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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

### **CAPSULE**

### GYANVAPI SURVEY: HC VERDICT AFTER AUG 3

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Thursday reserved till August 3 its order on a plea against the survey of Gyanvapi mosque premises by the Archeological Survey of India. The HC ordered the ASI to stay the survey work till then.

### CBI TO PROBE MANIPUR SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

New Delhi: The CBI will probe the case of sexual assault on two women who were paraded naked by a mob in Manipur and the Government will seek its trial outside the State, officials said on Thursday. The trial would be sought to be held in a court in neighbouring Assam. they said. The officials also said the Union Home Ministry is in touch with both Meitei and Kuki groups and talks are in an advanced stage to restore normalcy in Manipur

## WHAT KIND OF 'INDIA' ARE YOU: EAM TAUNTS OPP

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar assailed the Opposition on Thursday for disrupting his statement in Rajya Sabha, saying they claim to be 'INDIA', but if they are not prepared to listen about India's national interests then what kind of India are they. Jaishankar spoke suo moto in the House to brief members about the successes of India's foreign

## SC extends ED chief India slams China term for nation sake Arunachal athletes

But court raps Govt: Is entire ED full of incompetent people?

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended the tenure of Enforcement Directorate chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra till September 15 at midnight, citing "public and national interest" but asked the Government whether there there are no other competent people in the department.

The Centre asserted that Mishra's continuity is necessary for the ongoing FATF peer review and attempts by India's neighbours to ensure the country falls in the grey list.

The top court, which initially made a sharp observation, asked, "Are we not giving a picture that there is no other person and the entire department is full of incompetent peo-

Later, the court relented and accepted the Centre's request for extending Mishra's tenure, but for a period one the larger public interest, we are

ki dukan". It is said that the "dark deeds" of the Congress

are recorded in the diary, which will defeat the party in elections

paper leaks in the state.

the government in Rajasthan,

Congress has set up a 'loot ki dukan' in a 'jhooth ka bazar' (market of lies). The latest

product of this 'loot ki dukan'

is Rajasthan's red diary," he said.

Continued on Page 2



month shorter than what had been sought.

The Centre sought an extension for Mishra till October 15, beyond the earlier July 31 deadline set by the top court.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, and Sanjay Karol granted the extension in "larger public and national interest," but clarified that Mishra would cease to remain ED chief from midnight of September 15.

We find that in ordinary circumstances, such an appli-cation could not have been entertained.

"Taking into consideration

inclined to permit respondent number-2 (Sanjay Kumar Mishra) to continue for some more period.

"We, therefore, permit respondent number-2 to continue as the director of the Enforcement Directorate till September 15, 2023. We clarify that no forther and the control of the that no forther and the control of the fy that no further application will be entertained for the grant of extension to respondent number-2. We further clarify that respondent number-2 shall cease to be the director of ED with effect from midnight on September 15-16, 2023," the bench said in its

After the bench dictated the order, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, urged the court to consider granting an extension to Mishra till September 30.

The bench responded, "No. This (extension till September 15) also we have granted considering the larger national interest. In ordinary circumstances, we would not have entertained your application, but you projected a national

Continued on Page 2

# for stapled visa to

PNS NEW DELH

India has protested against China for issuing stapled visas to three athletes from Arunachal Pradesh and termed this action as "unacceptable." The athletes were due to compete at the World University Games. New Delhi said it reserved the right to respond to such actions. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory.

"It has come to our notice that stapled visas were issued to some of our citizens representing the country in an international sporting event in China. This is unacceptable. And we have lodged our strong protest with the Chinese side reiterating our consistent position on the matter and India reserves the right to suitably respond to such actions, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing here on Thursday. There should be no discrimination in issuing visas to Indian citizens, he added.

Bagchi's strong remarks came after reports said the Indian wushu team's departure to Chengdu on Wednesday night to compete at the World University Games from July 28-August 8 was put on hold by the Government as three Arunachal Pradesh women players in the team were given

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stapled visas by China.

The 12-member team included eight players, one coach, and three officials. Three wushu players in the team Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu from Arunachal Pradesh.

The majority of the athletes were scheduled to leave Wednesday night, with the three Arunachal players to leave on Thursday due to a delay in their visas.

However, miffed with the response from the Chinese authorities, the Indian Government decided to prevent any member of the Wushu team from traveling to China for the Games. The flight was initially scheduled to depart at 1:05 am on Thursday morning.

