain in jail for the remainder of his natural life. While he was sentenced to death for the offence of murder under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the life terms were given for various offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He was also sentenced for various offences under the IPC including the crimes of rape, murder attempt, kidnapping among others and a total fine of Rs 9.91 lakh was imposed on him.

The man is also convicted and sentenced for brutally assaulting and grievously injur-



mother of the victims on the fateful night of October 3.

Special public prosecutor Saneesh S S said the prosecution submitted 93 documents and 59 material objects besides examining 73 witnesses in the case. The court, in its order, said the death penalty shall be executed first, subject to the confirmation orders from the High Court or in the manner as directed by it.

According to the prosecution, Kumar, who had enmity towards the family, kicked open the back door of the house of the deceased child and hammered him to death and grievously injured his mother.

He then went to the nearby house where the grandmother and the elder sister of the deceased child were sleeping and attacked them. He brutally assaulted the grandmother and raped the 14-year

old girl, prosecution said. The incident came to light when the child escaped and informed the neighbours.

Tragic end to legacy...

Approximately two months later, Premkanta returned to the ruins of his family home, where broken wood and metal now lay where cherished memories once resided. Among the debris, he discovered a prized photograph, held dearly by Ibetombi - a picture of her late husband, the freedom fighter, alongside former President APJ Abdul Kalam.

Burnt bones are still scattered amidst the rubble where Ibetombi's bed once stood. Serou market, once vibrant with life, now lies desolate as its inhabitants have fled, leaving behind an eerie

Security forces remain on high alert to prevent any further confrontations between the two communities. Villagers have imposed movement restrictions to safeguard themselves from potential attacks, with signs posted urging outsiders to stay away from Serou after 6 in the evening.

Chhattisgarh: Naxalite killed in encounter with security personnel

PTI ■ BIJAPUR

Naxalite was killed in an And was marked and a security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Saturday, a police official said. Arms, ammunition and Maoist-related materials were recovered from the encounter site at a forested hill, he said.

Blood stains found at the spot suggest that 3-4 Naxalites were either killed or injured in the gunfight but their colleagues managed to drag them inside the forest, the official said, adding that the search operation was underway in the area.

The gunfight took place at

around 7 am at a forested hill

near Kesamundi village under

the Bhairamgarh police station

limits when a joint team of

security personnel was out on

an anti-Naxalite operation, the

senior police official said. Acting on specific inputs about the presence of 10-15 armed Maoists of the Bhairamgarh area committee in forests of Potenar-Kesamundi villages, personnel belonging to District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters and CRPF's 222nd battalion launched the operation on Friday night, he said. When the patrolling team

was cordoning off the area

this morning, an exchange of

fire broke out between the two

sides that lasted for about half

an hour, the official said.

Man killed by rolling stone in **J&K's Ramban**



55-year-old man was killed Awhen he was hit by a rolling stone from a hillock amid heavy rains in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Abdul Rashid Bhat was on his way to Chakki in Pogal Paristan area when he was fatally hit by the shooting stones, Tehsildar Nasir Javed

He said Pogal Paristan witnessed heavy rains, cloudburst and flash floods in the morning, also damaging a residential house at Alinbass-A Chanbas, while a portion of Ukhral-Senabathi road was damaged.

4 officers suspended for taking Yasin to SC

From Page 1

He is required to submit a report to the Director General (Prisons) within three days. 'Further, a detailed inquiry is being conducted by DIG Tihar to identify any other officials who may also be responsible for the serious lapse," the statement added.

The authorities clarified that they had clear-cut instructions to produce Malik through video conferencing only. However, he was unexpectedly produced in person before the court, which is a significant lapse on their part. The officials responsible for the error will face appropriate consequences, the authorities stated. During the Friday court session,

Malik walked into the courtroom escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta expressed surprise at his presence and informed the bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta that there is a specific procedure for high-risk convicts to be allowed into the courtroom to argue their case per-

The bench clarified that they had not granted Malik permission or passed any order allowing him to argue his case in person. In response to the incident, Mehta wrote to Union Ĥome Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, highlighting the "serious security lapse".

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Will make Delhi world's greenest city, raise forest cover to 25%: CM

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the national capital's green cover is higher than cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru as well as London and New York.

The chief minister said the city's green cover has to be increased from the existing 23 per cent to 25 per cent in the coming years to make the national capital world's greenest and cleanest city.
"At 23 per cent, Delhi's green

cover is higher than cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru as well as London and New York, Kejriwal said. Kejriwal attended a Van Mahotsav where Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena was the chief guest. He said this



will be planted across the city, have already been planted. Minister, the Lt. Governor iniadding that 27.5 lakh saplings Accompanied by the Chief tiated the establishment of a

Raashi Van on a 25 acre plot at

Replete with plants and trees, associated with Tap, Nakshatras and Raashis, these forests will provide an opportunity to the common Delhi residents, to understand, appreciate and benefit from these hitherto esoteric Indian civilizational values.

Saxena said the chief minister's observations need to be implemented and the green cover of the city be enhanced from 23 per cent to 25 per cent in the next two years. Saxena said the chief min-

ister's observations need to be implemented and the green cover of the city be enhanced from 23 per cent to 25 per cent in the next two years. The LG said he has asked for planting of saplings at police stations

Police to increase the green cover of the city. A bonhomie was visible between Saxena and Kejriwal, the two constitutional figures at loggerheads over governance-related issues in Delhi. "I am very happy that the honourable chief minister is present among us in this programme," Saxena said in his

Kejriwal returned the pleasantries in a tweet addressed to the LG, "It was great participating in Van Mahotsav with u Sir. Delhi plants 5.5 lakh trees today with our target of more than 1 cr trees/shrubs this year. Together, all of us will achieve that target."Saxena also said that even at Raj Niwas on an experimental basis Green Apple trees were planted and has yielded

the Neeli Jheel Ecotourism Site, located in the Sanctuary, which is a unique destination offering a perfect blend of natural beauty and sustainable tourism. The Neeli Jheel, owing to efforts undertaken last year by Saxena, immediately after he took charge, has rejuvenated into a valuable water

Last year's Van Mahotsav programme at Asola Bhati Mines sanctuary was marred with controversy over the poster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the programme venue. The programme, held in July last year, was not attended by Kejriwal and his party had accused the Centre and the LG of 'hijacking' the event organised by the Delhi government's forest department. Speaking at the

a matter of happiness and encouragement for us. But we cannot sit idle and it should be increased further. After one to two years, it should be up to 25 per cent and further 27 per

The chief minister cautioned that if we sit idle and are satisfied with the 23 per cent green cover, it will reduce to 21 per cent and further to 19 per cent. "We cannot let it (Delhi's green cover) reduce. We need

to increase it," he said.

The AAP supremo also observed that world over, expansion of cities has impacted their respective green covers, but despite fast growth in Delhi, its green cover has increased. During the Van Mahotsav event held at Asola Bhati Mines wildlife sanctuary, 5.5 lakh saplings were planted.

Flood fear as Hathnikund releases 2.9L cusec

The national capital is staring flood like situation after the release of 2.9 lakh cusec water from the Hathnikund Barrage following heavy rain in parts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, further delaying rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected low-lying areas of Delhi.

The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi, which has been hovering around the danger mark of 205.33 metres for the last few days, dropped below the threshold again on Saturday morning. The Central Water Commission's (CWC) data showed the water level dropped to 205.16 metres at 4 pm on Saturday. It may drop further before the impact of

becomes clear. Giving a brief about the situation, Revenue Atishi said, Minister "According to the latest update from the Central Water Commission, there is a possibility that the Yamuna river may cross the danger level by

tomorrow evening."
Atishi also said that certain parts of Yamuna Khadar might face flooding if the water level rises to 206.7 metres. She assured that all necessary arrangements have been made to accommodate and support evacuees in a dignified manner. The India Meteorological

Department has predicted heavy to very heavy rain in parts of Himachal Pradesh and Ùttarakhand till July 25.

(126.8 mm) and Haldwani (122 mm) reported very heavy rainfall, while Mussorrie (112mm), Chakrata (83 mm), Loharkhet (68 mm), Dunda (91 mm), Purola (90 mm), Mori (77 mm), Barkot (72 mm), Chinyalisaur (65 mm), Gairsain (85 mm), Berinag (95.6 mm), Didihat (79.8 mm) and Pithoragarh (76.3 mm) received heavy rainfall.

In Himachal Pradesh, Renuka/Dadhau (195 mm), Pachhad (103.3 mm) Nahan (91.4 mm), Chaupal (90 mm) Sundarnagar (87.7 mm), Mandi Solan (86 mm), Arki (70 mm) and Rohra (70 mm) recorded heavy to very heavy rainfall in 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Saturday. According to the CWC data, the flow rate at

the Hathnikund Barrage crossed the 1 lakh-mark at 9 am and oscillated between 2 lakh and 2.5 lakh cusecs between 10 am and 4 pm. One cusec is equal to 28.32 litres per second.

"Discharge Hathnikund Barrage remained above 2 lakh cusecs mark for seven hours after overnight rain in upper catchment areas of the Yamuna, with peak discharge being 2,51,987 cusecs recorded at 2 pm. This significant volume of water is expected to reach Delhi within 36 hours, posing a risk of midscale floods in the capital, which is still recuperating from one of the worst flood spells it experienced in the second week of July.
"The second spell of floods

will likely see the Yamuna river reclaiming most of its floodplain in Delhi. Given the valuable insights gained from the last flood spell this month, city planners and policy makers must take note of the lessons learned. It is imperative for the relevant government departments to be on high alert and maintain internal coordina-

There have been marginal fluctuations in the water level over the last four to five days amid rain in the upper catchment areas, primarily in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control Department officials said heavy rains upstream of Delhi will impact

9-yr-old boy feared drowned in Yamuna, search underway

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Anine-year-old boy was feared drowned in the Yamuna river stretch in southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh area. Police said efforts are underway to trace the boy.

The incident took place on Friday evening when Mohammad Ahsan and his friend Rajkumar were swimming in the river, a senior police officer said. As Ahsan suddenly slipped into deep waters, two persons - Rohit and Alam — who were on the bank jumped into the river but

rehabilitation of the affected families in the inundated lowlying areas of the capital and they may have to stay in relief camps for a longer period.

The Leader of the

Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, demanded the Delhi government to provide compensation of one lakh rupees per acre to the affected farmers.

"After contacting the farmers in these villages, it was found that their fields are still



failed to rescue him, the officer added. On being informed, police rushed to the spot and started a search operation, they said. Fire personnel and four divers have been deployed to trace the boy, the police added. The statements of Ahsan's father, Rajkumar, Rohit and Alam have been recorded, the police said.

filled with 7 to 8 feet of water, leading to the destruction of their crops. The worst-hit villages include Ravta, Jhatikara, Khampur, Kharkhari, Malikpur, Palla, Majra Dabas, Kharkhari, Jeendpur, Mukhmelpur, Singola, and Singhu, among others.

As of now, the government has not established any contact with these farmers, and there is no plan in place to drain the water from their fields. Their fields have transformed into vast lakes," Bidhuri said.

DCW, cops rescue woman abducted from hubby house

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women, along with Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Police, rescued a 22-year-old woman who was allegedly abducted by her family from her husband's house.

In June, Firdaus Khan, one of the commission's members, received a complaint from an Amroha-based woman who said she had married a man in May this year of her own accord against her family's wish, the DCW said in a statement. She told the DCW member that since she feared for her life, she had run away from Amroha and come to Delhi with her husband.

read the statement. The commission helped the woman file a complaint with the Delhi Police. However, she refused to take any legal action against her family members at that time, the statement said. On Friday, the commission received a call from her husband who said some men from her family had come to their house, and beat her up and forced her to go with them. After the incident, a case was registered at Harsh Vihar Police Station and a team of Delhi Police was dispatched to Uttar Pradesh to go to the

woman's house, the statement said. Afraid that police were involved, the woman's parents allegedly left her at Gajraula Police Station in Uttar Pradesh at night. Police collected the woman from the station and brought her to Delhi for a medico legal exam. The commission is counselling the girl and providing her legal aid,

"We received a call regarding the abduction of the woman by her own family. Our team acted swiftly and with the help of Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Police, the woman was rescued within a few hours and brought to Delhi," DCW chief Swati Maliwal said in the statement. "We will provide all pos-

sible support to the girl. Further action should be taken against the family members so that they don't dare to harm the girl in the future," Maliwal

N Rlys serves evacuation notices on 2 mosques for encroachment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Northern Railways has ■ issued evacuation notices to Delhi's two prominent mosques — Bengali Market Mosque and Babar Shah Takiya Mosque asking them to remove them within 15 days.

The railway authorities have warned that "if the encroachments are not removed within the stipulated time-frame within 15 days, they will take necessary action to reclaim their land." Besides, the railway authorities has issued notice to the adjacent office of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for Malaria, demanding the

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The primary section stu-

dents of Fr. Agnel School,

Noida conducted an exhibition

on Saturday under various

topics like environment, his-

torical aspects and a special fea-

ture on Seven Sisters, the galaxy

of India's north eastern States

State was Manipur where stu-

dents, parents and other visi-

tors visited the stalls featuring

the art & culture, tradition of

the State. Later in the day

Gautam Budh Nagar District

Magistrate Manish Kumar

Verma, IAS, graced as chief

guest the Annual Prize

Distribution ceremony of the

FAS Noida where students

who came with flying colours

in this years class 10th and 12th

The most visited and loved

Primary students shine

evacuation of the premises.

The notice issued to the mosques read: "Railway property has been illegally invaded upon. You must voluntarily dismantle any unlicensed structures, including temples, mosques or shrines within 15 days of receiving this alert or the railway administration will legal action." "Encroachments that are not permitted will be removed in compliance with the Railways Act. Any damage incurred throughout the procedure will be your responsibility. The railway administration won't be held accountable," it added.

A Northern Railways (NR) spokesperson said the struc-

CBSE Board examinations

were felicitated. Verma said

there is no alternative to hard

work for taste of success in life and appreciated FAS Noida

for giving real platform of

school education, a rare qual-

ity in the present lot of private

schools. On the occasion FAS

Director Fr. J A Carvallho was

tures are on railway land along the main route between New Delhi and Ghaziabad.The Babar Shah Takiya Mosque's secretary, Abdul Gaffar, claimed that the mosque is nearly 400 years old.

According to railway officials, the process of removal of encroachments from railway land begins with issuing notices to encroachers, giving them a reasonable amount of time, generally 15 days, to remove the encroachments themselves. NR spokesperson Deepak Kumar said, "The NR takes the removal of encroachments on railway land very seriously. Encroachments can pose a employees and passengers, and they can also damage railway property. NR is committed to ensuring that railway land is used for its intended purpose, and the removal of encroachments is an important part of this commitment.

The officials said if encroachers do not comply, the NR forms a task force to remove the encroachments. They added that the task force includes RPF and local police, and will depend on the availability of manpower, machinery, and support from the local police and administration. They also said it was a general practice in the NR to issue

of the transporter. A senior Delhi Waqf Board official, however, claimed both the Tagia Babar Shah mosque near Tilak Bridge and the one near Bengali Market were properties of the board and termed the notice of demolition "surpris-

"In 1973, the Railways had even requested the Delhi Waqf Board for a piece of land on which Masjid Taqia Babar Shah is located and 94 square yards of land was given to them. The mosque is a Waqf Board property and it was surprising that Railways was serving notice for its demolition," Mehfooz

safety hazard to railway notices to encroachers when-Mohammad said Seema seeks President mercy, at green, N-E exhibition pleads to stay in hubby home

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistani national Seema Haider, who entered into India in May without a visa, has filed a mercy petition with President Droupadi Murmu requesting that she, along with her four children, be allowed to stay at her "matrimonial home" in Greater Noida.

Haider has also urged for an oral hearing from the president in her case. The petition, filed on her behalf by Supreme Court advocate A P Singh, was received at the President's secretariat on Friday. In the petition, Haider (30) states that she is in love with Sachin Meena (22) who lives in Greater Noida and she came to India with her four children to live with him.

The Pakistani citizen claims she has converted to Hinduism and got married to Meena as per Hindu rites and rituals at the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"...Hon'ble madam, petitioner has found peace, love and happiness and a sense of purpose with Sachin Meena as a beloved husband, his father as father-in-law and his mother as mother-in-law that petitioner never had before.

Her excellency, (the) petitioner begs you to believe the petitioner and show compassion to a lady, not highly educated," Haider stated. "If you show mercy, the petitioner will spend the rest of her life with her husband, four minor children and matrimonial relative will be grateful that you gave chance to make something of myself and to be a source of strength and support matrimonial petitioner can. The petitioner will finally be able to live a life with dignity in India...," she stated in the petition.

Meanwhile, a purported video surfaced Saturday, showing Haider apparently ill and taking glucose drips, an intravenous solution usually given to individuals suffering from dehydration or low blood sugar levels. Haider, who hails from Sindh province in Pakistan, says she got in touch with Meena while playing online game PUBG in 2019-20 and eventually the two talked over Whatsapp and Instagram before falling in love with each other.



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2 MORE RAPE-MURDER CASES **SURFACE AMID HORROR TALES**

Amidst a wave of ethnic violence that refuses to abate, two young women from Manipur's Kangpokpi district were brutally assaulted and murdered on May 4, the same day when two tribal women were subjected to a horrific incident of being stripped, paraded, and allegedly gangraped by a mob in another part of Manipur, sparking massive

According to media reprots quoting a witness, the victims, aged 21 and 24, were employed at a car wash in the Konung Mamang area of Imphal East district, approximately 40 kilometers away from the site of the other incident.

On that fateful day, they fell victim to a mob attack. Another witness recounted that the two women at the car wash were assaulted by a large group



of men, accompanied by some women. A male co-worker who witnessed the incident revealed that the women in the mob encouraged the men to take the victims inside a room and subject them to sexual

In a horrifying sequence of events, the victims were forcibly taken into the room, the lights were turned off, and they were gagged with clothes to stifle their screams.

The ordeal lasted for an agonizing one-and-a-half hours before the victims were dragged outside and left near a sawmill in the vicinity. Their clothes were torn, their hair was

ciated with such atrocities. However, the mother of one of the victims showed immense courage and filed a Zero FIR at Saikul police station on May 16, stating that her daughter and the other woman

brutally chopped off, and their

bodies were left covered in

blood. Initially, the identities of

the victims were not disclosed

due to the fear of stigma asso-

being raped and gruesomely tortured." The FIR was subsequently transferred to Porompat police station in Imphal East district.

As of now, no arrests have been made in connection with this appalling case, as confirmed by police sources. The Manipur police are diligently examining numerous complaints pertaining to various crimes, including weapon looting, arson, killings, and assaults on women.

These deeply disturbing incidents have sparked nationwide anger and have been brought to the attention of the National Commission for Women through a complaint filed by two activists and the North American Manipur Tribal Association. Manipur has been gripped by violence since May 3, resulting in at least 125 fatalities and over 40,000 people being displaced.

Navy chief gifts INS Kirpan to Vietnam

close defence ties between the two countries, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Saturday handed over an Indian navy ship Kirpan to Vietnam during his visit there. This is the maiden occasion of gifting a fully operational corvette by India to any friendly foreign country, Navy officials said

The transfer of an indigenously built in-service missile corvette, INS Kirpan, from the Indian Navy to the Vietnam People's Navy reflects India's commitment to assist its likeminded partners in enhancing their capacity and capability, and is in consonance with India's policies of 'Act East' and Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR), they said. INS Kirpan, an indigenously built Khukri-class Missile Corvette was handed over Vietnam in accordance with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's announcement of gifting an in-service missile corvette to Vietnam on June 19. Towards



executing the same, INS Kirpan departed on her final journey under Indian Tricolour from India to Vietnam on June 28 and reached Cam Ranh, Vietnam on July 8.

Giving details of the Navy chief's visit, officials said he would be visiting Vietnam People's Navy's Headquarters at Hai Phong for bilateral interaction with Vice Admiral Tran Thanh Nghiem, CINC, Vietnam People's Navy and would be calling on the Minister of National Defence, Vietnam. His visit signifies a high level of bilateral defence engagements between the navies of the two countries as well as India's recognition of 'ASEAN Centrality' to region.

Indian mission in Ottawa after Khalistanis post online threat

Canada beefs up security of



SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/TORONTO

anada has enhanced the Security cover of Indian High Commissioner to Ottawa following fresh threats posted online by alleged Khalistan activists ahead of August 15. The latest threats are viewed as "escalation" and the Khalistani supporters "crossed the line this time," reports suggested on Saturday.

The threats were of "personal nature," it was learnt and federal security services in Canada tightened security at the residence of India's High

Commissioner to Ottawa Sanjay Kumar Verma. The threats were issued online and linked to the pro-Khalistan 'Kill India' campaign to picket it. Reports said a senior Indian official described the latest threat posted online for August 15, as an "escalation", compared to the earlier July 8 campaign for rallies at India's missions in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. With the latest threat of a personal nature, a senior Indian official said separatist elements had "crossed

Even as India has formally conveyed its concerns ahead of the latest threat from the secessionist group Sikhs for Justice(SFJ)to 'Besiege Indian Missions', an official acknowledged that Canadian authorities, from the country's foreign ministry Global Affairs Canada to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or RCMP, tasked with diplomatic security and local police forces, have been "very responsive" to the enhanced threat percep-

External affairs minister S Jaishankar had raised the continuing threat to Canada's minister of foreign affairs Mélanie Joly when the met on the margins of Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministerial in Jakarta on July 14.

He tweeted after the bilateral, "Underlined the importance of ensuring the security of our diplomats. And the need to firmly combat incitement to violence." Joly responded that "Canada takes very seriously its obligations under the Vienna Convention on the safety of diplomats."

Threats by SFJ increased since its principal figure in British Columbia Hardeep Singh Nijjar was murdered in the parking lot of the Guru Nanak Singh Gurdwara Sahib he headed in Surrey on June 18. That led to the 'Kill India' posters targeting Indian officials by name including High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and the Consul Generals in Toronto and

The SFJ has blamed India for his "assassination". The Homicide Investigation Team or Investigation Team or IHIT, which is probing the killing, has not ascribed any motive while it seeks the murderers.

Nijjar was head of the Khalistan Tiger Force and faced several terror-related charges, while being the principal SFJ figure in the Metro Vancouver region. None of the charges against him were tested in Canadian courts and SFJ has maintained it does not use

Chinese smartphone makers evaded ₹9,000 cr tax in past 5 yrs, says MoS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Chinese smartphone manufacturers, including Oppo Mobile, Vivo India, and Xiaomi Technology, have been found to evade taxes amounting to a staggering Rs 9,000 crore in India over the past five years, as disclosed in Parliament on

Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, presented data in the Rajya Sabha, indicating that between 2018-19 and 2022-23, tax evasion of approximately Rs 9,000 crore, encompassing both customs duty and GST, was detected. The government has managed to recover Rs 1,629.87 crore from these companies during the mentioned period.

As per the data shared by the Ministry, Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd has evaded Rs 5,086 crore in taxes, including Rs 4,403 crore in customs duty and Rs 683 crore in GST. Vivo, on the other hand, has evaded

with Rs 2,875 crore in customs duty and Rs 48.25 crore in GST being involved, as stated in the Minister's written reply.

In the case of Xiaomi

Technology India Pvt Ltd, tax evasion of Rs 851.14 crore has been detected, consisting of Rs 682.51 crore in customs duty and Rs 168.63 crore in GST. The Minister revealed that

customs duty evasion of Rs 4,389 crore by Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd was detected in 2019-20, of which Rs 450 crore has been recovered. Similarly, in 2020-21, Vivo India Mobile Pvt Ltd was found to evade customs duty worth Rs 2,217 crore, of which Rs 72 crore has been recovered. Further, in 2019-20, Xiaomi

Technology India Pvt Ltd was found to evade customs duty of Rs 653.02 crore, with only Rs 46 lakh recovered. In 2022-23, Vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd was found to be evading Rs 658 crore. Additionally, Lenovo was found to have evaded Rs 42.36 crore in GST. As per official data, the government has managed to recover Rs 1,214.83 crore from Oppo, Rs 168.25 crore from Vivo, and Rs 92.8 crore from Xiaomi.

In response to a question regarding the number of Chinese handset companies evading taxes and making illegal remittances in India, Minister Chandrasekhar reported that the cumulative turnover of Chinese mobile handset companies in 2021-22 was estimated at Rs 1.5 lakh crore in India. He also highlighted that these companies have generated direct employment for over 75,000 individuals in their manufacturing operations, along with a sales and operational workforce comprising approximately 80,000

The revelation of tax evasion by major Chinese smartphone manufacturers raises significant concerns and underscores importance of enforcing strict measures to ensure tax compliance and fair business practices within the country.

Rozgar mela: What about 2 cr jobs promise, asks Cong

ongress on Saturday hit Cout at the government over the holding of Rozgar mela, saying it was distributing appointment letters in installments as if it has fulfilled the BJP's promise of giving 2 crore jobs every year.

Congress Mallikarjun Kharge said there are 30 lakh posts lying vacant in various government departments and the sanctioned posts being filled now are those that were to be filled long ago. He claimed about 20,000 MSME industries have shut down in the country in just three years. "In government departments alone, 30 lakh posts are lying

But the event-Jeevi head of the Modi government, Modi ji by distributing recruitment letters in installments is showing as if he has fulfilled the BJP's promise of giving 2 crore jobs every year. "Those are sanc-



tioned government posts and they should have been filled long ago," he said in a tweet in Hindi. Kharge claimed that in the last nine years, events of Start-Up India, Skill India, Stand-Up India were organized, but lakhs of MSMEs had to bear the brunt of the wrong policies of the Modi govern-

"Millions of youth have lost their jobs, their future turned bleak and the SC, ST, OBC, EWS got the most hurt. The youth of the country will not tolerate this anymore. This anti-youth government has to go. Bharat will unite, INDIA will win," he said on Twitter. Congress chief spokesman

Jairam Ramesh shared a news report about 20,000 MSMEs shut in the last three years. The entire attention of the

Prime Minister is only on giving benefits to his chosen capitalist friends. MSMEs, which are considered to be the backbone of the country's economy, have been left to fend for themselves. In the Lok Sabha, the government itself admitted that about 20,000 micro, small and medium enterprises have been closed in the last three years. This estimate is also far less than the reality. 'The MSME sector has

not yet recovered from the impact of demonetisation and GŜT. Adequate steps are also not being taken by the government. This is the reason why the sector which could have played an important role in providing employment to the youth, could have strengthened the country's economy, is passing through its worst phase in the so-called 'Amrit Kaal," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Nagarnar area of Jagdalpur district in Chhattisgarh after a tip-off. They had received

Maoist cadres had gathered to conspire about carrying out a big incident on July 28, which is observed as so-called Shaheed Diwas by the Maoists. After the encounter, the security forces had recovered

information that a group of

arms and ammunition, along with incriminating handwritten documents and literature among others from the site, and started investigations in the

The case was initially registered as FIR No.179/2019 dated July 28, 2019 under various sections of Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It was re-registered by NIA on March 18, 2021 in Raipur after the agency took over the case, along with several other cases related to Maoist conspiracy Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

NIA searches house in Hizbul Mujahideen terror conspiracy case

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday raided the residential premises of absconding accused in the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terror conspiracy case. The accused has been identified as Riaz Ahmed alias Hazari, a resident of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. NIA has announced a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh for leads on Riaz Ahmad

The searches at his house led to the seizure of one mobile phone, which is being analysed, the NIA said. The case, registered initially by Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow on September 12, 2018, was re-registered by NIA under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on September 24, 2018. The case, registered against one Kamruk Zaman and others, related to a criminal conspiracy to carry out terror attacks by HM cadres at different places in UP and other parts of India.

Kamrun and one absconding accused, Osama Bin Javed, were chargesheeted in NIA Special Court, Lucknow on March 11, 2019 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Subsequently, Osama was killed in an encounter with security forces on September 28, 2019.

Subsequently a supplementary chargesheet was filed on May 29, 2021 against arrested accused persons Nisar Ahmad Sheikh and Nishad Ahmad Butt, both residents of Jammu and Kashmir. A second supplementary chargesheet was filed against arrested accused Danish Naseer on November



25, 2022. "Investigations have revealed that accused Kamruj Zaman was radicalized by Osama Bin Javed to join the HM and both received nine months of physical and weapon-handling training by HM cadres. Absconding accused Riaz

Ahmad alias Hazari, an active militant and district Deputy Commander of the HM, along with another co-accused Mohammad Amin alias Jahangir Saroori, also an active militant and District Commander of HM, was involved in recruiting and training accused Kamruj Zaman and Osama Bin Javed in the forests of Kishtwar district of J&K," the NIA said in a state-

After completion of training, Kamruj was directed to set up bases and hideouts and select targets in UP, Assam, and other parts of India for terrorist activities. Accordingly, he had come to Kanpur where he had also carried out reconnaissance of a few targets, it

Security Control Centre at Delhi's Mahipalpur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) at Mahipalpur Campus of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) here for centralised monitoring of incidents/events occurring at airports and to resolve them on a real-time basis.

In its bid to monitor and mitigate evolving threats at airports, the CISF has established a modern state-of-art centralised Aviation Security Control Centre, integrating the Security Operations Control Centres (SOCCs) of all 66 airports. The control centre is also equipped with cutting edge technologies like data centre, R&D Lab and War room.

In order to monitor the security functions and resource utilisation on a real-time basis, Security Operations Control Centres (SOCCs) are functional at every airport. These SOCCs serve as nerve/nodal centres for collection and dissemination of important information 24x7, especially during contingencies.

Due to increased air traffic and passenger load, current security scenario, evolving nature of threat perceptions and geographical spread of airports across the country, a need was felt for centralised monitoring of incidents/events occurring at airports to resolve them on a real-time basis, the CISF said in a statement. Salient features of the newly inaugurated centre include 24x7 Real time data monitoring and trend analysis

of passengers and air traffic. This facility will provide realistic input about passenger (pax) traffic at a given point of time and help in mobilising the resources for optimum utilisa-

ered are- bomb threat calls, VVIP movement highlight, major incidents, pax clearance time, utilisation of security gadgets and queue management system among others.

It will also provide incident and contingency management-All the 66 airports are now connected through VPN and IP telephonic system and can be accessed at any point of time by the senior officers during the time of any contingent situation. The facility will also aid in trend analysis of real-time data to enhance the effectiveness of decision making at higher levels.

It will also conduct research on advanced and artificial intelligence (AI) based aviation security equipment available worldwide, comparative analysis of different equipment and its applicability at Indian airports. It will further help in resolution of social media feedback by monitoring on popular social sites.

"This newly established ASCC will play an important role in its quest to play a greater role in aviation security and future of the Force," the CISF said in its statement.

Director General CISF Sheel Vardhan Singh, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Kumar Deka, Director General Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Zulfiquar Hasan and others attended the

CISF was inducted at airports for the first time in February 2000. CISF is currently providing security cover to 66 airports out of 134 operational airports in the country, which includes extremely busy and hyper-sensitive airports of country like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Jammu, Srinagar and Amritsar among others.

Shah launches Aviation | 2 arrested in CPI(Maoist) attack case

 $T_{Agency\,(NIA)\,on\,Saturday}^{he\,\,National\,\,Investigation}$ said it has arrested two persons for the CPI (Maoist) attack on security forces, in which six ultras and one civilian were killed near Tiriya village in Chhattisgarh in 2019.

The duo, including a woman, were nabbed after extensive investigations and search operations, taking the total number of arrests in the Tiriya encounter case (also known as the RK Dairy case) to six," the NIA said in a state-

According to NIA investigations, both the arrested accused persons were working closely with top leaders of the CPI (Maoist) to promote and expand the banned outfit's anti-national activities. Several incriminating materials related to the activities of CPI (Maoist) cadres were earlier seized by the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tmmunity booster enriched

phyto-nutrient compounds

found in medicinal plants are

drawing the attention of the sci-

entists at the Indian Veterinary

Research Institute (IVRI),

Bareilly too. They have devel-

oped first-of-its-kind herbal

based cattle feed that promis-

es to improve milk yield, pro-

creation and immunity in the

milch animals like buffalo and

recently the manufacturing

technology of the cattle feed

was transferred to AIMIL Pharmaceuticals, in the pres-

ence of Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Minister Parshottam Rupala, at

an event held here to mark the

95th ICAR Foundation and

Technology day. Dr Ikshit

Sharma, Director of the AIMIL

At an event held here

NEW DELHI

NIA during searches at the premises of the two accused. The arrested accused, identified as Kandula Sirisha alias and Duddu Prabhakar alias Duddu, (Maoist). the

were working for different frontal organisations of CPI said." Kandula, a member of the frontal outfit, was previously active as an armed cadre (Tech. Incharge) of CPI (Maoist). Both Duddu and Sirisha used to receive funds from CPI

(Maoist) and worked for dif-

ferent frontal outfits to spread

the Maoist Ideology. Both

Pharmaceuticals, informed that

the feed to be prepared in the granular form which can be

easily mixed with fodder for the

animals will be launched in the

the income of animal-rearing

farmers as they will get lucrative returns on high yield and better quality milk. Being an

immunity booster, it will also

save on the expenditure on ani-

Sharma said many of

mal diseases," he asserted.

"The aim is to help bolster

market soon.

were frequent visitors to the core Naxal belt in Andhra-Orissa border Special Zone, where they would go to meet Late R.K. aliasAkkiraju Haragopal, CCM of CPI' (Maoist) and leader of the United Front," the agency said in a statement.

near Tiriya in police station

ment research institutes.

healthcare division which is

already offering a string of

animal products for the health

of poultry, pets and animals in

the market. The IVRI scientists

The Tiriya encounter had occurred in July 2019, when a joint team of local District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had travelled to the forest area

IVRI develops herbal cattle feed to boost immunity

It also improves their reproductive health as it contains requisite minerals and proteins so that they have healthier offsprings. Extensive trials have been conducted on this feed on milch animals at

Results have been encouroption too for the farmers.

said that though an array of cat-tle feeds is available in the market, this nutritious product by tute in Bareilly is based on the phyto-nutrients formulations derived from the time-tested medicinal plants that fulfills the need of nutritious diet for the

AIMIL Pharma's products have been developed by govern-For instance, Diabetes drug BGR-34 developed by many sites. the CSIR and Leukoskin, a drug developed by DRDO for vitiligo to name a few. This IVRI developed cattle feed will be marketed by AIMIL's animal health care division which is

aging. It has been found that the feed not only prevents many infectious diseases but also takes care of stress occurring in animals during summer and rainy seasons. The IVRI scientists said that this diet will be an economically viable

Russian strikes kill at least 8 civilians

 $R^{ussian \ attacks \ on \ 11 \ regions}_{across \ Ukraine \ overnight}$ killed at least eight civilians and wounded others, authorities said on Saturday, as fierce fighting continues in Ukraine's attempts to dislodge Russian forces from territory they have occupied.

The regional prosecutor's office in the eastern Donetsk region said that at least four people, including a married couple, were killed as Russian forces on Friday night shelled the settlement of Niu-York, south of the city of Bakhmut the site of the war's longest and bloodiest battle until it fell to Moscow in May. Three other Niu-York residents were hospitalized.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone hit an ammunition depot in central Crimea on Saturday, sparking an explosion, less than a week after a predawn strike on a key bridge linking the peninsula to Russia.

The Ukrainian military appeared to confirm it had launched the drone strike, claiming through its press service that it had destroyed an oil depot and Russian arms warehouses in Krasnohvardiiske area, although without specifying what weapons were used.

Also on Saturday morning, Ukraine's interior ministry said that two civilians died as Russian forces Friday struck Kostiantynivka, a city in the Donetsk region, from multiple rocket launchers. In a post on



Bulgaria to send military equipment to Kyiv military equipment to Ukraine since the

Sofia (AP): Bulgaria has agreed to provide the Ukrainian army with some 100 armoured personnel carriers, marking a turnaround in the NATO member's policy on sending military equipment to Kyiv following the appointment of a new, pro-Western government.

Direct arms supplies were rejected by previous interim governments, appointed by President Rumen Radev. He is sympathetic to Russia and recently said that Ukraine was to be blamed for the war and that supplying arms to Ukraine only prolongs the conflict.

The parliament in Sofia on late Friday approved by 148 votes to 52 the government's proposal to make the first shipment of heavy

its official Telegram channel, centre and damaged apartthe ministry said that another ment blocks, the regional military administration reported civilian was wounded in the on Saturday morning.

It did not specify the exact same attack, which also destroyed 20 private homes, time of the attack, saying only cars and a gas pipeline.

it took place within the previ-Two people were also killed near the northern city of ous 24 hours. Three civilians were Chernihiv, some 100 km (62 miles) from the Russian border, wounded as Russian troops as Russian cruise missiles overnight shelled a town neighdestroyed the local cultural bouring the Zaporizhzhia

beginning of the war. This equipment is no longer necessary for

the needs of Bulgaria, and it can be of serious support to Ukraine in its battle to preserve the country's independence and territorial integrity after the unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression," the Parliament's decision said.

The Soviet-made armoured vehicles were delivered in the 1980s to Bulgaria - then an ally of the Soviet Union in the Warsaw Pact.

Bulgaria, which joined NATO in 2004, still maintains stocks of Soviet-designed weapons and has numerous factories making ammuni-

> nuclear power plant, local Gov Serhiy Lysak reported Saturday.

Úkrainian officials have regularly accused Moscow of using the Zaporizhzhia plant, which Russian forces captured early in the war, as a base for firing on Ukrainian-held territory nearby.

Fears have also mounted that Russia might sabotage the plant - Europe's largest - in an

Copter carrying

UN pressures Russia on reviving Ukrainian's grain shipments

The Kremlin said it would

consider resuming Ukrainian

shipments if progress is made in overcoming the obstacles,

including in banking arrange-

sador Geng Shuang noted UN

Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres' commitment to make

every effort to ensure that both Ukrainian grain and Russian

food and fertilizer get to world

markets. He expressed hope that Russia and the UN will work

together to resume exports

from both countries "at an early

date" in the interest of "main-

taining international food secu-

rity and alleviating the food cri-

sis in developing countries in

Thomas-Greenfield accused

Russia of using the Black Sea as

"blackmail" and playing politi-

cal games, pointing to Moscow's

export of more grain than ever

before at higher prices.

US Ambassador Linda

particular".