However, even after passing security clearance, the authorities instructed them to return home. Consequently, the athletes had to return home

## Modi, Xi met in Bali on G-20 sideline last year, discloses MEA

In a significant disclosure, the Government stated on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had reached a consensus to stabilise relations during their meeting at the G-20 summit in Bali last year, as reported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Coincidentally, this revela-

tion comes just days after the Chinese Foreign Ministry disclosed about Modi-Xi engagement during talks between National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Johannesburg. The two NSAs had a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs meeting held there.

During a media briefing on the Prime Minister's engagements in Bali last year, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra clarified that the two leaders had only exchanged courtesies at the dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joe Wikodo. "With regard to the question relating to the handshake between the Prime Minister and President Xi Jinping, I will only say PM Modi and President Xi, who were both attending the G-20 dinner yesterday, hosted by the Indonesian President exchanged courtesies at the

conclusion of the dinner,



Arindam Bagchi, Spokesperson of the MEA, confirmed that the two leaders had spoken of the need to stabilise bilateral ties. However, he too stated that India's perspective was that the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains a key issue that must be resolved.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement regarding the meeting between Doval and Wang Yi had said Xi and Modi reached an "important consensus" on stabilising bilateral ties at an interaction on the margins of last year's G20 Summit in Bali, and this should be converted into specific policies and concerted actions to enhance mutual trust.

The meeting Johannesburg came about 10 days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Wang Yi on the sidelines of ASEĂN-related meetings in Jakarta on July 14 and discussed the border row, which has taken India-China relations to their lowest point in six decades.

Continued on Page 2

## 'Red diary' Cong's latest loot ki dukan, will dig its grave: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of various development projects, in Sikar on Thursday

months.

**PTI** ■ SIKAR

 $P_{\text{Modi on Thursday hit out}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ at the Rajasthan government, invoking sacked minister Rajendra Gudha's "red diary" and said the "dark deeds" recorded in it will lead to the Congress defeat in the Assembly elections.

Addressing a public rally in Sikar, he also gave his own take on the Quit India slogan. "Mahatma Gandhi gave the slogan British Quit India and the British had to leave. Today's slogan is Corruption Quit India. Nepotism Quit India and Appeasement Quit India."

The "red diary" is a fresh product of the Congress' "loot

## PM readies for LS polls with NDA engagements

Tn preparation for the upcom-Ling Lok Sabha polls, which are only ten months away, is actively engaging with the members of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Following a meeting with 38 NDA partners on July 18, the Prime Minister is now set to hold further interactions with NDA MPs in groups between July 31 and August 10.

in the State, Modi said. It was the seventh visit of The objective is to foster the PM to poll-bound Rajasthan in the last six better coordination among NDA constituents and strategize effectively for the crucial Modi accused the Congress elections. Ten groups of MPs, representing different States, government in Rajasthan of looting people and also targethave been formed for this purpose. Each meeting will be chaired by Modi himself, ed it over various recruitment reflecting the significance of "In the name of running these discussions.

The NDA meetings will commence from July 31, beginning with the MPs from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

The meetings may take



place twice in the evening, with groups of 30 to 40 MPs in each session.

On July 31, the first meeting will include MPs from West UP, Braj, Kanpur, and Bundelkhand. BJP president IP Nadda and Nitin Gadkari will be present during this session, which will be hosted by

Sanjeev Balyan and BL Verma. On the same day, in the second meeting, Modi will meet with the MPs of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Nadda and Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, and Dharmendra Pradhan will attend the meeting.

Kashi, MPs from Gorakhpur, and Awadh of UP are scheduled to meet on August 2.

Continued on Page 2



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### **HC OKs Stephen's** to hold interview for Christians on 15% reservation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday allowed St Stephen's College to conduct interviews for granting admission to students under the 15% Christian minority quota, in addition to considering their common university entrance test (CUET) scores.

Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma headed the bench and similarly permitted Jesus and Mary College to hold interviews for seats students Detailed report on P3

reserved for minority category

## Modi doesn't care about sufferings of Manipur women, alleges Rahul

PNS NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the ongoing violence in Manipur, alleging that the BJP leader knows that his ideology has set the Northeastern State ablaze.

"For power, they will burn Manipur, they will burn the whole country. They don't care about the sorrow and pain of the country," Rahul said in a video message shared by The disqualified Lok Sabha

MP said Modi is the Prime Minister of a selected few and doesn't care about the sufferings of the women of Manipur. "You all saw what's hap-pening in Manipur. You would

have thought that when a State is burning the country's Prime Minister would say something.