China's deputy UN ambas-

United Nations (AP): Russia Ukraine grain deal. came under pressure at the UN Security Council on Friday from its ally China and developing countries as well as Western nations to avert a global food crisis and quickly revive Ukrainian grain shipments.

Moscow was criticised by the UN and council members for attacking Ukrainian ports after pulling out of the year-old grain deal on Monday and destroying port infrastructure – a violation of international humanitarian law banning attacks on civilian infrastructure. In response to Russia declaring wide areas in the Black Sea dangerous for shipping, the UN warned that a military incident in the sea could have "catastrophic conse-

Russia said it suspended the Black Sea Grain Initiative because the UN had failed to overcome obstacles to shipping its food and fertiliser to global markets, the other half of the

attempt to stymie Ukraine's Russian drones, including five ongoing counteroffensive, which has focused on the Iranian-made ones, over the country's southeast, where bat-Zaporizhzhia region as well as tles are raging.
In a regular social media the country's industrial east

The night passed quietly in update, the air force said that all Iranian-made Shahed the Ukrainian capital, with AP journalists in Kyiv witnessing exploding drones launched by Russian troops during the night no air raid alerts. The Ukrainian air force on were brought down, pointing to

Saturday morning said that it had overnight brought down 14 Ukraine's increasing suc rate in neutralising them.

WORLD BRIEFS

ROAD MISHAP IN BANGLADESH KILLS 17 PEOPLE

DHAKA: At least 17 people were killed and more than a dozen injured after a passenger bus veered off the road and rolled into a large roadside pond in southwestern Bangladesh on Saturday. The accident took place in the Jhalakathi district when the bus carrying over 60 passengers was on its way to Barishal, southwestern divisional headquarters, from Bhandaria sub-district, police said. The vehicle fell into the pond after its driver lost control of the wheel. "The divers have rescued 17 bodies and a police crane is trying to retrieve the bus from the pond filled with water after heavy monsoon rains," a police officer told reporters. Police sub-inspector Gautamm Kumar Ghose said the dead included eight women and three children. He feared more bodies could be found trapped inside the bus once the salvage campaign was

PUERTO RICO MAN FOUND GUILTY OF KILLING 8

SAN JUAN: A man accused of killing eight people after opening fire at a bar rented by a rival drug trafficker in northern Puerto Rico was found guilty on Friday following a retrial. A federal jury also found Alexis Candelario Santana guilty of killing an unborn child and injuring 19 other people in the October 2009 mass shooting in which Candelario's godson and cousin were killed. The US Attorney's Office said that 17 different weapons were used in the shooting, with more than 330 shell casings found at the bar called La Tombola in Toa Baja.

3 KILLED IN SECOND DEADLY STORM IN SERBIA

BELGRADE: Three people died in Serbia during another deadly storm that ripped through the Balkans this week, local media said on Saturday. The storm on Friday first swept through Slovenia, moving on to Croatia and then Serbia and Bosnia, with gusts of wind and heavy rain. Authorities reported power distribution issues and extensive damage — including fallen trees - that destroyed cars and rooftops. On Wednesday, another storm killed six people in the region, four in Croatia, one in Slovenia and another in Bosnia. Meteorologists said the storms were of such powerful magnitude because they followed a string of extremely hot days. Experts say extreme weather conditions are likely fuelled by climate change.

POLICE PROBE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN OFFICER'S DEATH SINGAPORE: Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam

has asked the Singapore Police Force (SPF) to investigate claims made by an Indian-origin police officer who said he faced racial discrimination and bullying at the workplace, among other allegations just before he died. Uvaraja Gopal, 36, identified as a police officer, was found lying motionless at the foot of an apartment block in the Yishun housing estate and was transported to the hospital on Friday, where he died.

Taliban asks Pak to pursue peace talks with TTP

PTI ISLAMABAD

The Afghan Taliban has asked the Pakistan government to initiate another round of negotiations with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terror group, with a top leader in Kabul telling Islamabad that it should prefer peace over war, a media report said on Saturday.

Pakistan's latest efforts aimed at seeking action against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) by Kabul could not make headway, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.
Pakistan dispatched its spe-

cial envoy to Kabul this week on a three-day trip to convey a message Afghanistan's Taliban-led interim government will have to the TTP, blamed for a number of major terror attacks in the

Ambassador Asad Durrani met with Afghanistan's Acting Prime Minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir, Acting Minister for

Khan Muttaqi and other officials during his trip.

told him after a series of meetings that Pakistan should pursue the path of peace instead of the use of force, the newspaper reported.

Official sources familiar with the closed-door engagements told the paper that the Afghan Taliban leadership was told in clear terms that Pakistan's patience was wearing thin vis-a-vis the TTP. On the issue, Foreign

Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch also at her weekly news briefing this week said: 'The issue of terrorism...is an issue of serious concern to Pakistan. And Pakistan has raised this issue with the occasions and at every important engagement that takes place between Pakistan and the Afghan interim authorities."

'We have discussed the threat of terrorism emanating from the Afghan soil," she

state workers crashes in Alaska **AP** ■ ANCHORAGE

No survivors were found after a helicopter carrying a pilot and three state workers crashed in a shallow lake in Alaska's North Slope region, officials said on Friday. The helicopter had been

chartered by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the department said in a statement on Friday. It was carrying three

employees from the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey who had been conducting field work.

"DNR is praying for our employees and the pilot, their families, and the DNR team," the statement said. "We are

continuing to await updates from the search and rescue effort."

> was reported overdue Thursday night. A North Slope Borough search and rescue team in a helicopter found debris matching the description of the missing helicopter, but no bodies had been seen or recovered.

China sends warplanes to Taipei

China sent dozens of war-planes, including fighter jets and bombers, toward Taiwan, the island's Defence Ministry said on Saturday, marking a forceful display days before the democracy plans to hold military exercises aimed at defending itself against a possible invasion.

Taiwan is due to hold its annual Han Kuang exercise next week, during which its military will hold combat readiness drills for preventing an invasion. It will also conduct the annual Wan'an exercises aimed at preparing civilians for natural disasters and practicing evacuations in case of an air raid.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army sent 37 aircraft and seven navy vessels around Taiwan between 6 AM on Friday and 6 AM on Saturday, the ministry said in

Among them were J-10 and J-16 fighters and H-6 bombers, and 22 of the detected warplanes crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait — an unofficial boundary that had been considered a buffer

between the island and mainland — or entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone near its southern part, the statement said. Taiwan and China split in

Ukraine's increasing success

1949 following a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party in control of the mainland. The island has never been part of the People's Republic of China, but Beijing says it must unite with the mainland. In recent years, China has

shown displeasure at political activities in Taiwan by stepping up the number of military planes sent toward the island. China held huge military

drills in response to former United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August. It fired missiles over the island in a significant escalation that disrupted trade lanes in the Taiwan Strait and forced airplanes to reroute flights.

held large-scale combat readi-

To be known to all, ARCHANA CHANDRA W/o LATE SH. R. R. CHANDRA R/o FLAT NO.14-D, THIRD FLOOR,POCKET-B,MAYUR VIHAR PHA THIRD FLOOR, POCKET-B, MAYUR VIHAR PHA SE-II, DELHI-110091 PURCHASEP/OWNER of DDA SFS FLAT NO.14-D, CAT-I, THIRD FLOOR, POCK ET-B, situated at MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-II, DELHI-110091 have applied for certified copies & conversion from leasehold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e.

ness drills in the air and sea around the island in response to Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen meeting with current US House Speaker Kevin

reports.

McCarthy.

Makhalfeh had just passed his high school exams and was

in good spirits before the

shooting, according to local

The shooting came hours after a 17-year-old Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire elsewhere in the West Bank.

The spiral of violence, which shows no signs of abating, is one of the worst between Israelis and Palestinians in vears. More than 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of 2023 in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, according to a tally

by The Associated Press. Violence between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank intensified early last year when Israel expanded near-nightly raids into Palestinian areas in response to a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis.

Brazil places new restrictions on gun ownership Brasilia (AP): Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula

da Silva signed a decree on Friday tightening restrictions on civilian access to guns in Brazil, in a move aimed at reversing the pro-firearms policies of his right-wing predecessor Jair Bolsonaro. The decree reduces the number of guns civilians can possess for personal safety from four to two, reduces the allowed ammunition for each gun from 200 rounds to 50 and requires documentation proving the need to hold the weapons. It also bars civilians from owning 9 mm pistols, restricting them to members of the police and military.

"It's one thing for the regular citizen to have a gun at home for his protection, as a guarantee, because some people think this is safety. Let them have it. But we cannot allow gun arsenals to be in the people's hands," Lula said on Friday during a signing ceremony.

During Bolsonaro's presidency from 2019

through 2022, the former president had said "good citizens" should be entitled to protect their families and their assets, and loosened rules on the possession of guns and ammunition. Though Brazil has no constitutional right to bear arms, Bolsonaro argued that "an armed populace will never be enslaved".

ian hands more than tripled to 2.9 million in a country of 214 million people, according to the Instituto Sou da Paz, a non-profit that monitors public security.

That remains far lower than in the United

TO be known to all that I, Varsha D/o Late Shri Amar Singh & Shamsher Singh S/o Late Shri Amar Singh R/o CSP-9, DDA Flats, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029. Suraj Prakash Kumar, presently at House No.1-57/58, Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024, The original Documents Demand—cum—Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC For Electricity & Water Connection. DDA Janta Flat No CSP-9, Situated artSafderjung Enclave. has been lost. An F.I.R./N.C.R. dated 02.06.2023 bearing LRNo.663320/2033, SONO.430/2014. File No. F.24(6)70/HB to this effect has been lodged at P.24(6)70/HB to this effect has been lodged at

–1, D Block, 3, Floor Vikas Sadan, INA, New Del hi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wy Cilent, Sh. Arun Tyagi S/o Sh. Moolchand Tyagi R/O 26 Village Shind Chazabad U P-201001 is a Registered owner of Flat No-4, Tower No-T-2 Ground Floor (Without Roof Flights), Stutated in the Residential Group Housing Multi Storey Complex at Signature Home at Housing Multi Storey Complex at Signature Home at MH-58 Village Noor Nagar Raj Nagar Extension Ghazabad U P. Vide Registered sale deed date 06.06.2017 Document No.5181. back chain registered sale deed document no. 9457 dated 26.07.2014 executed by MCC developers Pvt Ltd in favour of Sh. Pardeep Choudhary and Smt. Sonam Choudhary has been lost and in this regard NCR LR No.681518/2023 has been filed, above-montioned property is going to be mortgage with IEL Home Finance Limited, any Person/Bank/Financial Institution having any Claim/Fight, lien any objection whatseever in regard to above property, should notified to the Undersigned/Adv. Vishal Wehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under Address through

with documentary evidence under Address through Registered A/D within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or

Vishal Mehan,

E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi -110092

Mobile No. 9716559847

objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

taking Home Loan facility for purchase the said property from our client, if anybody has any objection's upon the ownership of Mr. Deepak Bishnoi in respect of the said property its Sale Mortgage /Liligation, and any kind objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 20, Ind Floor, 23, Shivyi Marg, Mot Nagar, N. Deihl-15 Ph.: 011-41112527-28 legal@knalegal.com LRNO.6b3320/2023,SONO.4302,U14.File No. 2-24(6)70/HB to this effect has been lodged at Delhi.Any person(s)found in possession of original documents may write/contact/921187 8866 with above named person at above addr ss within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.Dy.Director,(LAB) H. orDirector (H)

It is hereby informed that my client M/s Marz and Dke Projects (Firm), UG-4, Tirupat Plaza, A212C, Lane no. 1, Vikas Marg Shakarpur Delhi-110092 nominated and appointed Sh. Shashikanth Gandh Commineni son of Sh. Gandhi Hanuman Housing Society, Govind Nagar Manohar Nagar Nashik 422009 on 18.06.2022 as a lawful attorney representative of the company.
WHEREAS the aforesaid Sh. Shashikanth

Gandhi Kommineni has been acting adverse to the interest of the company. Therefore, my client cancels this said Power of Attorney absolutely and completely and revoke all power or authority either expressly or impliedly to do all acts deeds, intents and purposes

K.K Sharma (Advocate)

To be known to all, LEKH CHAND S/o SI RAGHU NATH R/o FLAT NO.4, SHREE RADH PHASE-I.NEW DELHI-110077 Allottee/Own of FLAT NO.4, SHREE RADHA CGHS LTD., PLOT NO.3, SECTOR-9, DWARKA PHASE-I, NEW DELHI-110077 have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold

in DDA. The original document i.e. Allotmer Letter issued by society of the above said fla has been lost.An F.I.R./NC R/LR NO.684683 2023 dated 22/07/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original locuments, may write/contact with abov named nerson at above Address/Phone No named person at above Address/Phone No. 9565130576 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to President/Secretary, Shree Radha CGHS Ltd. or Deputy Director (Group Housing) or Directo (Group Housing), Delhi Developmen Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

POWERGRID GOMTI YAMUNA TRANSMISSION LIMITED

(100% wholly owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, a Maharatna PSU of Government of India)

B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016

particular that POWERGRID GOMTI YAMUNA TRANSMISSION LIMITED has successfully completed construction of LILO of one circuit of 400 kV Ataur (WUPPTCL)-Indirapuram (WUPPTCL)-D/C transmission line at 400kV GIS Substation NOIDA Sector-123 on

SI No.	Names of the village/Sector	Tehsil	District
1.	Kela, Mirzapur, Mawai, Akbarpur- Bahrampur, Siddharth Vihar, Pratap Vihar etc.	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad
2.	Chhipyana Khurd, Yusufpur-Chak urf Tigri, Old Haibatpur, New Haibatpur, Tigri Gol Chakkar, Gaur city Charmurti Circle, Parthala- Khanjarpur, Gadhi Chokdi, Sector-123 Noida etc.	Dadri	Gautam Buddh Nagar

Under the Electricity Act 2003, Section 68(5) and for safety purpose planting of tree, construction of house or any other construction activity near overhead line, which can interrupt or interferes transmission of electricity, is prohibited under law.

from the above transmission line from 30.07.2023 onwards.

angerous and is therefore strictly prohibited. POWERGRID GOMTI YAMUNA TRANSMISSION LIMITED shall not be responsible for any accident/incident of any kind due to interference with the tower of the ransmission line. Action as per the law shall be initiated against the

The public is accordingly informed to take all precaution and not interfere with high voltage line in any manner.

400/220 KV GIS Maharanibagh Substation

Protesters try to storm Baghdad's Green Zone over burning of Quran

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Tensions flared again in Iraq I on Saturday over a series of recent protests in Europe involving desecration of the Quran, Islam's holy book, which have sparked a debate over the balance between freedom of speech and religious sensitivities.

Hundreds of protesters attempted to storm Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses foreign embassies and the seat of Iraq's government, early Saturday following reports that an ultranationalist group burned a copy of the Quran in front of the Iraqi Embassy in the Danish capital, Copenhagen.

The protest came two days after people angered by the planned burning of the Islamic holy book in Sweden stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad. Security forces on Saturday

pushed back protesters, who blocked the Jumhuriya bridge leading to the Green Zone, preventing them from reaching the Danish Embassy. Elsewhere in Iraq, protest-

ers burned three caravans belonging to a demining project run by the the Danish Refugee Council, or DRC, in the city of Basra in the south, local police said in a statement.

The fire was extinguished by civil defense responders, and there were "no human casualties, only material losses," the statement said.

The DRC confirmed in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that its premises in Basra "came under armed attack" on Saturday.

"We deplore this attack

aid workers should never be a

target of violence," Lilu Thapa, DRC's executive director for the Middle East said. Iraq's prime minister has cut diplomatic ties with Sweden

in protest over the desecration of the Quran in that country. An Iraqi asylum-seeker who burned a copy of the Quran during a demonstration last month in Stockholm had threatened to do the same thing again Thursday but ultimately stopped short of setting

fire to the book.

The man - an Iraqi of Christian origin living in Stockholm, now a selfdescribed atheist - did, however, kick and step on it, and did the same with an Iraqi flag and a photo of influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr and of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The right to hold public demonstrations is protected by the constitution in Sweden, and 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 safe-

Foreign Affairs Mawlawi Amir added when asked whether Ambassador Durrani took up the issue of cross-border terror-But the Afghan Taliban ism with the Afghan authori-

> But despite Pakistan's insistence on action against the TTP, the Afghan Taliban government is not ready to go that

> > The deputy Afghan prime minister suggested the Pakistani envoy to pursue the 'path of peace" instead of the "use of force", the report quoted sources as saying.

> > They said it was evident that the Afghan Taliban was not interested in taking action against the TTP.

> > Instead, Kabul once again asked Pakistan to start peace talks with the TTP.

Pakistan has abandoned TTP stepped up attacks and took advantage of the earlier

rounds of talks. The civil and military leadership decided that Pakistan would no longer seek talks with

North Korea fires cruise

missiles

AP ■ SEOUL $N^{\rm orth}$ Korea fired several cruise missiles toward its western sea on Saturday South Korea's military said, marking the second launch event this week apparently in protest of the docking of a nuclear-armed US submarine

in South Korea. While adding to its barrage of missile launches in recent months, North Korea remained publicly silent for a fifth day on the fate of an American soldier who bolted into the North across the heavily armed

Korean border this week. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launches were detected beginning around 4 am but did not immediately report how many missiles were fired or how far they flew. It said the US and South Korean militaries were closely analysing the launches.

On Wednesday, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles from an area near its capital, Pyongyang. They flew about 550 kilometers (341 miles) before landing in waters east of the Korean Peninsula. The flight distance of

those missiles roughly matched distance between Pyongyang and the South Korean port city of Busan, where the USS Kentucky on Tuesday made the first visit by a US nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea since the

Israeli forces kill Palestinian motorist

Israeli forces on Saturday shot and killed a Palestinian in disputed circumstances in the northern part of the occupied West Bank — the latest in an ongoing surge of violence

that has gripped the region.

The Israeli army said in a statement that two Palestinian men tried to drive a car into soldiers at Sebastia near the city of Nablus around midnight. Soldiers opened fire, killing one and wounding the

other man, the army said. The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the young man who was killed as Fawzi Makhalfeh, 18. Palestinian media quoted the victims' family as saying the two did not target soldiers but that they were ambushed while driving and that their car was riddled

The mayor of Sebastia, Mohammad Azem, said he was one of the first to arrive at the scene. He described a scene of bloody carnage, with more than fifty bullet holes in the chassis. "He was a university student," Azem said, "it was just so brutal."

resident Sebastia Mohammad al-Shaar said he heard the shooting and rushed to the scene to find soldiers blocking the road.

Speaking next to the ruined car, he pointed to blood stains and windows punctured by dozens of bullet holes.

Hundreds attended the funeral ceremony in Sebastia on Saturday. Makhalfeh's father helped carry his son's body which was covered with the Palestinian flag while his head was wrapped in a keffiyeh. He told local media his son was hoping to get married soon.

Estimates of the number of guns in civil-

States, and despite the increase in guns, Brazil's rate of slayings remained stable during Bolsonaro's term. The number of homicides during his last year in office, 2022, was at about 47,500 and roughly even with the 2019 rate, according to a report published on Thursday by the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety.

hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Allocation Letter, Demand Cum Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Obtaining Water and Electric Connection and Other Relevant Documents of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/LR No.677250/2023 dated 20/07/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person (s)claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 78383335 46 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) -SFs or Director (Hy-SFS, Delhi) Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is for information of general public and for the inhabitants of District Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar in the State of Uttar Pradesh in

est charged and energized any day from 30.07.2023 onwards. The line is bassing through the District and Villages as detailed below:-			
SI No.	Names of the village/Sector	Tehsil	District
1.	Kela, Mirzapur, Mawai, Akbarpur- Bahrampur, Siddharth Vihar, Pratap Vihar etc.	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad
2.	Chhipyana Khurd, Yusufpur-Chak urf Tigri, Old Haibatpur, New	Dadri	Gautam Buddh

Name of these villages are indicative, and the above-mentioned line could above.

All are advised to aware to the guidelines of Electricity Act and keep away

Plantation of any high-rise trees or construction in the corridor of line climbing on the tower or attempt to touch the line conductors are highly

General Manager/Additional Project Incharge

Sri Lanka is considering the possibility of allowing the usage of the Indian rupee for local transactions just like the dollar, euro and yen to facilitate Indian tourists and businessmen, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Saturday.

Sabry was briefing the media here on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to India on July 20-21, his first since assuming office last year. He held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

"We have considered the possibility of using the Indian rupees like we accept the dollar, euro and yen," he said. Allowing its direct use would prevent the need for multiple currency conversions for Indian tourists and

On Friday, the two countries noted that the decision to designate INR as currency for trade settlements between the two countries has forged stronger and mutually-beneficial commercial linkages, and agreed to operationalise the Unified Payments Interface-based digital payments for further enhancing trade and transactions between businesses and common people.

The two countries signed the Network to Network Agreement between NIPL and

The US and like-minded countries including India need to work

together to shape the course of artifi-

cial intelligence and make sure that it

is used responsibly, Dr Arati Prabhakar,

the Science Advisor to President Joe

Biden administration roped in several IT giants like Google and Microsoft to

manage the risks of the new AI tools

even as they compete over the poten-

includes working with companies to

hold them accountable and there's

'The work that we are doing

tial of artificial intelligence (AI).

Her remarks on Friday came as the

Biden, has said.



Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka after bilateral talks between Modi and Wickremesinghe.

On an MoU signed with India on the development of Trincomalee as a regional hub for industry, energy and bilateral cooperation, Sabry saw no objections coming from China.

"We are a non-aligned state, we have only signed an MoU to identify feasible projects through a joint committee. I don't think any country would object to such open and transparent deal-' Ŝabry said.

Sabry said both leaders agreed on the importance of port connectivity between the two countries

"To reach the next level, we need investments. We discussed ways which would be mutually beneficial to both countries.

The tie-ups between not only the two governments but between the private sector were empha-

sised," Sabry said. He said the possibility of Sri Lanka benefiting from the vast economic development in the South Indian region was consid-

"The two leaders agreed for connectivity between the ports for this purpose", Sabry said.

The need for port connectivity between Colombo and Trincomalee and the South Indian region was agreed between the two leaders.

He said the necessary studies on building a bridge for land connectivity or continuing with the existing ferry services would be soon undertaken. Getting an Indian university on board to help in Sri Lanka's digitalisation was also discussed, he added.

Sri Lanka may accept Indian Paytm to generate free cash flow rupee for local transactions by year end: CEO Vijay Shekhar

Lintech firm One97 Commu- Γ nications, which operates under the Paytm brand, expects to generate free cash flow by the end of this year, a top company official said on Saturday. Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, in an earnings call, said that growth for the company in the June 2023 quarter came on account of expansion in payments, financial services and commerce business.

"We are on our committed guidelines of becoming free cash flow positive by the yearend," Sharma said. Paytm has reported a narrowing of loss to Rs 358.4 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023. The company had posted a loss of Rs 645.4 crore in the same period a year ago. Its revenue from operations increased by 39.4 per cent to Rs 2,341.6 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 1,679.6 crore in the June 2022

The company said its merchant payments volume (GMV) grew 37 per cent year-on-year to Rs 4.05 lakh crore in the April-June quarter of FY 2023-24.

Sharing an update on the



RBI's bar on the onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank, Sharma said it has submitted a compliance report to the banking regulator, and the same is under review.

He said that approval from the Reserve Bank of India has taken longer than it was anticipated but it is expected to come soon. During the financial year (FY) 2022, the RBI directed the Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) to stop the onboarding of new customers with effect from March 1, 2022.

In FY2023, the apex bank appointed an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive systems audit of the PPBL. On October 21, 2022, PPBL received the final report thereof from the RBI, outlining the need for continued strengthening of IT outsourcing processes and operational risk management, including KYC etc at the Bank.

Kotak Bank net income up 67% to ₹3,452 cr in June quarter

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fourth largest private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a massive 67 per cent on-year jump in standalone net income at Rs 3,452 crore for the June quarter.

On a consolidated level, the profit, which includes net gains from its brokerage/i-banking, ARC, wealth management and insurance businesses, grew 51 per cent to Rs 4,150 crore, the city-based lender said in a state-

The key net interest income increased 33 per cent to Rs 6,234 crore driven by 5.57 per cent higher net interest margin for the reporting quarter as the bank passed on the entire 250 basis points hike by the central bank to its customers while did not reprice the deposits proportionately. Fees and services income rose 20 per cent to Rs 1,827 crore and Casa ratio stood at 49 per cent.

Advances increased 19 per cent to Rs 3,37,031 crore, with customer assets, comprising advances and credit substitutes rose 18 per cent to Rs 3,62,204 crore from Rs 3,06,123 crore in June 2022. Unsecured retail advances, including retail micro finance, climbed 10.7 per cent of advances from 7.9 per cent.

Indian pharma industry globally admired as 'trouble-shooter': Naqvi

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has been globally admired as a "troubleshooter" for making available life-saving medical needs to fight and win the "war" against coronavirus, former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

Addressing a conference on Regulatory Compliances in Pharma organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, Naqvi said that when the Covid pandemic had shaken the entire world, the passion, productivity and performance of the



Indian pharma fraternity played a key role in keeping the citizens of the country safe while also ensuring the health and wellbeing of the entire humanity.

He said Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's commitment to ensuring happiness and prosperity for all has resulted in India becoming a successful and selfless, "protecof the health of the entire humanity.

He said that the Indian pharma indus-try has been globally admired as a "troubleshooter" for making available life-saving medical needs to fight and win the war on coronavirus. The Modi government has taken several important steps for the ease of doing business in the health sector to provide affordable and quality medical facilities for all, especially the weaker sections of society, he said

US and like-minded countries including India need to work together to shape course of Al: Arati Prabhakar

10.3% as bad loan pile plunges to 2%

 $P^{\text{rivate sector lender Yes Bank,}}_{\text{which has been down in the}}$ on-year growth in net profit for the June quarter at Rs 343 crore, buoyed by a massive improvement in the asset quality as bad loans plunged to 2 per cent on-

But provisions for bad loans more than doubled to Rs 360 crore as a large real estate borrower with Rs 400 crore dues became a dud loan during the quarter. This was because fresh

Of the total slippages, retail contributed Rs 350 crore, down from Rs 433 crore on-year. However, sequentially the pro-

The chief financial officer Niranjan Banodkar explained that net income was also impacted by higher cost ratio that rose 16 per cent to Rs 2,322 crore as the bank has been plagued by an attrition level of over 43 per cent, leading to costly hiring as also new branch expansion which saw 20 more new additions in

The bank has plans to open 150 branches this fiscal. Kumar said the key net interest income rose 8.1 per cent to Rs 2,001 crore during the quarter while net interest margin inched up 10 bps to 2.5 per cent due to the loan repricing, but repricing of deposits has added 100 bps to his cost of funds and he guided

towards more pressure on this front in the ongoing quarter. Non-interest income soared 54 per cent to Rs 1,141 crore on-

Yes Bank net profit rises

dumps since March 2020, on year from 13.2 per cent.

However, the bank, majority-owned by other lenders led by the State Bank, reported a robust 69.2 per cent growth in profitability sequentially, the chief executive and managing director Prashant Kumar told reporters on an earnings call.

He said gross NPAs plunged to 2 per cent on-year of total advances from 13.4 per cent and 2.2 per cent from the last quarter while the net NPA ratio was flat at 2.4.

slippages jumped to Rs 1,430 crore from Rs 1,072 crore.

visions plunged 41.7 per cent.

the quarter.

year and 13.7 per cent on-quarter, driven by robust returns from the treasury operations.

Advances grew 10 per cent to Rs 2,00,204 crore, of which

some important progress on that today," Indian-American engineer Prabhakar told PTI in an interview. "We're also working on executive actions that we can take within existing law, and the President is considering an executive order that we think can really boost our ability to deal with AI's harms and also start using it for good," She said the administration will

bipartisan legislation as they start

putting it forward.

Then critically and underpinning all of this is the work that we're doing globally with our international partners and allies, including with India, Prabhakar said.

Prabhakar, 64, who is serving as the 12th director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Science Advisor to the President since October 3, 2022 said artificial intelligence is a global

ticipating and it's really affecting, it's going to affect everyone's lives and we want to make sure that like-minded countries work together to shape the course of AI," she said in response to a question.

AI, she said, was one of the important topics of discussion when President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here last month.

"I think that's very much on the minds of our global leaders when they meet with President Biden. That's Modi and many others," she said.

Prabhakar said she had the opportunity to be at Congress when Prime Minister Modi spoke and then at the State Dinner and then again at the luncheon that the Vice President and the Secretary of State hosted.

"Artificial intelligence came up repeatedly in those conversations. In fact, the prime minister made a wonderful joke when he addressed Congress and he said he thought AI stood for America, India, which is another way of interpreting it,' Prabhakar said

"But I think really the theme of many of the conversations that have happened is exactly what you're saying is we're going to have to link arms and be clear about how to achieve safe AI so all of our citizens can benefit from it," Prabhakar said.

Prabhakar, who spent half of her professional life in Silicon Valley and has her regular home in Palo Alto, said she senses the excitement about AI in Silicon Valley. "What I would say is go build amazing applications for artificial intelligence because that is part of how going to go forwar

that is safe and trustworthy so that it really does lift us up in the end," she

On Friday, Biden announced voluntary commitments that the administration has worked on with seven lead ing AI companies.

These companies include Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, and some of the smaller AI companies. A number of tech companies, some of the biggest leaders in AI, are signing up for some commitments on safety, security and

Biden in brief remarks said: "We must be clear-eyed and vigilant about the threats emerging from emerging technologies that can pose - don't have to but can pose - to our democracy and our values.

"This is a serious responsibility; we have to get it right," he said, flanked by the executives from the companies. "And there's enormous, enormous potential upside as well."

Prabhakar said it was an important

step that the administration had been able to achieve by holding these companies to account because it's the first me that the industry has start. "It's everywhere. Everyone is par- what happened with Prime Minister sure while you're doing it, to build AI come together and take responsibility.



Garuda Aerospace to tie up with Goa agri dept for promoting use of drone in farming

PTI PANAJI

Prone maker Garuda Aero-space will collaborate with Goa's Department of Agriculture to conduct a drone vatra, an initiative boosting the usage of drones in this sector.

The company in a statement said that the Goa Agriculture Department has invited them to collaborate in conducting the initiative of the Drone Yatra aiming to create awareness and promote the adoption of drone technology in agriculture.

"This collaboration signifies a joint commitment to harnessing cutting-edge technology for the betterment of agricul tural practices in the state. Through their innovative technology, farmers can now utilize Nano Urea spraying, maximizing efficiency, and productivity, the company said. The official said that the Drone Yatra in Goa is specially tailored to empower farmers with knowledge about the latest advancements in precision agriculture. "By utilising Nano Urea

spraying through Kisan Drones, farmers can optimise the use of resources, minimise environmental impact, and ultimately increase their yield and income The Drone Yatra will be conducted in 100 villages in the period of one month," the official said.

ICICI Q1 profit rises 40% to ₹9,648 cr in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 40 per cent rise in standalone net profit to Rs 9,648 crore for the June 2023 quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and an improvement in interest income.

The Mumbai-based private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 6,905 crore on a standalone basis in the year-ago

period. Its total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 38,763 crore from Rs 28,337 crore a year ago, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Interest earned by the bank improved to Rs 33,328 crore over Rs 23,672 crore in June 2022. The bank's net interest income (NII) increased by 38 per cent year-on-year to Rs 18,227 crore in Q1 FY24 from Rs 13,210 crore in the year-ago



period. At the same time, the net interest margin improved to 4.7 per cent compared to 4.01 per cent a vear earlier

The bank's asset quality showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 2.7 per cent of gross advances at the end of the June advances at the end of the june quarter from 3.4 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans declined to 0.4 per cent

against 0.7 per cent in the same period of the preceding fiscal.

Its capital adequacy ratio fell to 16.71 per cent from 18.04 per cent at the and of Luca 2022 cent at the end of June 2022.

Titagarh Rail Systems reports ₹61.77 cr net profit in Q1

Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd on Saturday reported a net prof-

The consolidated total income in the April-June period more than doubled to Rs 914.64 crore, over Rs 440.78 crore in the year-ago period, it said. Headquartered in Kolkata, the Titagarh group is a leading manufacturer of freight and

Systems Ltd in consortium with Ramkrishna Forgings emerged as the lowest bidder for the supply of 15.40 lakh forged wheels

to Indian Railways.

The JV namely Ramkrishna
Titagarh Wheels Ltd (RTWL) will be engaged in manufacturing and supply of forged wheels under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, the filing said.



Ending the confusion on the sale of apples, Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi on Saturday said all fruits especially apples would be sold as per weight (kgs) and not as per boxes and arthiyas (commission agents).

Negi also stated that those violating the norms would face strict action. "Strict action would be taken against those not following the said norms and licenses of arthiyas would be cancelled and they would be chucked out of the Mandis' (fruit markets) in case of viola tion," he said during his address to the media persons here.

Inviting people from different states to come to Himachal Pradesh and purchase apples, he said that licenses would be given to people willing to deal in apples as the government wants to end the monopoly. He informed that the Hima-

chal Pradesh Horticulture Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (HPMC) would also buy apples in Parala, Parwanoo and Solan mandis. Referring to the issue raised by the arthiyas that it is not possible to weigh the produce as there is no space, he said that the state government is willing to give newly constructed mandis in Parwanoo and Parala besides newly constructed mandi at Solan along with 10 bigha of land to accommodate the arthiyas.

retail advances jumped 31.3 per cent and the SME book rose 24.1 per cent and mid-corporate loans rose 28.9 per cent while large corporate book contractsanctions/disbursement stood

Rs 24,730 crore, op 10 per cent on-year. Explaining the reason for the tepid advances, Kumar said there were large repayments to the tune of over Rs 3,000 crore from large corporate during the quarter, even as the large corporate book contracted by 29 per cent to pulling down its total share to around 25 per cent and both the officials said they want to grow it to around 30 per cent but pricing remains a deterrent

ing at the cost of profitability.

Though the bank added 3.55 lakh more Casa accounts, the ratio came down by 140 bps to 29.4 per cent in the quarter due to some large withdrawals.

for them and also will be grow-

On the asset quality front, Kumar said the resolution momentum continues to be strong with total recoveries and upgrades touching Rs 1,201 crore and he said the target is to recover at least Rs 5,000 crore this fiscal

Ruling out capital raising, he said the core capital ratio stood at 13.6 per cent now up from 11.9 per cent in Q1FY23 and 13.3 per cent in Q4FY23. Commenting on the num-

bers, Kumar, who is on deputa-

tion from SBI, said, the quarter

was steady and we demonstrated significant progress in line with our strategic objectives. While the balance sheet granularity momentum continued, we also delivered a strong

growth in our fee income at Rs 1,141 crore on-year led by treasury income, while containing our operating and credit cost. The focus of the bank is now firmly aligned towards improving the profitability of the fran-

chise, over the coming quarters, we will continue to work on levers which further accelerate this momentum such as improvement in NIMs and Casa ratios, reducing the drag from legacy PSL requirements, further cross-sell and product penetration into our fast-expanding customer base, while continuing to maintain strict controls over

Karnataka will come up with new Industrial Policy: Siddaramaiah

PTI BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that the state government will come up with a new Industrial Policy. He said this at an event organised to present the 'State Export Excellence Awards' organised by the Department of Commerce and Industry and the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC).

'In the past, the industrial policy implemented by our government was appreciated by the industry fraternity. It was known to be the most progressive industrial policy. Our government will shortly discuss with industrialists and the exporters to bring out a new and progressive industrial policy," Siddaramaiah said. Stating that his government gives high priority to the promotion of industries, he said generation of employment is possible only with rapid industrialisation.

"Industrial development promotes employment and economic development. Economic development subsequently improves the GDP and better law and order in the country. These factors lead to investments," he explained. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said

Bengaluru is known as a knowledge, IT, cultural and educational hub. The city has the best-in-class educational institutions here and are at the level of competing with the world. "We are also the number 1 choice when it comes to investments. This is a matter of pride for all of us," he said. The government will encourage industriali-

sation in tier 2-3 cities of the state to make sure

everything does not become Bengaluru centric,



to investors, including exporters, he assured. Noting that the government will strive to have the best single window clearance in the country, Minister of Large and Medium Industries M B Patil said with the 'Ease of Doing Business', the

state has the most industry-friendly environment

Vision groups will be formed in selected seven sectors to promote the growth of industries Supporting and encouraging MSMES is the social responsibility of this government. We will be working with Tata Technology to empower MSMEs," he said. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) ranking by NITI Aayog for Year 2022 has ranked Karnataka as the No.1 State in the country in two parameters namely Policy Pillar and Business EcoSystem Pillar. NITI Aayog's Ranking of States was announced on July 17, 2023.

"It is a matter of pride that Karnataka has secured the status of 'Achiever' in the 'Leads Ranking' of the NITI Aayog for the logistics sector in 2022 considering the good infrastructure, good connectivity network and transparent ecosystem," he added.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

it of Rs 61.77 crore for the April-June quarter of 2023-24 driven by higher income. The company posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 6.46 lakh in the first quarter of the previous fiscal, the company said in a filing to BSE.

passenger rolling stock. In March, Titagarh Rail

SATWIK-CHIRAG ENTER KOREA OPEN FINAL

PTI YEOSU (KOREA)

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the final of Korea Open super 500 badminton tournament with a thrilling straight-game win over world number two Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang here on Saturday.

The world number three Indian pair notched up a 21-15 24-22 win over the second seeded Chinese in a 40-minute duel at the Jinnam stadium. It was Satwik and Chirag's first win over the Chinese pair following two earlier defeats.

Satwik and Chirag, who

has won the Indonesia Super 1000 and Swiss Open Super titles this year, will be up against either top seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia or Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae in the summit

The Chinese, who have won the Thailand and India Open this year, came into the match with a 2-0 head-to-head record but it was a different day as the Indians produced a fine show to reach their second successive final, having won the Indonesia Open in their last tournament in June.

Both pairs engaged in short rallies and pounced on any-



pairs moved neck-and-neck from 3-3 to 5-5.

India had a slender 7-5 lead but Liang unleashed a precise smash between the two. The Indians, however, managed to hold on to a three-point cushion at the interval once Liang found the net.

The lead swelled to 14-8 with the Chinese finding the net and going long.