Many of you would have thought that the Prime Minister would at least visit Imphal and meet people," Rahul said. Continued on Page 2

PNS NEW DELHI

indicated the sailor was found hanging in one of the com-

### **Sailor found** hanging in **Vikrant, Navy** orders probe



A<sup>19</sup>-year-old naval sailor onboard aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on Thursday morning. Prima facie it appeared to be case of suicide. The Navy has initiated the statutory board of enquiry and a case was registered with the police in Kochi.
The aircraft carrier is cur-

partments of the ship.

Continued on Page 2

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## BJP, TMC jostle to get hold of rape victim's dad

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Two sets of Trinamool Congress and BJP politicians literally fought a tug-ofwar to get the physical possession of a bereaved father whose 14-year-old daughter on Wednesday died in a Government hospital barely a few days after four youth gang-raped her.

In an apparent bid to squeeze maximum political points out of the ghastly incident bands of TMC and BJP workers literally fought for the possession of the bereaved father's person "mobbing him and pulling at him by his hands to their respective sides in a bid to establish his political identity and mark him as their man," locals who witnessed the nefarious incident said adding they looked like "vultures fighting for car-

The middle-aged man had come to the Cooch Behar medical hospital on Wednesday to receive the corpse of her dead daughter. "I had come with the missing diary of my daughter when they tried to snatch me ... I was pulled from this side to that ... the poor and suscep-



tible villager said.

"My uncle was crying ... he had gone to the hospital to receive the body of my cousin when some local BJP and TMC men tried to snatch him to their respective sides claiming that he was their men and to show how their respective comrades were being targeted by the opposite party ... this we saw to our utter dismay until the police intervened and let my uncle .. he was literally sobbing all these while knowing nothing what to do," a relative of the bereaved man said.

When contacted the State TMC leadership promptly dissociated itself from the Cooch Behar act saying the local workers could have done what they did "because it was

an emotional situation." The local BJP men on the other hand continued to claim that the victim's family was their supporter and demanded thorough investigation regarding whether theincident was related to the postpanchayat violence.

The Class IX student was waylaid by a neighbor on July 18 when she was going for her tuition classes and later along with three others gang-raped her. Subsequently frightened, as she bled profusely they took her to a local quack who tried to revive her for two days and then. As her condition deteriorated she was taken by the rapists to a local nursing home who, realizing the gravity of the situation, called the police.

to MJN Medical College Hospital but would not sur-

Meanwhile, the other girls of the victim's family had stopped going to school out of fear, sources said. The members of the victim's family on Thursday complained that they had not been provided with any police protection and that "the other daughters of the family have stopped going to schools as they are afraid of the prevailing circumstances.

The girl's mother said, "how can I send the other girls to school ... they are not confident about going out ... there is no police protection

... instead of providing protection to our family, police are guarding the houses of the

In a related development attendance was negligible in most of the schools and colleges of the district after CPI(M) students' wing Students Federation of India called a strike in all educational<institutions, sources said. The members of the ABVP on the other hand staged a dharna outside the office of the district Superintendent of Police.

### Another recruitment scam in Bengal, now at Plus II level

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

As though the cash-for-job scam in primary, sec-ondary, Group C and D levels were not enough ... there was yet another feather of shame in the cap of the Mamata Baneriee Government with the School Service Commission on Wednesday publishing the names of 907 illegally appointed teachers — teaching in the higher secondary (Plus II) level.

Among the illegal appointees are the names of Kabita Burman a former North Dinajpur District Board Chairman --- enjoying the ranks of a State minister.

Following a Supreme Court order the SSC published the names of the assistant teachers who had obtained their appointment in various higher secondary schools without clearing the First State Level Selection

According to sources the numbers obtained as per the OMR sheet and the numbers placed on the Server mis-

matched gravely. "There was discrepancy of 1 to 50 marks ... that is if a person had got 5 marks in OMR sheet his marks was showing 55 in the Server," sources in the Commission said adding notices would be sent to the respective schools as per court instructions.

Bengal had been burning over the recruitment scandals worth several thousand crores and involving several thousand candidates. The illegal recruitments pertain not only to primary, secondary or higher secondary level teachers but also for the Group D and C

Not only this, the Calcutta High Court earlier ordered another investigation into the alleged illegal appointments in a score of municipalities which came to the fore by chance while the Enforcement Directorate officials were conducting raids in the premises of one Ayan Sil a private contractor --- reportedly close to a senior TMC politician --whose agency had conducted the recruitment tests in municipal boards.