Satwik then dished out his trademark smash but the Chinese duo got a couple of thing weak. The result was the points, mainly due to Chirag's

judgement error on the back-

Another smash going to net from Liang and it was 17-11 up for Indians, who soon made it 19-12 with Satwik producing an accurate cross court return.

Satwik and Chirag had six game points after Wang sent one to the net. The Indians squandered one before sealing the net when Liang failed to negotiate a serve.

The second game was no different with both the pairs alternatively taking points, moving from 2-2 to 8-8. Soon the Indians grabbed two quick points with Chirag leading the

The Chinese then hit wide to give an 11-8 advantage to the Indians at the break.

After resumption, Wang's backhand went to net as the Indians soon jumped to 14-9.

A cross court return by Wang and Liang's brilliance in the front court kept the Chinese in the hunt as it was

The Chinese kept breathing down their neck till 17-15 before Liang unleashed a smash as the match headed to a tight

The Indians regained the two-point lead after the Chinese went wide but Liang once again pounced on a weak return at the net and then sent down another jump smash to claw back at 18-18.

While Liang sent one long, Chirag served short as it was

Chirag then sent a smash to grab a match-point. But Satwik was short in his serve this time as it was 20-20.

India earned a second match point with Satwik sending down a stiff return. But squandered it with Wang put one away.

Wang, however, sprayed the next one at the net but Liang saved the day with a smash as it was 22-22.

India grabbed their fourth match point and converted this time with Satwik sending one across, albeit after kissing the net. He soon broke into his trademark dance.

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

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

Barcelona teenager Dragoni face of new era at WC for Italy

AFP MILAN

The World Cup marks the dawn of a new era for Italy's women with teenage Barcelona midfielder Giulia Dragoni the exciting face of a fresh chapter.

Long-time captain Sara Gama, 34, was left out of Milena Bertolini's squad as the Italy coach made space for emerging talent.

Dragoni booked her spot on the plane to Australia and New Zealand after impressing on her debut aged 16 as a substitute in a recent goalless draw with Morocco.

The youngster is unlikely to start against Argentina when Italy begin their World Cup campaign on Monday in Auckland, given the stiff competition in a midfield led by Manuela Giugliano.

But Dragoni could well play a part at the tournament as İtaly try to show that they are better than their dismal display at Euro 2022.

Italy surprised by reaching the quarter-finals of the last World Cup -- their first for two decades -- but finished bottom of their group with one point at the Euro in England.

Dragoni was picked alongside another young talent in Fiorentina's Emma Severini, in a squad which features 15 players from Juventus and newly crowned Italian champions

Dragoni, who played in mixed-sex football until she was 13 and earned the nickname "Little Messi", is a star in the



After leaving Inter Milan in

January she scored four goals in

10 appearances as Barcelona's B

team won the second-tier title,

while also being part of the first-

team squad which won the

begun to try out new things and

bring in new players," said

restricted to just one style of play

because the team needs to be

able to adapt depending on

the women's game is reflected in

Bertolini's stated objective for

the World Cup -- to get out of a

group which also contains Sweden and South Africa and

see how things go from there.

Ttalian women's football has

⊥come a long way in the six

years since Bertolini took charge

"Since September we've

"We don't want to be

Italy's current standing in

Champions League.

who they are facing."

EXCEEDING

EXPECTATIONS

Bertolini.

of the national team but the country still lags behind European rivals England, Germany, France and Spain, never mind reigning world champions the United States.

One of the keys to Italy's climb up to 16th in the world rankings was Gama, but she was dropped last month, her time as captain and spiritual leader of the national team seemingly

Gama has been more than just an important player over her 126 appearances for Italy -- she pushed to get her country to take women's football seriously. She is vice-president of the

Italian footballers' association, qualified to work as a sporting irector and a cultured presence capable of changing percep-Before Italy reached the last

eight of the last World Cup, women's football was entirely amateur and either ignored or derided by the general public. But exceeding expectations

at France 2019, thanks largely to a backline led by Gama not conceding in open play, led to an audience with Italian president Sergio Mattarella and the women's Serie A turning profes-

Gama's removal from the squad angered the veteran centre-back but Bertolini insists that Italy are ready to move on with the next generation.

There are young players who are developing and I believe there are players who are better suited to the type of football that I would like to take to the World Cup," said Bertolini.

Kenya's Kipyegon sets women's mile world record

AFP MONACO

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon continued her remarkable form by smashing the women's mile world record at the Monaco Diamond League meet on Friday, her third of an unforgettable season.

Kipyegon, a two-time Olympic 1500m gold medallist and twice world champion, clocked 4min 07.64sec for victory and another world best after setting world records in the 1500m and 5,000m in June. Her time over the mile

obliterated the previous world record of 4:12.33 set by Sifan Hassan in 2019, also in

Aided not only by on-themark pace-setting but also by the Wavelight trackside lighting system that indicated world record pace, Kipyegon took the lead with two laps to run and made no mistake in perfect running conditions with a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit).

"I really enjoyed the race. I came for that, I wanted to chase the world record," said Kipyegon, who gave birth to daughter Alyn in June 2018 and shed 19kg on the road back to



"It was amazing. And just before the world championships" in Budapest in August.

was really good because the race was well planned. It just went smoothly and to accomplish the world record - that is amazing. "What will be the next - I do

not know... I do not know how I am doing this because it just keeps going really in a good way. I was feeling healthy and just focusing myself for this world record."

Trio of records not the goal

Kipyegon admitted that a trio of world records in quick succession had not been her objective coming into this year, but confirmed she would go for double gold in Budapest.

"When I started this season, my goal was to just break the world record in the 1500m. It was still in my head and in my mind," said the 29-year-old Kenyan who set world records in the 1500m in Florence on June 2, followed by another record over 5,000m in Paris a

"I want to defend my world title at 1500m in Hungary but I am going to double also with 5,000m in Budapest."

In a blistering race there were national records for Ireland (Ciara Mageean, second) and Britain (Laura Muir, fourth).

set for Oceania (Australian Jessica Hull, fifth), North America (American Nikki Hiltz, sixth) and South America (Venezuelan Joselyn Brea, 11th).

Ethiopia's Olympic 1500m silver medallist Freweyni Hailu finished third in the race. "It was a blessing to do this

with these ladies," said Kipyegon, who was enveloped by the rest of the field after smashing Hassan's record.

"I can see that they are all happy for me and it is so emotional. It is a blessing, it just does not happen every time you

Barcelona introduce newly signed veteran midfielder Romeu

AFP LOS ANGELES

Barcelona officially present-ded their latest signing, veteran Oriol Romeu, on Friday as he joined the Spanish giants training for a second day in Los Angeles.

The veteran, tapped to fill the midfield void a left by Sergio Busquets's departure for Major League Soccer's Inter Miami, returns from Girona to the club where he launched a career that has also taken him to Chelsea, Valencia, Stuttgart and Southampton.

The emotions and sensations are very nice," Romeu told reporters after club president Joan Laporta introduced him at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, where Barcelona are

"Having the chance to return home and continue growing is an intense dream. It's one of the most exciting challenges of my career and the opportunity comes at my best moment," added Romeu, whose signing, which will keep him in Barcelona through 2026, was announced on Tuesday.

Romeu departed Barcelona 12 years ago, in part because Busquets, another youngster from the youth academy but a little more than three years older than Romeu, was establishing himself as a midfielder who would go on to become one of the best playmakers in Spanish soccer.

"He is a player who has marked an era," Romeu said of Busquets, who later Friday Miami alongside Argentinian



great Lionel Messi. "He is the best '5' we have

been able to see for as long as I can remember and arriving just after his farewell is a nice challenge that excites me,"

In recent days, Barca coach tant to part with the player they Las Vegas.

Xavi Hernandez had contacted Romeu by phone to let him know that he was his pick for that position.

Officials of the cashstrapped club confirmed on

paid the amount of Romeu's termination clause, which Spanish media put at \$3.4 mil-

The 31-year-old is the reigning Spanish champions' third signing for next season, after German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan and center-back Inigo Martinez, who were released after finishing their commitments Manchester City and Athletic

Barcelona open their US tour on Saturday with a friendly against Juventus in Santa Clara, California

They return to Los Angeles for a match against Arsenal on Wednesday. On July 29 they'll face Real Madrid in a "Clasico" before closing the tour on



Chelsea's Aubameyang seals three-year Marseille deal

AFP MARSEILLE

helsea striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has joined Marseille on a three-year contract, the French Ligue 1 club announced Friday. "Come on OM... See you in

Marseille," the 34-year-old Gabon international said in a short video released by his new

Aubameyang scored just three goals in 22 appearances for Chelsea after reuniting with under former manager Thomas Tuchel in a £10.3m (12 million euros) deal from Barcelona last September.

Aubameyang had scored 79 goals in 95 appearances under Tuchel at Borussia Dortmund, earning a move to Arsenal in

2018 and finishing as joint topscorer in the Premier League a

But he was stripped of the Arsenal captaincy by Mikel Arteta before being sold to Barcelona just weeks later.

Aubameyang scored 13 goals in 23 matches in six months Spain, but was unable to reproduce that form during a season-long stay at Stamford

Aubameyang returns to French football, where he has worn the colours of Lille, Monaco and Saint-Etienne in the past.

He stood out, especially, during his time at German Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund (2013-2018), before going lining out for Arsenal (2018-2022), Barcelona (2022) and Chelsea (2022-2023).

Messi makes magical start to Miami career

AFP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (UNITED STATES)

ionel Messi made a Lionel Messi Manual Hollywood start to his American adventure, scoring a last-second winner with a curling free-kick in his debut game for Inter Miami on Friday.

Deep in the fourth minute of stoppage time, with the Leagues Cup match against Mexican club Cruz Azul standing at 1-1, Messi won a free-kick just outside the box, in perfect range for his famous left foot.

The script had been written and Messi delivered his line per-

The seven-times Ballon d'Or winner took a glance at the position of Cruz Azul goalkeeper Andres Gudino, then put his head down before curling his shot high to the keeper's right and into the top corner to deliver the 2-1 triumph.

The capacity 20,000 crowd at Miami's DRV PNK Stadium went wild, with some fans running on to the field before being apprehended by security. Smoke bombs in Miami's trademark pink went off in the area behind the goal, occupied by the team's

most passionate supporters.
"We wanted to start like this



by giving these people a victosaid Messi

"We knew that it was very important for us to start this championship in winning fashion and luckily we were able to do it in the end, and I am very happy," he added.

Miami are rock bottom of Major League Soccer and without a win in 11 games in league play, so Messi said the victory was sorely needed.

"It is a huge joy to get this first victory after how we have

is important to start winning, beyond the fact that it is another championship, for confidence

it is very good to get victories."

Miami and Major League Soccer hope that the arrival of the Argentine World Cup winner and all-time great will transform the sport and push it into the American mainstream.

If Messi's debut was any guide, the former Barcelona star still has plenty to offer.

Even before his wonderful

alert, his touch belying the fact that until little over a week ago he was vacationing on a Caribbean beach with his fam-Sergio Busquets, the Spanish

midfielder and former Barca team-mate, who has joined Messi for his American adventure, also made a strong impression after they both entered the contest in the 54th minute as part of a triple change with Venezuelan Josef Martinez.

Busquets showed his famous, almost telepathic understanding with Messi remains, after over two years apart from each other, with the midfielder delivering pieces from all angles into the Argentine's feet. But it was Messi's magical

finish that will remain long in the memories of Inter Miami He also made sure that the club's co-owner David Beckham

had a broad grin at the final

"To be honest, as soon as I saw the free kick given I thought this is the way it's meant to end. Especially when you've got players like Leo and Sergio on the pitch, that's what they produce," said the former England mid-

"It's so exciting tonight for our fans. All of these people that come down here to see Leo just step onto the pitch, let alone just do what he's done. It's a dream come true for everyone in this stadium to see.

"It's such a moment for this country, such a moment for this league," he said. Stars turn out

Messi became the biggest name signing in MLS's history when he joined Miami after his

contract with Paris Saint-Germain came to an end in June.

NBA great LeBron James,

Kardashian and tennis legend Serena Williams were among the stars who turned out. Many fans were decked out in replica pink Miami shirts with Messi's name and number 10 on the back. Others sported Messi

masks and banners, one wore a

reality television star Kim

goat mask in a nod to Messi's Greatest Of All Time status. There was some disappointment when the teams were announced with Messi on the bench and it was clear that plans had been made to celebrate his first start as fireworks exploded above the grandstands when the referee blew the whistle to

Against the run of play, after Cruz Azul wasted a series of chances, Miami took the lead in the 44th minute with a fine, low shot from Robert Taylor which flew off the post.

start the encounter.

Messi and Busquets came in with that lead intact but saw the Mexicans draw level through a powerful drive from Uriel Antuna in the 65th minute.

Then came Messi's moment, the perfect introduction to his new fans and his new country.

Messi a substitute for first match with Inter Miami

AFP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (UNITED STATES)

ionel Messi started on Lthe bench as the stars came out Friday for what was expected to be his first appearance for his new club Inter Miami against Mexican team Cruz Azul.

Argentine superstar Messi and his former Barcelona team-mate, Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, who also recently joined the Major League Soccer club, were both named as substitutes for the

Leagues Cup match.
World Cup winner and seven-times Ballon d'Or winner Messi became the biggest name signing in MLS's history when he joined Miami after his contract with Paris Saint-Germain came to an end in

LeBron James, Kim Kardashian and Serena Williams were among the stars in the sell-out 20,000 crowd, with many fans



decked out in replica pink Miami shirts with Messi's name and number 10 on the

NBA star James now stars for the Los Angeles Lakers, but he enjoyed success with the Miami Heat winning two NBA championships with the club and he embraced Messi before the Miami coach Gerardo

Martino, who coached Messi with Barcelona and with the Argentine national team, had suggested that the star may not yet be ready to play a full game after only returning to training this week after his family vacation.

Mukesh gets first wicket as West Indies reach 117/2



PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

ebutant Mukesh Kumar was rewarded for his nagging channel bowling\ as his maiden wicket in international cricket gave India something to cheer about as West Indies reached 117 for 2 when rain forced umpires to

take an early lunch on the third day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Skipper Kraigg Brathwaite (49 batting, 161 balls) continued to frustrate the Indian bowlers. The West Indies batters didn't look in any sort of trouble for the 10-odd overs on third morning during

which 31 more runs were added.

Mukesh, who bowls a line which is right on off-stump or shade outside of it, bowled a fuller delivery and with not enough room to cut fellow debutant Kirk McKenzie (32 off 57 balls) edged it to Ishan Kishan for a regulation catch.

McKenzie, who hit four boundaries and a six, looked in fine touch and played with a lot of purpose during his 57-ball

With the pitch not having any purchase for either spinners or pacers, it has indeed been a hard toil for the Indian

However, one man who would be itching to get into the wickets column will be veteran Saurashtra left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat.

The domestic workhorse undoubtedly is the weakest link in the Indian bowling attack as he has so far given away 31 runs in nine wicketless overs so far.

More than not getting the wickets, Unadkat hasn't even looked incisive enough to create problems for Brathwaite, who has a compact defensive

The lack of pace and not having enough movement off the surface meant that Unadkat was the easiest bowler to nego-

With the next series in South Africa, Unadkat with two wicket-less Tests in the West Indies might find it extremely difficult to hold onto his place in the squad. The difference between

him and Mukesh has been the length that the Bengal pacer found which is slightly fuller despite both of them bowling at the same pace. There is also that slight hint of movement inward or outward that can cause confusion for batters while Unadkat's stock delivery is one that is pushed across the right-handers, which is quite

I'm charged up when faced with challenges: Kohli

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

Star Indian batter Virat Kohli feels "charged up" when faced with an adverse situation and said it was extremely "satisfying" to get his 29th Test hundred during the ongoing second match against West Indies as he had to "do the hard yards".

The 34-year-old Kohli on Friday equalled Sir Don Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries in India's commendable first innings score of 438, hitting a polished 121 in 206 balls

The hundred ended his five-year-long drought for an international Test century outside India. He scored his last ton in 2018.

"I really enjoyed myself out there. I was in the rhythm, I wanted to be in. Started in challenging times. I switch on during these times. When I have something to overcome, I get charged up," Kohli said after the end of day 2.

"I had to be patient as the outfield was slow. It was very satisfying as I had to do the hard yards."

India were reduced to 182 for four when Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja joined hands, stitching a 159-run partnership to rescue the team on day

It was Kohli's 76th hundred in 500 international

Sachin Tendulkar's record of 74 international hundreds in first 500 matches.

"Firstly, very grateful I got to play 500 games for India. I have got 15 centuries away from home, I have got more hundreds away than at home. I have got a few fifty-plus scores," Kohli said.

"I just have to focus on what I have to do for the team. I try to help the team. These stats and milestones mean something to me when the team needs me.

"West Indies and India go a long way. It is a special occasion for me. Couldn't have asked for a better beginning

to the Test.' One of the fittest athletes in the world, Kohli said

focusing on his diet and body helped him immensely. "I looked after myself. Training, sleep cycle, rest is an easy run for me. It helps me to stay off the pressure.

"Fitness helps me in all formats. I can field with intensity in all formats. I want to keep playing at the top of my fitness ability."

For Kohli, it was only his second ton in the Caribbean Islands with his first converted into a double hundred back in 2016 in North Sound.

"There is a sense of history to this ground. You can sense it when you walk in. The crowd loves their cricket here. I always enjoyed the atmosphere. Antigua and here are my two favourite venues in the Caribbean.

"Adelaide in Australia and The Bullring in South Africa are my favourites as well, purely because of the atmosphere.

West Indies were 86 for one and Kohli said India will have to keep it tight to get and diet. Converting 1 into 2s



Ind A start as firm favourites against Pak A in final

PTI COLOMBO

Tndia A will be keen to Lassert their dominance in the Emerging Asia Cup tournament when they face Pakistan A in a potentially high-voltage summit clash here on Sunday.

pick a favourite in the matches between India and Pakistan, but in this instance, the former stands out as the clear front-runner.

India will also draw confidence from the fact that they have already beaten Pakistan in the league stage.

This crop of young Indian players carries a lot of flair in their approach, but beneath the flashiness bubbles a layer of stone-cold determination to win from any situation.

The semifinal against Bangladesh was a microcosm of that trait. India were bundled out for 211, a belowpar total even on a sluggish R Premadasa Stadium pitch.

The Bangladesh openers. who were in good touch in this tournament, started briskly scoring over 6 runs an

over. They raced to 94 for 1 in the 18th over, and looked poised for a smooth win.

But the Indian spinners

Nishant Sindhu and Manay Suthar -- owned the stage from thereafter, rolling over Bangladesh for 160. The captaincy of Yash Dhull, and the fielding too were spot on as India snatched a win that looked improbable at one stage.

This cohesion within the team will be India's primary weapon going into the final against Pakistan.

Having said that, under-estimating Pakistan will be naïve. They are a talented side, and many of their players have considerable international and Pakistan Super League (PSL) experience behind them.

All-rounder Mohammad Wasim, captain Mohammad Harris, opener Sahibzada Farhan and pacer Arshad Iqbal all have tasted international cricket. While players such as Amad Butt and Omair Yousuf have been proven performers in the

SKY Likely To Lead Team India Against Ireland

Team India's star batter ■ Suryakumar Yadav is likely to lead the play the role of captain for the upcoming threematch T20I series against Ireland that starts next month right after the current tour of West Indies. Hardik Pandya was expected to lead the team in Rohit Sharma's

However, the all-rounder is most likely to receive rest too ahead of the Asia Cup and upcoming ODI World Cup 2023 set to be held in India entirely for the first time. Hardik has dealt with a lot of back issues in the past couple of years, so the management wouldn't like to put too much pressure on him in a year with this tight schedule.