CBI to take over Manipur parade, gangrape probe

The CBI will take over the **I** probe into the case of sexual assault on two women who were stripped and paraded by a mob in Manipur before being gangraped amid the ethnic violence gripping the State for three months now.

Once a reference is made to the CBI to take over the probe, the agency is likely to seek trial of the case outside Manipur. The agency may seek trial of the case in Assam, sources said. The gory details of the incident emerged last week through the leak of the video of the horrific incident.

The person who filmed the incident has been arrested and his mobile phone seized and forensic investigation of the gadget is underway. The recovery of the mobile phone will also establish the sequence of events, including the leakage of the video and aid in taking the case forward.

The Centre is also likely to move the Supreme Court on Friday for holding the trial of the case outside Manipur.

The Union Home Ministry is in touch with both Meitei and Kuki groups to restore

normalcy in the State. However, peace has eluded the violence-hit State till now.

Over 150 persons have died during the three-monthlong ethnic violence in

The probe into at least five cases involving heinous offences in the Manipur clashes has already been handed over to the CBI, officials assert-

The video of the May 4 incident sparked nationwide outrage and triggered sparring between the government

and the Opposition.
While the Opposition has latched on to the issue inside and outside the Parliament to corner the government, the ruling BJP questioned the timing of the video being made viral just a day before the Monsoon session of Parliament even as it has condemned the

incident in strong terms.

## Climate change court cases surge globally, double from 2017

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The number of climate change court cases has surged globally, doubling from 884 cases in 2017 to 2,180 cases in 2022, according to a recent report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University. This significant rise highlights the growing importance of climate litigation in driving climate action and justice world-

Although a majority of cases have been filed in the United States, climate litigation is gaining traction in various parts of the world. Approximately 17 percent of the cases are now reported in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States. The report, based on an extensive review of climate change law, policy, and science cases until December 31. 2022, indicates that climate litigation is becoming a cru-



cial tool for securing climate house gas reductions to meet action and holding governments and corporations

The study forecasts an increase in climate migration cases brought by Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other vulnerable groups disproportionately affected by climate

The report also emphabetween the necessary green-

global temperature targets and the actual actions taken by governments. As climate policies lag behind the urgency of the climate crisis, more individuals and groups are turning to the courts for

Michael Gerrard, the Faculty Director of the Sabin Center, praised the report as an invaluable resource for sizes the widening gap those seeking positive outcomes in judicial forums and

a deeper understanding of the possibilities and limitations within climate litigation.

Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, expressed concern about the inadequate climate policies that fail to limit global temperatures below the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. With extreme weather events and rising temperatures already impacting the planet, climate litigation is increasingly being seen as a crucial avenue for demanding accountability and action.

The report highlights the growing influence of vulnerable groups globally, with 34 cases filed on behalf of children and youth under 25 years old. Noteworthy cases have challenged government decisions that are inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement or a country's netcommitments.

Furthermore, the report underscores actions taken against corporations, including legal efforts to hold fossil fuel companies and other greenhouse gas emitters responsible for climate-related harm.

Climate litigation encompasses a range of categories, including cases based on human rights principles enshrined in international law and national constitutions, challenges to domestic non-enforcement of climaterelated laws and policies, and demands for greater climate disclosures and an end to greenwashing. It also involves claims addressing corporate liability and responsibility for climate harms and cases addressing failures to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The report highlights the strong linkages between human rights and climate change found by courts, leading to increased protection for vulnerable groups and enhanced accountability, transparency, and justice. This, in turn, compels governments and corporations to adopt more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

## **SC** extends **ED** chief...

From Page 1

No question after this. He would cease to hold the post from midnight on September 15-16, 2023," categorically stating its decision. During the hearing, the

Centre's motive for seeking an extension and expressed concern about the portrayal of the entire department as dependent on one person's competence Meĥta argued tĥat continuity in the ED leadership was necessary due to the FATF

peer review, with significant

implications for the country's

Supreme Court questioned the

economy and credit ratings. "Although the FATF team is coming on November 3, the communications are being exchanged before that. The question is of continuity of leadership. This will help the country, and the rating given by the FATF is necessary for the economy as a lot depends on it, including the credit ratings," he