As per the report from



previously led Mumbai Indians and his List A team as well.

Jasprit Bumrah Likely To

held firm in a partnership of 103.

Root, who came on after the

umpires appeared to warn

England captain Ben Stokes

that the light had faded suffi-

ciently to make it too dangerous

to deploy his fast bowlers, made

Root but succeeded only in

edging the ball to wicketkeeper

Jonny Bairstow, who held a jug-

not out but an England review

of the Indian umpire's decision confirmed the batsman had

made contact, leaving Australia

When play resumed

Labuschagne tried to cut

Nitin Menon initially ruled

the breakthrough.

gled catch.

But occasional off-spinner

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah is close to regaining his full-fitness and is likely to make his highly-anticipated return to action next month during the tour of Ireland.

March and had resumed bowling last month after successfully undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, has been gradually increasing his workload. The pacer is continuing his

rehab programme under the watchful eyes of NCA chief VVS Laxman and he is bowling full throttle at the nets, where he is bowling 8-10 overs. While the selectors and

the team management were looking to include Bumrah for the Asia Cup in September, the progression he has made in the last couple of weeks means he could travel to Ireland next month with a second-string India team. The decision on his travel would be taken in the

'Shubman Gill Sees Number 3 Empty And Wants To Bat There' "Away from India in

PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm ormer\ India\ opener\ Wasim}_{\rm Jaffer\ believes\ Shubman}$ Gill must alter his game and show some improvement if he wishes to bat for long at number three in the Test team, especially when playing on slow and low conditions.

Gill volunteered to bat at number three for the ongoing Test series against West Indies, but hasn't quite hit the straps at a position whose previous occupants were Rahul Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara.

In the Dominica Test, Gill's first innings at number three yielded only six runs. In the first innings of the ongoing Test at Port of Spain, he could make only ten runs.

SENA countries, he's a good choice as number three. But in slow and low conditions, he has to alter his game and improve on it. We have seen this in this

series against West Indies, that he likes to play the ball on the rise. If you see the innings of Virat Kohli, he has respected the conditions.'

"Gill would have liked to go out and score runs, but respecting the conditions is something Shubman has to learn and understand. With time, he will surely do it, but in away conditions like South Africa and Australia, he will enjoy batting at number three, where the ball comes on to the bat at a faster pace".

AFP ■ MANCHESTER (UNITED

oe Root revived England's hopes of forcing a series-levelling win in the fourth Test by removing Australia centurymaker Marnus Labuschagne on Saturday's rain-marred fourth

Australia were 214-5 in their second innings at tea, still 61 runs behind England's firstinnings 592.

England, currently 2-1 down in the five-match series, must win at Old Trafford if they are to maintain their hopes of regaining the Ashes.

After rain had meant there was no play before lunch, it seemed as if Australia might get through the session without losing a wicket. Labuschagne, whose 111

was his first Test century in England, and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh (31 not out) had



According to an Indian Express report, Bumrah, who

coming days.

lose Labuschagne in fourth Test Saturday at 1345 GMT, Australia were 113-4 -- still 162 runs behind an imposing England total that featured opener Zak Crawley's 189 and Bairstow's 99 Labuschagne was 44 not out

and Marsh unbeaten on one. Fast bowler Mark Wood

had rocked Australia on Friday with three wickets, dismissing Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith and Travis Head. But neither he nor any of the

other England quicks could manage a breakthrough on Saturday

It was not long after the resumption that Labuschagne, who had struggled for runs earlier in this series, completed his second fifty of the match following his firstinnings 51. Faced with the risk the

umpires might take the players off the field for bad light, and so deprive England of yet more time to force a win, Stokes brought on off-spinner Moeen Ali and bowled him in tandem with Root.

Labuschagne then moved to within sight of a hundred by twice launching Root high over long-on for six. He had a lucky break on 93

when he edged Root past Crawley at slip, before a single off Moeen saw him to a 161-ball century -- Labuschagne's 11th hundred in 42 Tests.

India tie third ODI with Bangladesh, series ends in draw

▼ndia botched up an easy run Ichase as a tenacious Bangladesh rallied to tie the final ODI as well as the three-match series here on Saturday.

Needing 10 runs from 19 deliveries with four wickets in hand, India looked on course to a comfortable win.

However, the visitors suffered a batting collapse towards the end to lose their last four wickets within the span of 16 balls while chasing 226 for vic-

India were all out of 225 in 49.3 overs and with the scores levelled and the scheduled time over, the match was called a tie as the two sides shared the tro-

India collapsed from 191 for five in the 42nd over to 217 for nine in the 48th, but the lastwicket pair of Jemimah Rodrigues (33 not out) and Meghna Singh (6) took the team close to the finish line.

win off the last four balls, Marufa Akter had Meghna caught behind as half centuries by Smriti Mandhana (59) and Harleen Deol (77) went in vain.

The duo had stitched a 107run stand for the third wicket after India were reduced to 32

After Mandhana's departure in the 29th over, Deol stitched small partnerships of 21 and 31 with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14) and the experienced Jemimah to help India inch closer to the target.

Deol was finally out in the 42nd over and it was left to Rodrigues to hit the required runs, but all she could do was watch as wickets tumbled at the other end.

Rabeya Akhtar started the collapse as she got Amanjot Kaur in the final ball of the 47th over. Nahida Akhter then bowled a crucial over, getting rid of Sneh Rana and Devika



India had suffered their first ODI defeat against Bangladesh in the opening match but came back strongly to beat the hosts by 108 runs in the second

the Bangladeshi bowlers, in

company of Deol.

match. Mandhana saved her best for the last as she hit her first fifty of the series and 26th overall. She got a life early on but grew in confidence later on to dominate were 173 for 4 at the end of 38

She perished in the 29th over as she miscued a Fahima Khatun delivery and a diving Sobhana Mostary took a fine

Harmanpreet did not last long but it was Deol's day as she carried her good work from the second ODI into this game. Rains arrived when India

overs and the visitors needed 53

for a win from 12 overs.

Bangladesh woman player to hit an ODI century as she led a solid batting display to power the hosts to a competitive 225 for 4. Opting to bat first,

Bangladesh managed to play a calculated and risk-free innings for major part with Fargana producing a fine innings. Fargana hit a superb 107 off 160 balls, studded with seven

interruption of nearly 45 min-

Hoque became the first

Earlier, opener Fargana

utes and no overs were deduct-

fours, and she was the last Bangladesh batter to get out in the final delivery of the innings. She stitched a steady 93-run opening stand with Shamima Sultana (52) to lay the platform for the 200-plus score.

130 not out for Bangladesh in a

World Cup qualifier match

against the USA in 2021 but that

did not enter the record books

as that tournament in Zimbabwe

who was playing her first match of the series, studded her innings with five boundaries and got dismissed off a delivery from Rana. Fargana continued the good Sharmin Akhter had hit work as she consolidated the

Play resumed after a rain featured a team that did not have ODI status.

Saturday's 225 for 4 was also the Bangladesh women team's second-highest ODI total, after the 234 for 7 against Pakistan in

For India, Sneh Rana (2/45) and Devika Vaidya (1/42) were among wickets.

The Indian bowlers were left frustrated by the Bangladesh openers Shamima and Fargana for more than half of their innings. The duo denied the Indians any success till the 27th over when Shamima got out for a well-made 52 off 78 balls.

The 35-year-old Shamima,

Bangladesh innings with captain Nigar Sultana (24). The visiting bowlers simply could not get the wickets needed though they did not concede too many runs.

We expected better level of umpiring: Mandhana

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Harmanpreet Kaur might have gone ballistic but Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was way more tempered in her criticism of Bangladeshi umpires Muhammad Kamruzzaman and Tanvir Ahmed after the third WODI on Saturday was tied with some debatable decisions coming under scan-

Both teams wre locked at identical score of 225 and the series ended in a 1-1 draw.

Skipper Kaur has courted controversy after she was adjudged leg-before off a Nahida Akter delivery while trying to sweep. She claimed that the ball hit the bat before



stumps in disgust and termed the umpiring "pathetic" at post-match presentation. "What did you think?" Mandhana shot back when

"In any match, sometimes it happens that you are

questioned about the umpir-

not really happy with the kind of... especially when there is no DRS in the series this time," Mandhana said.

New Delhi, July 23, 2023

the pioneer

You have to be the best of whatever you are, but successful, cool shapes and sizes



The appalling incident of parading naked women on the streets and subjecting them to gang rape in Manipur raises unsettling questions about the direction of the evolution of Indian society at large: is it still a beacon of spiritual awakening or has it descended into a pit of moral degradation? In this article, NAVIN UPADHYAY delves into these shameful events that demand urgent attention



n May 4, two Kuki-Zo women in Manipur fell victim to a brutal attack perpetrated by a group of men from the powerful Meitei community. The women were paraded naked and sexually assaulted, while the administration and police remained passive bystanders. A 26second video of the incident surfaced on July 19, revealing this shameful happening. Stripped, groped, and assaulted by boys as young as 15, these women from the ethnic Kuki-Zo tribe were led to a field where the worst awaited them. One of the women, aged 21, was subjected to

brutal gang rape.
In the FIR, the rape victims narrated the harrowing details. The other woman was 42 years old. The incident occurred near B Phainom, in Kangpokpi district, on May 4, just a day after violent clashes erupted between the Meitei and Kuki communities

This appalling incident compares with the torture often inflicted on women in far-off regions like Rwanda or Afghanistan. For modern India, which prides itself on its moral values and spiritual awakening, such a barbaric act raises deeply unsettling questions that transcend mere accountability for the state government and administration.

The video of the May 4 incident has caused nationwide uproar, with some people questioning its timingjust a day before the start of the monsoon session of parliament. On the flip side, others are also questioning the inaction of the police all these days in apprehending the culprits until the video went viral. After all, the FIR was registered on June 18 itself. It's crucial that a thorough investigation be launched under a sitting Supreme Court judge to hold those responsible accountable for their inaction.

Chief Minister Biren has gone on record saying that hundreds of such incidents have been reported from across the state during these clashes. The fact that a chief minister can make such an admission and still continue in office raises serious questions about accountability of a government, as his critics point out.

It is an undeniable reality that some politicians are willing to go to any extent, even at the cost of society or the nation, to serve their interests. Similarly, it is a bitter truth that Indian bureaucracy and the police are servile to their political masters, so much so that they cannot question even their worst sins and transgressions. The indifference displayed by them in the face of the burning of Manipur, the rape of women, and the killing of innocent citizens exposes the entire structure of administration and governance.

Despite the incident occurring on May 4, the police only registered an FIR on June 18, and the first arrest was made on July 20. Chief Minister Biren Singh attributed this inaction to the multiplicity of similar incidents in the state, but such a justification fails to excuse the lack of sensitivity and accountability from those in power.

This tragedy becomes even more heart-wrenching considering that the ill-fated women and two men were fleeing for safety towards the forest. Among the victims were three members of the same family: a 56year-old man, his 19-year-old son, and his 21-year-old daughter. Additionally, two other women, aged 42 and 52, were part of the group.

The victims were momentarily "rescued" by a team from the Nongpok Sekmai police station while en route to the forest. However, a violent mob intercepted them near Toubu, just two kilometers from the police station, and tragedy struck. The mob killed the 56-year-old man, and all three women were physically forced to undress and were stripped naked in front of the hostile crowd. In broad daylight, the 21-year-old woman endured a brutal gang rape, while the other two women managed to escape with the help of some locals they knew. Tragically, the 21-yearold's younger brother was killed by the mob while attempting to defend his sister's dignity and life.

The shameful and blood-curdling incident raises unsettling questions about the version of India these criminals represent: a beacon of spiritual awakening or a pit of moral

degradation? The brutality witnessed against women in Manipur are unprecedented in the northeastern region, where women play a significant role in running families and society. Even during the peak of ethnic and intra-state violence, such atrocities against women were unheard of in the northeast. It is evident that the narrative of hate, which has strongly taken root in mainstream India, has found fertile ground in the northeast as well, leading to its own grave consequences.

This brutal dehumanization of society, dominated by hate-filled communal extremists, has undeniably tarnished the image of the northeast as a pristine land of swift-flowing rivers, lush forests, and warm and friendly people. It also poses a serious challenge to the unity of India, threatening the fabric that binds our diverse nation together.

The horrifying incident has garnered international headlines and is expected to force the central government to act. The possibility of placing the state under President's rule to rebuild trust with the minority Kuki community and initiate a reconciliation process should not come as a surprise. As things stand, expecting the existing administrative setup, dominated by the Meiteis, to diffuse the situation may prove futile.

It is unfortunate that despite the state witnessing such explosive situation and barbarity, there is no political consensus to address the issue. It is reflected in the bitter discord over the provisions and rules



THE DEHUMANIZATION OF SOCIETY AND THE **BRUTALITY WITNESSED** AGAINST WOMEN IN MANIPUR ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION, WHERE WOMEN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT **ROLE IN RUNNING** FAMILIES AND SOCIETY. EVEN DURING THE PEAK OF ETHNIC AND INTRA-STATE VIOLENCE, SUCH ATROCITIES AGAINST **WOMEN WERE** UNHEARD OF IN THE NORTHEAST. IT IS **EVIDENT THAT THE** NARRATIVE OF HATE WHICH HAS STRONGLY TAKEN ROOT IN MAINSTREAM INDIA, HAS FOUND FERTILE **GROUND IN THE** NORTHEAST AS WELL. LEADING TO ITS OWN **GRAVE CONSEQUENCES**



TRIGGER POINT

On April 27, the Manipur High Court directed the state government to consider the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list within four weeks. The court's order came ona petition filed by the Meetei (Meitei) Tribe Union, which has been demanding ST status for the community for many years.

The order triggered the massive unrest that has engulfed the northeast state into vortex of bloodshed and tales of hearwrenching crime against humanity. The Kukis opposed the order, fearing that it would take away what little privildges they enhow as tribal community and the dominant meteis whoi are both politically and economically far more influential that the kukis.

The High court noted that the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs sent a letter to the Manipur government in 2013, acknowledging the Meitei community's request for inclusion in the ST list. However, the state government had not taken any

action on the matter since then. The court said that the

continued denial of the Meitei community's request violated their right to equality and right to life with dignity, as guaranteed under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

The Meitei people are currently categorized as Other Backward Classes (OBC) or SCs, and they hold a dominant position in more than half of the state's assembly constituencies. The community's demand for ST status has been a long-standing one, advocated by the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, Manipur. They assert that they were originally listed as one of the tribes of Manipur before its merger with India in 1949 but lost this status with the drafting of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes)

Order, 1950. However, their plea faced opposition from Adivasi students' unions representing the existing 36 ST communities in the state. These unions argue that granting ST status to the Meitei community would undermine the purpose of protecting tribal communities through reservation.

SUPREME COURT STEPS IN

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court has}}_{\text{slammed the Manipur High}}$ Court's order to include Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes, calling it "factually incorrect" and "against the principles laid down by a Constitution bench.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud took strong exception to the Manipur HC judgment, which was issued in March 2023. The order had led to violent clashes between tribal and non-tribal communities in Manipur.

Observing that there is a need to intervene and nullify the HC order, the CJI said, "we gave time to justice Muralidharan to remedy his error and he did not. We have to take a strong view against it now. It is clear if HC judges do not follow Constitution bench judgments what should we do."

The CJI also said that the Manipur HC's order had "serious implications" for the country's constitutional framework. He said that the order had "undermined" the principles laid down by the Constitution bench in a 1996 judgment, which had set out the criteria for including communities

in the Scheduled Tribes list. The Supreme Court has set aside the Manipur HC's order and referred the matter back to the high court for a fresh hearing. The court has also asked the high court to seek the views of the Union government and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes before issuing a new order.

under which the parliament will discuss the Manipur crisis.

While the India parliament is not able to discuss the Manipur humanitarian crisis, the European Parliament on July 13 passed a resolution calling on Indian authorities to take "all necessary" measures to stop the violence in Manipur and protect religious

minorities, especially Christians. The resolution expresses concern about the violent clashes between the Meitei and Kuki ethnic communities in Manipur, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and destruction of properties, including places of worship. It also highlights

worries regarding the promotion of Hindu majoritarianism and increased

activity by militant groups. The resolution strongly urges the Indian authorities to take immediate action to halt the ongoing ethnic and religious violence and protect all religious minorities, particularly the Christian community in Manipur. It calls for restraint from all sides involved in the conflict and emphasizes the need for political leaders to refrain from making inflammatory statements. The resolution encourages India's central government and religious leaders to engage in inclusive dialogues with civil society and affected

communities to restore calm and address the root causes of the tensions.

Additionally, the resolution calls for independent investigations into the violence, accountability for those responsible, and an end to the internet shutdown to allow for transparency and access to information. It further recommends repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and adhering to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

It's nobody's contention that merely a discussion in parliament will diffuse the situation in Manipur, but a serious debate on the issue will certainly be a step forward in sending the right message to the people and administration.

For lasting peace, authorities must not forget that the roots of the Meitei-Kuki tensions stretch back to the colonial period when British rule employed a divide-and-rule policy, leading to exacerbated ethnic divisions and tensions between various communities, including the Meitei and Kuki tribes. Land disputes have also been a significant source of contention between the Meitei and Kuki communities, further fueling

clashes and violence. The issue of political representation and autonomy has also played a role in the unrest, with both communities demanding greater political power and autonomy in the state. This has led to conflicts over legislative seat allocations and

resource distribution. The Meitei and Kuki communities have distinct cultural identities, traditions, and languages, which sometimes contribute to misunderstandings and clashes, particularly in regions where both communities coexist. The presence of various armed groups in the region has further complicated the situation, with some claiming to represent specific ethnic communities, leading to violence and

insecurity. Socio-economic disparities and limited access to resources have also contributed to tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities, as issues like unemployment, poverty, and lack of development can exacerbate existing grievances and create a fertile ground for conflict.

Addressing the situation in Manipur is a complex and multifaceted task, requiring a comprehensive approach that acknowledges historical grievances, promotes dialogue and reconciliation, ensures equitable development opportunities, and provides better representation and participation for all communities in the state's governance and decisionmaking processes. Above all, it necessitates a genuine political willingness to foster lasting peace and unity in Manipur.

(The writer is Executive Editor

of The Pioneer)

GOT A LUMP? IT CAN BE HERNIA

Any person who notices a swelling which appears on straining like coughing, exercising especially in the groin or anywhere on the abdomen should report to a doctor. It might be hernia. Incidence of hernias tends to rise with advancing age. But certain lifestyle choices, like smoking and sedentary habits too are reasons. A team of doctors led by Sunil Chumber, head of Surgical Discipline Department, AIIMS Delhi discusses threadbare with The HEALTH PIONEER about the common ailment, its complication and treatment

- A 21-year-old young male was preparing for the armed forces. During the physical examination he was found to have swelling in the groin. He was advised to underwent surgical repair and take fitness from the concerned surgeon before joining the military forces
- A 35-year-old female presented with complaints of pain and swelling in her lower abdomen from the past 6 months. The pain and swelling increased on coughing and standing. She had a history of cesarean delivery 2 years back. The swelling in the lower abdomen was adjacent to the previous surgical
- A 75 year old male patient presents with a complaint of swelling in the right groin from the last 2 years. He also had a history of difficulty in urination and chronic con-stipation. The swelling increased on coughing and standing and vanished completely on lying down.

Three patients, different ages and symptoms but, on investigation found to be suffering with the same ailment ie hernia.

ernia—a protrusion of an organ or tissue from L Lan abnormal opening in the muscle or tissue that holds it in place---can be seen in all age-groups and genders. In children, congenital hernias are common, inguinal hernias are seen more often in men, while umbilical and femoral hernias are seen more commonly in women.

Dr Sunil Chumber said that the incidence of inguinal hernias in the general popula-tion is estimated to be around 27 per 1,000 males and 3 per 1,000 females.

It is often due to weakened abdominal muscles caused by factors such as chronic coughing, heavy lifting, obesity or pregnancy. Post-surgery, incisional hernias can develop near to the incision site and these are



DR SUNIL CHUMBER

pared to laparoscopic surgery. The incidence of hernias tends to rise with advancing age, as the musculature and connective tissue naturally weaken over time. Moreover, certain lifestyle choices like smoking, poor nutrition, and sedentary habits too can contribute to hernia formation.



Dr Prasanna Ramana said, that hernias can manifest in different anatomical regions, including the groin followed by abdomen, umbilical and diaphragm, and rarely the upper thigh just below the groin.

The incidence of hernias is influenced by various factors, including age, gender, heavy work or exercise, obesity and genetic predisposition. Abdominal hernia can occur after prior surgery. Inguinal hernias are the most common type of hernia, accounting for approximately 75% of all hernias, said **Dr Piyush Ranjan**

While some hernias may remain asymptomatic and require no immediate intervention, others can result in discomfort, pain, and potentially severe complications if left

TYPES OF HERNIAS



Jernias can be classified Hinto several ty\pes based on their locations, explained **Dr Devender Singh**. Some of them are:

Inguinal (groin) hernias: These hernias appear as a bulge in the groin and the scrotum which may increase on coughing or straining. It

may cause discomfort and

Femoral (thigh) hernias: This type of hernia is more common in females and appears as a bulge at the upper inner part of the thigh.

Ventral hernias: These types of hernias occur due to a weak abdominal wall. They may occur in the upper abdomen above the umbilicus (epigastric), at the umbilicus (umbilical) or in the flank

Incisional hernias: These types of hernias occur over the scars of previous surgery due to the weakness at the scar site.

Hiatal hernias: These hernias may result in heart-burn, chest pain or sour taste in the mouth.

Dr. Gagan Soni and Dr Kamal Kataria warned that while most hernias are reducible, which means that the herniated contents can be manipulated back into the abdominal cavity, some cannot be pushed back to their original location. This can lead to the following complications:

Obstruction: A hernia becomes obstructed when a part of the intestine gets stuck in the defect (hernia ring). Symptoms of an obstructed hernia may include: Nausea, Vomiting, abdominal pain.

Strangulation: A hernia becomes strangulated when blood flow to the obstructed (trapped) section of intestine or other tissue is cut off.

Symptoms of a strangulated hernia may include: Nausea, Vomiting, Fever, severe

COMPLICATIONS OF HERNIA



abdominal pain, colour change of the overlying skin and inability to pass stool or gas. Investigations in Hernia

involve a combination of medical history evaluation, physical examination, and diagnostic tests. The purpose of these investigations is to confirm the presence of a hernia, deter-

DR KAMAL KATARIA mine its type and severity, and assess the need for surgical intervention. Some common

investigations conducted for

hernias:

History about how long the symptoms are present, any factor that worsen or alleviate the symptoms, any previous surgeries or medical conditions that may increase the risk of hernias. Physical Examination to inspect the affected area, looking for a bulge or swelling during cough or strain that may indicate a

Imaging Tests: In some cases, imaging tests may be ordered to provide a more detailed view of the hernia or to rule out other potential causes of symptoms.

a. Ultrasound: It is commonly used to diagnose hernias as it can accurately identify the location, size, and type of hernia.

b. CT scan or MRI: These can help in identifying complicated or recurrent hernias and provide more information about surrounding tissues and





DR PIYUSH RANJAN

Hernias can become complicated when they cause intestinal obstruction or strangulation, which will need emergency Dr Sunil Chumber and

Dr Ajay Mohan talked about symptoms and cause of hernia.



The symptoms of a hernia can vary depending on the type and location of the hernia.

Common symptoms include: **Bulge or Swelling:** One of the most noticeable symptoms of a hernia is a bulge or lump in the affected area. It might be more noticeable when you cough, strain, or stand up.

Pain or Discomfort: Hernia may cause mild to severe pain, especially when you lift heavy objects, cough, or bend over.

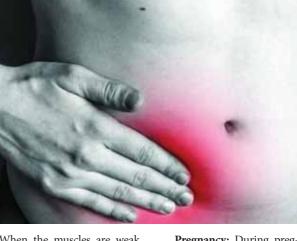
Feeling of Pressure: Some people with hernias may experience a sensation of pressure or fullness at the site of the hernia. Heartburn or Indigestion:

In some cases, a hiatal hernia (a type of hernia involving the stomach) can cause symptoms like heartburn, acid reflux, or difficulty swallowing. Nausea and Vomiting: In rare cases, a hernia can lead to a

blockage in the intestines, resulting in nausea and vomiting.
WHAT CAUSES HERNIA? Hernias are often caused by a combination of factors,

Weak Muscles: The most common cause of hernias is

weakened muscles in the



When the muscles are weak, they are less able to support the organs properly.

Chronic Straining and Heavy Lifting: Engaging in activities that involve heavy lifting, prolonged coughing, or straining during bowel movements can increase the pressure inside the abdomen, making it more likely for a hernia to

Age: As we age, our muscles tend to weaken naturally, which can make us more susceptible to

Pregnancy: During pregnancy, the abdominal muscles stretch to accommodate the growing fetus, which can create a vulnerability to hernias.

Obesity: Being overweight or obese can put extra pressure on the abdominal muscles, increasing the risk of hernias. **Chronic Constipation:**

Straining during bowel movements due to chronic constipation can contribute to the development of hernias.

TREATMENT OF HERNIA Dr Devender Singh and

Dr Richa Garg emphasised that not all hernias of the abdominal wall require urgent treatment. Patients may require surgery for symptom alleviation or aesthetic reasons. Surgeons should, however, advocate surgery when complications are likely, particularly intestinal obstruction and strangulation, which are more prevalent in narrow-necked hernias. Because of the risk of symptoms and consequences, it is often suggested to repair femoral hernias, symptomatic or irreducible hernias, and hernias in younger adult patients.

Asymptomatic inguinal hernias in the elderly can frequently be handled with a "watchful waiting" strategy, with surgery considered if symptoms emerge. The use of trusses or hernia belts to manage hernias is not very beneficial.



nias, particularly recurring ones, provide considerable surgical problems, and the risks and benefits of surgery should be carefully assessed, especially in obese and elderly patients.

Urgent surgery should be offered to patients pre-senting with acute pain in a hernia, especially if it is irreducible. The higher likelihood of similar episodes and the higher risk of complications warrant surgical intervention at the earliest opportunity.

NEWSBRIEFS

App helps identify autistic children in India: study NEW DELHI: Children with - such as popping bubbles and

autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders in India can be successfully identified by community healthcare workers using a low-cost app called START (Screening Tools for Autism Risk using Technology), a study published in journal Autism has found. Researchers from India, the

UK and US tested the app with 131 two- to seven-year-olds living in low-resource neighbour-hoods of Delhi, India. The study says, it could open the door to help millions of children with autism spectrum conditions to get earlier screening quickly and inexpensively, leading to life-changing support.

The tests were carried out at the homes of the children, by non-specialist healthcare workers, educated to high school level, using the research team's app. Through a series of simple games, questions, images and activities on a tablet computer

looking at patterns and images - the app measured the social preference, sensory interests and motor skills of the children. Professor Bhismadev

Chakrabarti, director of the Centre for Autism at the University of Reading's School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, said the results could help faster identification of children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, in all parts of the

"Autism is diagnosed by highly trained professionals, but most autistic people live in parts of the world that harbour few or no such autism specialists, and with little autism awareness," he said.

"So many autistic people go undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or misunderstood, so we designed the START app to identify autism and related conditions

Beating The Cancer Twice, She Personifies Hope July has been designated as awareness month for Sarcoma which is sometimes called a "forgotten cancer"

because it's rare. No wonder, Rashi Kapoor who has beaten the scourge twice is pulling out all the stops to create awareness about Sarcoma cancer and how lethal it could be if left unrecognised or untreated. She tells ARCHANA JYOTI that she has started Sameer Sarcoma Society for the world's greater good.

fraught, says Rashi Kapoor, a mother of two. She knows

nosed with one type of can-cer and in 2016 she was told she got different type of can-cer "I wasn't sure if I would survive it, let alone continue my teaching profession."

But she didn't give up. Even as the news that she got about its existence.

"People get scared when they are diagnosed with cancer but I want to tell everyone that cancer is not the end of life. If you keep your will power strong, train your mind to see the good in every situation and have an optimistic approach in life, you can live your life to the fullest," she has

Rashi took recourse to many therapies to keep her spirit going. "When my treatment was going on, I used to



do yoga as yoga gave me a lot of mental strength to remain calm and cultivated the habit of gardening and reading positive thinking books. Taking care of plants, watering them, nurturing them helped me to control negative thoughts coming to my mind," she emphasizes. I have become indepen-

dent now. I cook in the kitchen, prepare meals for my family, go and attend my son's PTM in school, and take my daughter to the park.

Her doctor, Sameer Rastogi, Assistant Professor, Sarcoma and GIST Medical Oncology Clinic, AIIMS, Delhi says that there are more than 80 kind of sarcoma. They are heterogeneous Some



coma, fibrosarcoma, GIST etc. Each and every sarcoma

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- A Lump or bump that the skin that may or may not be painful
- Bone pain Abdominal pain Blood in stool or
- Unexplained weight Swelling

and women, and can target any region of the body, further complicating diagnosis and treatment strategies. Early detection and treatment is a key for many other diseases, notes Dr Rastogi. Sarcomas are characterized by their rarity, affecting only 1 out of 100 cancer cases, making them a distinct and lesser-known form of cancer.

According to Rashi, Sarcoma patients face significant emotional challenges and mental health issues. The stress, anxiety, and depression that accompany a sarcoma diagnosis can be overwhelming. Treatment may disrupt education, particularly for children, and surgeries such as rotation plasty or amputation can result in physical disabilities that affect employment and personal relationships. There can be a sense of

• Limited awareness among patients contributes to the challenges associated with sarcoma. Specialized sarcoma experts are necessary for effective treatment, yet healthcare professionals encountering sarcomas infrequently may struggle to provide optimal care. Însufficient literature and lack of familiarity with molecular testing further complicate accurate diagnosis.

Misdiagnosis

biopsy samples from multiple sources, resulting in delays. Research on sarcomas is hindered by inadequate funding due to its rarity. Pharmaceutical Firms also show limited interest in developing drugs for sarcomas. The high cost and limited availability of drugs, as

well as the absence of

clinical trials in certain

regions, further affect

treatment options and

impacting patient prog-

nosis. Obtaining accu-

rate diagnoses often

involves seeking second

opinions and reviewing

delayed diagnosis are common in sarcoma cases, undermining timely intervention and

"That's where my sup-

isolation too.

like pazopanib, sunitinib, and Regorafenib can be finan-cially burdensome for

patient outcomes.

ications, such as anlotinib and dexrazoaxane, adds sig-She feels that society must strive to change attitudes and provide emotional support to help sarcoma patients cope. "The cost of drugs and medications used to treat sarcomas is often exorbitant. Immunotherapies and drugs

port group, the Sachin Sarcoma Society in India patients. "Importing certain medintervenes--providing social support and addressing these emotional needs."

nificant costs and delays to treatment. Expensive implants and prosthetics fur-Expensive ther compound the financial strain faced by sarcoma patients, with insurance coverage often falling short," Kapoor points out.

Hardship affects the gut microbiome across generations Hardship experienced by mothers during their own ers' microbiomes form the basis

childhood or during pregnancy is reflected in the composition of their 2-year-old children's gut microbiomes, reports an international team of scientists led by UCLA psychologists. The study, which is published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, builds on previous research in rodents, which has shown that that prenatal stress disrupts maternal vaginal and gut microbiomes. Because babies acquire their first gut microbes passing through their mother's birth canal, mothof their offspring's.

The researchers found small

to medium changes in the children's microbiomes. The research is the first to document the transgenerational effects of adversity on the human gut microbiome.

dence links the gut microbiome socioemotional development.

A growing body of evi-

to brain and immune functioning, and according to the researchers, changes to that community of microorganisms is likely among the ways that hardship affects children's

→he fight against cancer can be a daunting, iso-lating and emotionally

In 2012 she was diag-

the rare cancer had devastated her, she did not give in. Rashi looked beyond the disease, with the support of her family, efficient doctors and community. Now, in a bid to extend some much-needed emotional support and handhold such patients and survivors, she has started Sameer Sarcoma Society. The idea is to inspire and be vocal about the issues among those who are battling the disease and those who are unaware even

put up a brave face.

of them are synovial sarcoma, osteosarcoma, Ewings sarco-



has to be treated in a different way. can affect individuals across all age groups, from young children to adolescents, men,

Remarkably, this cancer

Israel's turmoil deepens over judicial reforms push

I srael is in the midst of one of the worst domestic turmoil ever in its history. The country's current crisis revolves around the set of judicial reforms Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to carry out. Sadly, he is determined to do it despite receiving a multitude of dissenting voices from his own

But why is he trying to torpedo the backbone of the judi-

Since the beginning of the year, Israel has encountered protests for various issues. The majority of the people are against the reforms suggested by the Government.

This coming Monday, the MPs in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, will vote on the historic "Reasonableness Bill," which will remove the Supreme Court's power to cancel the Government's decisions it deems unreasonable. This doctrine, at its core, allows the country's courts to strike down Government and administrative decisions seen as not covering all the relevant aspects of the issue, even if they do not violate any existing law.

Today, the right-wing political parties and conservatives in the country fulminate against the special tool possessed by the judiciary. To them, the Supreme Court has been employing this tool to intervene in the decisions made by the popularly elected members of Parliament. Now the question is about the power rivalry between the elected reprejudges. They also argue that the application Reasonableness Doctrine to review the appointment of ministers and senior civil servants directly trespasses onto the center of executive decision-making.

The opponents of the Government's judicial reform say that this doctrine is crucial in protecting the rights of the people, which are not overtly stated in the existing Israeli law. When it comes to the appointment of government servants, the court has the power to overturn the appointment of unfit officials by invoking the Doctrine of Reasonableness. It is a unique weapon in the hands of the judiciary to check corruption and misgovernance.

Therefore, they argue that once the Netanyahu Government enacts the new law, the Supreme Court's power to defend these rights will soon come to an end. And in the long run, Netanyahu's idea of strangling the country's democratic ethos and norms will become a reality for all.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu addressed the nation this week and discussed the Jewish democratic state on the eve of Tisha B'Av. He strongly warned people of the threats of a military coup arising from the refusal to serve and the potential danger to the country's democracy by those who simply do not want to respect the verdict of the people. He also assured the people that his Government is working towards a consensus on the



proposed judicial reforms that have sparked countrywide protests. He criticised the reservists who refused to serve the Government if the Bill is passed. To him, the reservists' refusal to report for duty is a major security threat to the nation. He has so far stood by the reform agenda despite the tensions it has caused all around the country. The opposition leader, Benny Gantz, called on President Isaac Herzog to initiate compromise talks as the Knesset Law Committee has already passed the proposed bill for voting.

He made it clear in his maiden speech: "This evening,

I would like to calm everyone: judicial reforms, and his agenin every situation, Israel will da will not change even if milcontinue to be a democratic lions march on the roads. state. It will continue to be a lib-Many say that Netanyahu's original plan was different. eral state. It will not become a

state governed by Jewish reli-When he returned to office at gious law, and it will safethe end of 2022, he was facing guard everyone's individual corruption, bribery, fraud, and breach of trust charges, rights. But when I say everyone, although he denied the allegathese rights must genuinely be equal for everyone. None are tions. He came to power with more equal, and none are less a coalition of right-wing and equal. Some people can't be religious parties. Initially, he subject to the law while others made the overhauling of the judicial system a top priority. are above it and can block roads, set fires, block the rail-Government had ways, block ambulances, and announced a series of proposput lives at risk." als, including the reform of the

Israeli Parliament. However,

the most notable among all the

It shows his intentions are very clear. He is all set to bring

Moreover, unlike many other democratic countries, Israel does not have a written constitution of its own. Thus, the separation of powers

between the executive and the legislative is too weak, as the Government always holds a majority in Parliament. Therefore, the Supreme Court is the only organ that can easily curtail the powers of the Government. The current situation is that if the Bill is passed, then a simple majority of just 61 votes in the Knesset could cancel any ruling by the Supreme Court. The proposed rebalancing of the power equation will actually lead to the imbalance of the existing administrative system

reform proposals was a plan to

offer unlimited power to his

government by weakening the

judicial system. The initial key-

stone of this proposal was a

plan to pass an override clause

that would allow the smallest

possible majority in the Knesset

to overrule decisions by the

Supreme Court. This plan is

indeed serious, as it can alter

the balance of power among

the three organs of the

Government-the Executive,

Legislature, and the Judiciary.

of the country. After having a discussion with US President Joe Biden, Netanyahu has softened his stand a little. The concession would include giving the Israeli Government less power to select new judges but still more power than it has now.

The irony is that his government officials are speaking

against the reform proposals. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the judicial reform needs to be halted for the security of Israel. He was fired by Netanyahu, and afterward, massive protests erupted in Tel Aviv. Economy Minister Nir Barkat said that Netanyahu could stop and recalculate the plan. To him, these reforms are necessary, and we will do it, but not at the cost of a civil war. Netanyahu is heading for a

crisis. But he is known for manoeuvering through such troubles in the past and throughout his political career. Today, no one will believe that the World Happiness Report released in early March has listed Israel as the fourth happiest nation in the world.

This May, Israel turned 75 years old. With a continued threat from neighbouring Arab nations, especially from Iran, Israel has bravely stood its ground. Therefore, any attempt to tilt the balance may derail the already existing democratic culture of the nation. Netanyahu, as he is popularly called, must learn from the writing on the walls. It's not an era of autocracy in the name of democracy. But Netanyahu says he will change the judicial system prudently and responsibly. Nevertheless, the Israeli President has already warned that a civil war is "within touching distance".

Netanyahu, be aware.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research

Despite protests and concerns about eroding democratic principles, PM Netanyahu persists in pushing the reforms, drawing international attention and discussions with foreign leaders. As Israel nears its 75th anniversary, the nation faces potential consequences of altering governmental power balance



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE •

India's millet promotion earns global recognition

The United Nations (UN) declared 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa (IYQ), a little-known "miracle" plant. After this declaration, Quinoa emerged as an important crop with the potential to find a place in the global food value system, transcending international boundaries.