During the hearing, Justice Gavai observed, "I am to become the Chief Justice of

India. If anything untoward happens, then will the Supreme Court collapse?" Mehta responded that no one, including Mishra, was indispensable, but Mishra's continuity was necessary for the ongoing FATF process, given his years of heading the institution.
Additional Solicitor

General S V Raju, representing the Centre, highlighted that some neighbouring countries wanted India to fall into FATF's 'grey list,' making Mishra's continuity necessary. Being in the FATF grey list means a country is not doing enough to check financial crimes, which may adversely affect its standing in the global community.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for one of the petitioners who had challenged Mishra's previous extensions, opposed the Centre's application and termed it 'deplorable."

Singhvi highlighted that despite the court's earlier verdict on the FATF issue, an application was filed for further extension. "Just see the level, it

appears that the entire country is falling behind the shoulders of one person. The biggest of shoulders are falling behind this person," Singhvi said. Advocate Pr Prashant

Bhushan, representing NGO Common Cause, also opposed the Centre's application, stating that the Government could appoint Mishra as an advisor if was deemed crucial. Bhushan questioned the need for an extension till October 15 when the FATF review was ongoing until the following year. On July 11, the Supreme Court had declared two backto-back one-year extensions granted to Mishra as "illegal" and had curtailed his extended tenure to July 31 from November 18, 2023, the date of his supposed retirement.

Mishra was first appointed as the ED director for two years on November 19, 2018. Later, by an order dated November 13, 2020, the Central Government modified the appointment letter retrospectively, changing his two-year

## on plea against ASI survey of Gyanvapi mosque complex

PTI PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court ■ on Thursday reserved till August 3 its verdict on a plea against a Varanasi district court order directing Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey to determine if the Gyanvapi mosque was built upon a temple.

The court of Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker also ordered that the stay on the ASI survey will continue till August 3. The high court was hearing the plea filed by Anjuman Întezamia Masjid, which manages the mosque. Appearing for the state of

Uttar Pradesh, Advocate General Ajai Mishra said the state government is there to maintain law and order and that it has no concern with the

The counsel for the Hindu side, Vishnu Shankar Jain, submitted that the district court had ordered for the ASI survey to come to a "logical conclusion regarding existence of deities and nature and age of the structure". He also presented in the court some photographs of the western side of the mosque showing the existence of Hindu idols. During the hearing, SFA Naqvi, who represented the mosque committee, submitted that the matter regarding maintainability of a suit is pending before the Supreme Court and if the apex court later rules that the suit is not maintainable, then the entire

exercise will be futile.

## HC reserves verdict | 'Red diary' latest product...

"It is said that the dark deeds of the Congress government are recorded in this red diary. People are saying that if the pages of the red diary are opened, then several big-wigs will be settled," he

"These people might remain tight-lipped, but this red diary will lead to Congress' defeat in this assembly election," he added. The red diary was recent-

ly produced by Gudha in the state assembly. He claimed it contained

the details of the alleged irregular financial transactions of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Hitting back, Gehlot said

the real loot is done by the prime minister by selling a red cylinder' (LPĠ cylinder) for Rs 1,150. He said the red diary was imaginary and does not exist

yet the issue is being politi-The Congress leader said the people of Rajasthan will show a 'red flag' to the BJP in

the time to come. Reaching out to the youngsters of the state, Modi said a paper leak industry is running in Rajasthan and the Congress government will have to be removed to fulfil the dreams of the youth.

There is only one slogan this time -- 'Nahi Sahega Rajasthan'. Rajasthan will not tolerate atrocities on sisters and daughters, he said, adding that the "lotus will bloom" in the state.

Lotus is the election sym-

number of people present at

bol of the BJP. Pointing to the large

the rally, Modi said it was an indication of people's support for the BJP and its victory in the upcoming polls.

"I have a guarantee...The

fortunes of Rajasthan will change and lotus will bloom," He called the Congress

the biggest directionless party in the country, saying, "Their method is the same which has always been adopted by the enemies of the country.

Taking a dig at the party, he said the slogan 'Indira is India and India is Indira' during the era of former prime minister Indira Gandhi has now changed to 'UPA is India and India is UPA'.

Modi once again derided the opposition alliance INDIA and cited names such as East India Company and the banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) to assert that people cannot be misled merely by the use of the country's name.