Due to the awareness created during the international year, quinoa market prices increased manifold, driven by high demand in the world market, leading to increased consumption worldwide. In India, too, consumption of quinoa increased manifold, particularly in urban areas.

After a decade, it was a historic moment for India when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at its 75th session in March 2021.

India's efforts in promoting nutritious millets led to the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Millets offer nutritional benefits, climate resilience, and livelihood support. India is actively promoting millets and valueadded products globally to combat food insecurity and foster sustainability



SUSHIL KUMAR SINGLA

declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023) to bolster global demand and meet the nutritional requirements of the burgeoning population. The proposal of India garnered support from 72 countries. The decision of the and antioxidants. UNGA will serve the best interests of developing countries, which contribute 97 per cent of global millet production. The world agreed to shift its focus to these nutritious grains and decided to proceed with India's proposal to popularise millets as an alternative food supplement. Prior to that, recognising

the importance of millets, the

Government of India observed 2018 as the Year of Millets to encourage and promote their production. Due to the nutritional superiority of millets, the Government of India, in April 2018, notified millets as Nutri-Cereals, which were hitherto popularly known as Coarse Grains. A sub-mission of Nutri-cereals/millets is being implemented under the National Food Security Mission in 212 districts of 14 states in India. Nutri Cereals comprise sorghum (Jowar), pearl millet (Bajra), finger millet (Ragi/Mandua), and small millets viz; little millet (Kutki), kodo millet (Kodo), barnyard millet (Sawa/Jhangora), foxtail millet (Kangni/Kakun), proso millet (Cheena). Buckwheat and Amaranthus have also been notified as nutri-cereals. The major millet-producing States in India are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. However, the top five milletproducing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Given the importance of Millets in Indian tradition and culture, they have been rechristened as Shree Anna, which means the best among all food grains. Millets are becoming a medium of holistic development in India as they are linked with both Gaon (village) and Garib (the poor).

Indian millets are now in the process of gaining the lost glory, and efforts are on to make them the world's acclaimed food supplement 13 tons of productivity.

due to their nutritional importance in combating lifestylebased diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and other lifestyle problems. Millets are glutenfree, have a low glycemic index, and are high in dietary fiber

Traditionally in India, millets are grown under dry and rain-fed conditions and used to be the staple food in rural areas The rural people used to rue the non-availability of rice and wheat and always aspired to replace millets with rice and wheat. But look at the irony, as people became aware of the benefits of millets, city dwellers are now switching over to millets, oats, quinoa, etc. Today, millets have a key role in the gourmet kitchen, and their use can also be extended to pharmaceutical and other industri-

The Seven Sutras (themes) IYOM 2023 Enhancement Production/Productivity, Nutrition and health benefits, Value-addition, Processing & Recipe Development, Entrepreneurship/Startup/Collective Development, Awareness creation - Branding, Labelling & Promotion, International outreach, Policy interventions for mainstream-

Millets are important due to their requirement for a shorter growing season, ability to adapt to a wide range of temperatures, moistureregimes, and input conditions, besides their ability to convert more carbon dioxide into oxygen. Additionally, the immense potential of millets to provide food and feed for the smallholder farmers of drylands and domestic animals makes them a popular choice for ensuring food and nutritional security. India is the topmost producer of millets followed by Nigeria. Millet crops are generally grown as rain-fed crops the country marginal/poor fertile soils, with about 78 per cent of millet area covered under rain-fed cultivation. Globally, India dominates the global area at 20 per cent and production at 18 per cent. The area under millet cultivation falls in the range of 12-

14 million ha with 16-18 mil-

lion tons of production and 11-

Nutri-cereals (Sorghum+Millets) Average (2016-17 to 2020-21) Production Productivity (Kg/ha) (lakh tonne) 1/12 03

MILLETS IN INDIA VS WORLD

% Share	19.43	18	
World (total)	735.55	890.92	1211
Mali	36.67	33.69	919
Nigeria	79.04	87.19	1103
Sudan (former)	99.41	56.16	565
Niger	107.16	56.39	526
IIIuia	142.30	130.12	1032

Source: FAOSTAT

SHARE OF MILLETS OVER TOTAL FOODGRAIN IN INDIA (AVERAGE 2017-18 TO 2020-21

Crops	Area (lakh ha)	Production (lakh tonne)	Productivity (Kg/ha)
Millets	135.63	163.57	1206
Total Foodgrain	1272.72	2946.17	2315
Share	11%	6%	
Courses FAOCTAT			

SHARE OF MILLETS IN INDIA OVER WORLD

	FUUDGRAINS (YEAR 2020)			
C	crops	Area (lakh ha)	Production (lakh tonne)	Productivity (Kg/ha)
Λ	/lillets (India)	136.33	180.20	1322
	otal Foodgrains World)	7360.09	29961.42	4070
S	Share	2%	1%	

Source: FAOSTAT

To encourage farmers to grow Shree Anna and to ensure remunerative prices, significant increases have been affected so that farmers receive a minimum return of 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production.

Faced with the challenge of increasing the production of quality food to feed the world's human and livestock population in the context of climate change, millets offer an alternative for those countries suffering from food insecurity. Millets have the requisite potential to play an important role in eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. This notion is substantiated by the very fact that due to the Ukraine-Russia crisis affecting the world supplies of wheat, millets can be a good substitute for wheat and rice. Millets offer nutrition, resilience, income, and livelihood for farmers even in difficult times. Therefore, millets are termed as

Smart Food as they are good for consumers, good for the farmer, good for the planet, and are "Crops of the Future". In times of climate change, they are often the last crop standing and thus are a good risk management strategy for resourcepoor marginal farmers. These are promising sustainable future food sources amidst worsening climatic conditions. Millets, as Super-Foods, are nutritionally superior to wheat and rice, owing to their higher levels of protein with a more balanced amino acid profile, crude fiber, and minerals such as Iron, Zinc, and Phosphorous. A study conducted in peri-

urban areas of Karnataka evaluated the acceptance and impact of incorporating millets into the mid-day meal of school children. It was found that the mid-day meal was a major contributor to the daily calorie intake of the child. Also, the introduction of milin a statistical improvement in the stunting and body mass index of the children. Thus, millets can be used as a potential ingredient to combat malnutrition.

The main importers of millets from India are Nepal, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. The Indian diaspora dispersed along the length and breadth of the world must be associated with enhancing exports, with a focus on countries with substantial Non-Resident Indians.

Value-added products developed from millets:

The Government has also launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the promotion of Millets. The primary objectives of this scheme include support for the creation of global food manufacturing champions and supporting Indian brands of food products in international markets. Specific food product segments with high growth potential have been identified for providing support under the scheme. These include readyto-cook and ready-to-eat foods, including millet-based prod-

The Government has taken several steps for the promotion of Millets. Over 500 start-ups are working in the Millet value chain, while the Indian Institute on Millet Research has incubated 250 start-ups. 180 Farmer Producer Organizations have been constituted in India exclusively for the promotion of millets.

In order to facilitate the movement of millets, the Government has revised the guidelines for the movement of surplus millet production to other States. The provision of inter-State transportation of surplus millets through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is incorporated to cater to advance demand placed by consuming states before the start of procurement. The Government, through the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has created the Cereals Export Nutri Promotion Forum.

The Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM

lets into the diet had resulted POSHAN), formerly known laboration between NITI as the National Programme on Mid-Day Meal in Schools, which provides one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools, wherein millets can be used by

> The primary and secondary processing methods of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, in the Centre of Excellence (CoEs) set up by the Government of India, aim to develop good quality valueadded products of millets. These products are now promoted and have aided in spreading nutritional awareness of millets among the consumers. They have gained wide momentum from consumers, creating lots of interest among entrepreneurs as they see more business opportunities in these nutritious, convenient, and

International outreach:

healthy millet foods.

Policy interventions for mainstreaming 16 programs are being planned by APEDA for the promotion of millets and value-added products of millets in the UAE, Indonesia, the USA, Japan, the UK, Germany, Australia, Republic of Korea, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia. The total global imports of millets amount to \$4,708.43 million, of which China alone imports millets worth \$3,054.17 million (64.86 per cent), with India's exports worth \$66.48 million.

During the promotion program, Buyers Sellers Meets, Road Shows, and participation in major international events will be organised to promote millets and value-added prod-

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) on 20 December 2021. The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and supporting India in taking the lead globally in knowledge exchange, using the opportunity of 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Further, the partnership will aim at building resilient livelihoods for small-holder farmers and adaptation capacities to climate change and transforming food systems. The SoI focuses on strategic and technical col-

Aayog and WFP to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition

security in India. Millets can be introduced in the regions wherever they States/UTs under the scheme. grow naturally in the public distribution system and Midday meal scheme to save used by ICAR-Indian Institute money on transportation and storage. Indian Embassies worldwide can distribute millets and their products to other embassies during official celebrations and functions. Moreover, they can serve millet delicacies in the official programs hosted by them.

> Normally, people don't eat millets in summers, so ICMR in collaboration with ICAR, the National Institute of Nutrition, and Food and public distribution Departments must carry out clinical trials on suitability in summers, and apportionment studies can also be

> Though the recipes of millet preparations are available, these need to be refined for their wider acceptability. So area-specific recipes with various millets and varied combinations, basically a bouquet of options, are to be made available. For that, tasters need to be engaged by FSSAI and other food development agencies.

Conclusion

The Government of India has always been very sensitive to the issues faced by the farmers and has taken various proactive initiatives to address each problem faced by them. India is now focusing on enhancing productivity, making post-harvest management robust, and giving farmers and buyers a unified national market to optimise benefits for addressing nutritional challenges and bringing diversity in the country's agri-food sys-

By declaring 2023 as "The International Year of Millets," the UN General Assembly has set the tone for increasing the area of cultivation of millet worldwide. India, as the world's largest producer of millets, is taking wide-ranging steps to implement the benefits of this pportunity.

(The writer is a senior *Indian Forest Service officer)*









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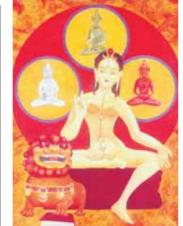
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ARIES March 21-April 19

Your health is now being negatively impacted by stress and anxiety. It is now crucial to strike a balance between activity, food and water intake, and adequate rest. Embrace a positive mindset by surrounding yourself with positive people. Your questions will be answered shortly. You might be stuck in a job that is tough or non-existent. You are not required to remain in a circumstance that is unhealthy or ineffective for you. There might be a lot of confusion all around you. If you have faith in the Almighty and yourself, change is possible. Things will get better. This might be a crucial period if you are already committed to someone. Now is the time to decide exactly what you want from your relationships and then take the necessary steps to make it happen.

Lucky number 28 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You have a great week ahead of you in terms of health. Health will improve, and people who are anxiously expecting test results will be happy. You will have a better life as a result of your positive outlook on life. A new energy will be experienced at work, moving you forward with little effort and reaping enormous rewards. New business opportunities, such as projects or transactions, will give you hope for the future. Relationship-wise, you need some time and space to fully understand the complexity of relationships, especially romantic ones. Patience is essential if the person you're in love with is controlling and demanding.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Pay attention to your health this week. Things may be made evident in a much more planned way. Preventative measures have kept everything in check. A morning or evening stroll will also help strengthen your tired muscles. Some folks are anticipating a promotion at work. Having positive relationships with elders will be beneficial. There will be plenty of opportunities for those who prefer reading and speaking to do so. A little journey for business will be educational. For those who want to pursue international studies, the time is right. Singles will receive romantic letters. This is the time to be happy and content. You'll lead a happy life and be well-liked by your family.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Yellow



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You shouldn't need to worry about your health. Consider your current efforts to increase your energy and well-being at this time. You will surely perform better if you exercise often, eat foods high in fibre, drink plenty of water, and drink less. coffee and tea. You're likely to have a prominent iob. Your earlier efforts will be well acknowledged. Estate owners will thrive. You'll find a good balance between your work responsibilities and spending time with your loved ones. Unexpected benefits from competitors might arrive this week. Everything will seem to be in order when desire is present. If you travel now, you could run across someone you find very

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You'll have a busy and exciting week. You are vibrant and inspiring to those around you. You want to utilise your time in an innovative way. You are bursting with new concepts and ideas. You'll remain active in one or more pursuits thanks to vour inquisitive intellect. Your muscles are prone to spasms, so exercise regularly. Workwise, you must make intelligent judgements about your job and be proactive and forceful in your marketing efforts, or you risk losing a great opportunity. The week will be fantastic for physicians, engineers, and editors as well. On the personal front, keep your word and give your spouse everything you have to give. You will probably argue with the elders at some point

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Those who are putting on weight may have to alter their eating routines. You'll come to appreciate the value of both money and good health, and you'll develop plans to live in accordance with nature to maintain good health. This week, priorities will shift from work to other things. You are either slow at work or don't have enough time. The hard work and efforts of the previous week were in vain. This period will soon pass. This week is probably going to mark a major occasion on the personal front. You've made a good connection and are emotionally busy. You have total faith in your spouse. Between the two, there is now a great deal of understanding, and the relationship is anticipated to get stronger

Lucky number 30 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

The work that was finished in previous weeks will be examined and assessed. You will gain knowledge from your past mistakes. You still have a lot of hard work to do, despite using a lot of energy already. You haven't, however, made use of the fruits of your effort. If a new job offer, assignment, or business opportunity appears out of nowhere during the week, you could feel content and happy. The time is now to start a new business or generate big money for investments. Numerous offers will come your way and then disappear. You must eliminate options and choose the best one. Additionally, since there is a chance of overspending, you must adhere to your spending plan.

Lucky number 25 | Lucky colour Brown



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you'll win over a lot of admirers thanks to your ability to bounce back from difficult circumstances. Maintain good health, paying specific attention to your eyes, which need special care. As working long hours on a computer might strain your eyes, you might need to make an appointment with an eye specialist. On the professional front, certain unanticipated workplace events could cause you to halt and reevaluate your working methods. When interacting with coworkers of a different gender, exercise caution. Some people might have to make a quick business trip. Your personal life is fulfilling, and you are happy. Your emotional needs are given a lot of consideration.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your charm and appeal will grow in a positive, upbeat environment. You'll develop on both a physical and mental level. This is a fantastic week to unwind and treat yourself to some pampering at a spa. If it improves your personality, spending money won't bother you. Students will particularly benefit from this week. Some people may change their place of work. For those hoping to build a relationship, this is a bad week. Success is higher at home than abroad. Keep your funds and restless thoughts under control, as you have a tendency to overreact. You should use extra caution while handling money. You are likely to discover an influential companion who is ambitious when it comes to dating. You are a generous and caring person who goes above and beyond to win over your spouse

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You seek healing and caring energy, which you anticipate from your mother, sister, or other female heln Self-love and self-support are important. especially if you are struggling with health concerns. Think positively and have trust in the healing power of the universe. Use your creative ideas to shift the scales in your favour on the professional front Reconsider your strategies. This is a wonderful time to look for a job. We value your work. Maintain your current course of action. Love hurts you deeply on a personal level. A stranger you meet while travelling could catch your attention and eventually transform it into an obsession. The love life this week should be rather interesting.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You should trust your instincts when it comes to your health. Consider getting a second opinion or seeing a new doctor if a diagnosis—positive or negative—does not feel right or if you are not at ease reading the best spiritual writing ever written. You are most creative when working, and your reputation will soar. At work, a rise in pay or a promotion are anticipated. The unemployed will find respectable employment. Entrepreneurs will benefit. People seeking love may have to wait or make the wrong choice when it comes to partnerships. Existing relationships may be at a standstill or face stagnation. As the week goes on, you will be able to win over your situation with style

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You have the power to change the situation. You may let go of old grudges and feel great about the future once more with the help of unexpected discoveries and an enormous is a good time to explore new opportunities. A fantastic week for politicians and the media. The engineering and medical students will succeed. This week, anyone who desires to study abroad will be able to do so. The lovebirds will have a great time. If you are dedicated, this will lead to a strong bond that is beneficial to both of you. The time is here to meet the person you are

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Grey

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 987328333



rownups too unmindfully pick up negative impressions, which adversely affect their psyche. Two desperate young men came looking for their future prospect. I asked them: Why you two look so low?

"Sir, despite our best efforts, we thrice failed to clear mandatory qualifying examination that a foreign educated medical graduate needs to pursue medical profession in India. Now, we need to either get back to the country where from we graduated to pursue our profession. Else look for alternative means to earn our living here in our native land." They responded.

Question arose: Were they incompetent or simply destined to meet failure? For answer, I asked them: "Were the questions out of your syllabus?" "No, we could not recall the answer in time."

It, thus, came out that their problem was rooted in the sense of failure to find a birth in any medical school here in India. To pursue their dream, they then joined a medical school abroad. The impression of failure made a deep impact on their psyche. That bred in a sense of insecurity and thereby identity crisis. That, however, did not play out during their study abroad. For, all other fellow students were similar – all having secured admission by paying heavy capitation fee. But once back to India, the sense of insecurity lying dormant thus far got triggered. They, thus, began with a negative note - apprehensive of failure at the qualifying examination. Their disoriented mind did not let them recall what were very much there in their memory. They were offered lesson in how to come out of their negative bind. They sincerely followed the advisory and within a month there after they cleared their examination.

The sense of identity crisis takes a still devilish turn, if it ever gets into the consciousness of group existence. All the communal flare up and societal conflicts owe their genesis to this very

Here, the role played by ahamkara deserves attention once again, as it is this very faculty of mind that wills upon how to negotiate the callings of life. More often ahamkara unmindfully gets carried away with inherent tendencies of mind, which then becomes

Purify Mind for a better tomorrow



its defining principle, as if that would be its end task. Whence it doesn't feel the necessity to invoke buddhi for reality check. They won't look beyond for better options if any in sight either. Say

for instance, by any chance a saint and a thief, both happen to retire at the same place. In deep slumber, both forget what and who they were. Once awake, their respective inherent tendencies involuntarily begin driving

Ahamkara does also get drawn toward delusionary tempting influences of seeming world and takes them on their face value. They then get tempted to set them as dream destination and chase them blindfolded. Even while responding to external provocation, often ahamkara takes them on their face value. Following which, manasa (sense aided mind) unmindfully reacts animal like on instinctive judgment. One, thus, is unable to act with prudence. In both situations one fails to invoke one's discriminatory faculty for due diligence and with obvious consequences.

So, often we fail to make use of our most profound empowerment tool buddhi (faculty of discriminate intelligence) - an exclusive human preserve. It is on this very strength human beings qualify to be termed as the most privileged creation in this living world. It is again pertinent to note that this very empowerment tool also enabled civilization having evolved thus far out of its primitive stage. Ostensibly, if we don't use of our own

empowerment tool, who else is to be blamed? We thus, fail to put in our qualitative best, and become a victim of the vagaries of our own mind.

The question now is: How to reclaim wholesome powers of mind, mostly lying dormant, and come out with our best? Given our power of freewill, which is duly aided by the faculty of discriminate intelligence, it is very much within our reach.

It is, however, easier said than done, as habits die hard. They keep pulling us back again and again. To go beyond those limitations, you need to turn your attention inward to figure out what plays out within mind. That will help you identify and acknowledge inherent infirmities of mind. The ground is thus laid down for corrective initiatives with the help of fresh educative inputs. Following which, you may be able to negotiate the callings of life with relative ease and comfort. Life may then turn into a beautiful experi-

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com