"India was there in the name of East India Company but its intention was to loot India. India was also there in the name of terror organisation SIMI which changed its name after a ban to PFI and the intention of the organisation was to damage India through terror attacks," Modi

"Congress and its allies have started a new trick, this trick is to change the name. In earlier times, when a generation or a company used to get defamed, it immediately put up a new board and tried to run its business by confusing people. Congress is also doing the same," Modi said.

He said, "To make sure

the UPA's misdeeds are not remembered, its (name) has been changed to INDIA".

The prime minister said if the opposition leaders cared about India, why would they talk to foreigners about interfering in the country.

"If they cared about India, would they have raised questions on surgical strike and air strike? If they cared about India, would they have doubted the bravery of army personnel in Galvan? These are the same faces who used to cry in front of the world when there were terrorist attacks and did nothing," Modi said.

Modi said for good roads and highways in Rajasthan, the BIP government is continuously sending money.

"When the Congress government was at the Centre for 10 years, only Rs 1 lakh crore was given as tax share in Rajasthan whereas in the last nine years, the BJP government has given more than Rs

4 lakh crore," he said. He said that water connections have reached more than nine crore new households across the country. In many states, 100 per cent tap water supply has been completed, but the Congress government wants to keep the people of Rajasthan yearning for water as well and Rajasthan is lagging far behind in Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme.

Earlier, Modi dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendras to the nation and described them as one-stop centres for farmers that would pave the way for their prosperity.

## PM readies | Modi polls...

From Page 1 Similarly, MPs from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry, Andaman, Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep will meet with Modi.

The Prime Minister is expected to meet with 27 Bihar MPs on August 3.

Sources indicate that top union ministers - Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, and Dharmendra Pradhan along with BJP chief JP Nadda, have been assigned the responsibility of coordinating with NDA leaders.

Additionally, Bhupendra Yadav, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Tarun Chugh have been tasked with responsibilities for the NDA meetings. Another set of leaders

Pralhad Patel, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Muraleedharan - have also been asked to participate in NDAgroup interactions. During the meetings, MPs

will report on their work in their constituencies to the Prime Minister and, in turn, receive suggestions from the 'team BJP' to enhance their public presence. The BJP-led NDA had

held a meeting of 38 partners on July 18 as a significant show of strength ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This meeting occurred shortly after 26 opposition leaders met in Bengaluru to unite against the NDA.

## doesn't...

You would be surprised why is the Prime Minister of the country not going to Manipur and speaking on it. It is because Narendra Modi is the PM of only a selected few, of RSS. He has nothing to do with Manipur. He knows that his ideology has set Manipur ablaze," he said adding that the BJP is only interested in power and would do anything to get

In his address at Indian Youth Congress convention 'Behtar Bharat Ki Buniyaad' he exhorted upon the youth of the country to rise and stand against the injustice and feel the pain of people of Manipur.

"Even they want to grab the country's institutions like the judiciary, bureaucracy, Election Commission and educational institutions as if everything belonged to them alone, he said and added, the Congress wants unity and harmony and wants to take everyone along.

The former Congress president also pointed out, recently the opposition parties constituted an alliance and gave it a beautiful name 'INDIA' and the Prime Minister Modi took no time to abuse the name, without realising that he was abusing and insulting the sacred name of Hindustan.

He referred to the Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying, from where the new slogan of "Nafrat ki Bazaar mein, Mohabbat ki dukaan" had emerged.

Besides, he added, the yatra had also proved that you need to reach out to people to learn and understand their pain and embrace them. He exhorted upon the youth workers to reach out to the people.

## Modi, Xi met

From Page 1

The Indian side has insisted that ties cannot be normalised until peace and tranquillity is restored in Ladakh sector of the LAC.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's readout, issued in Mandarin, said Xi and Modi "reached an important consensus on stabilising China-India relations" on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

"The two sides should adhere to the strategic judgment of the leaders...that 'they do not pose a threat to each other, and they are each other's development opportunities', truly implement the consensus on stabilising bilateral relations into specific policies, and translate them into concerted actions by various departments and fields, enhance strategic mutual trust, focus on consensus and cooperation, overcome interference and difficulties, and promote the return of bilateral relations to the track of healthy and stable development at an early date," the read-

Wang further said "whether China and India support...each other, or whether they suspect and consume each other will directly affect their respective development processes and the trend of the

world situation". The rise of China and India will determine the future of the world and China will not follow the path of some countries "seeking hegemony" and is willing to work with developing countries, including India, to support multilateralism and development of a just and reasonable global order, the

readout said. The readout quoted Doval as saying it is necessary to rebuild strategic mutual trust and that the Indian side is willing to work with China to "find a fundamental way to resolve the border situation in the spirit of mutual understanding

and mutual respect". As tension prevails at the LAC, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are facing each other at the friction points at Depsang and

## **Sailor found hanging...**

It is the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier and was commissioned into service last year. It is 45,000-tonne Vikrant and built at Cochin Shipyard at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore.

Only the US, the UK, Russia, France and China have the capability to build aircraft carriers this size. It has been named after the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, which was operated by the navy from 1961 to 1997.

The aircraft carrier is 262 metres long, has a height of 61 metres (keel to mast) and its flight deck measures 12,500 square metres (equivalent to 10 Olympic-size swimming pools.) It has an endurance of 7,500 nautical miles, a maximum speed of 28 knots, 2,300 compartments and can carry a crew of 1,600.

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## HC OK's admission interviews on Christian quota at Stephen's, JMC

 $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court on}}_{\text{Thursday allowed St.}}$  Stephen's College to conduct interviews for granting admission to students under the minority quota, in addition to considering their common university entrance test (CUET) scores.

Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma headed the Bench and similarly permitted Jesus and Mary College (JMC) to hold interviews for seats reserved for minority category students.

The court's order came in response to applications by the two minority colleges seeking a stay on the Delhi University's (DU) decision of December 8, 2022, which insisted on 100 per cent weigh-



quota. The applications were filed as part of petitions by the colleges challenging the noti-

Apart from the pleas of the two colleges, the court order also addressed a petition by a woman named Sharon Ann George against the inclusion of interviews for minority students at St. Stephen's College, in addition to the CUET.

The court, in its order, noted that in a previous decision, it had already discussed the extent to which DU can regulate the admission of minority students and ruled that St. Stephen's has the right to conduct interviews with 15 per cent weightage for minority students, but not for nonminority students.

"Despite this observation

aforesaid judgment, the Executive Committee in its meeting dated 08.12.2022 has decided that for the academic session 2023-24, admission to Undergraduate

Programmes shall solely be on the basis of CUET for minority seats also," stated the bench, which also included Justice Subramaniam Prasad. "As an interim measure,

this Court directs that the admission policy as framed by this Court vide judgment dated 12.09.2022 shall be followed for the Academic Year 2023-24 and St. Stephen's College will adopt the marks secured in the CUET with 85% weightage for CUET and the College's interview for shortlisted candidates with a weightage of 15% for Christian minority candidates," the court directed

court pointed out that there is prima facie evidence of a complete lack of reasoning behind the DU's decision and indicated non-application of mind on their part while making the impugned decision.

In view of this, the court admitted the petitions and opined that the colleges would suffer an irreparable loss if interim relief is not granted to them at this stage.

Senior advocate A Mariarputham and advocate Romy Chacko appeared for the petitioner colleges, while senior advocate Arun Bhardwaj represented petitioner George. Last year, St. Stephen's College had filed another petition challenging DU's letter asking it to withdraw its prospectus, which gave 85 percent weightage to

to its unreserved seats in UG courses. In a previous ruling on September 12, 2022, the high court had held that the rights accorded to a minority institution under the Constitution cannot be extended to non-minorities.

It directed St. Stephen's College to give 100 percent weightage to the CUET 2022 score while granting admission to non-minority students in its undergraduate courses.

In the present petition filed earlier this year, St. Stephen's College contended that being a minority educational institution, its right to select students for admission and administer educational institutions under the Constitution cannot be inter-

## Charges to be framed against 7 in Kanjhawala hit-and-drag case

STAFF REPORTER

Rohini Sessions Court on Thursday ordered the framing of charges against seven accused in the hit-anddrag case where a 20-year-old woman was dragged to death while trapped under a car at Kanjhawala in Delhi on new

Additional Sessions Judge Neeraj Gaur ordered the framing of charges against Amit Khanna, Krishan, Manoj Mittal and Mithun, who were in the offending car, under IPC sections 302 (murder), 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence or giving false information to screen offender) and 212 (harbouring offender)

Amit Khanna has also been charged with negligent driving. While discharging the three other co-accused-

Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Ankush and Deepak Khanna- of the charge of criminal conspiracy, the court ordered framing of charges against the trio under IPC sections 182 (false information with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person), 34 (common

intention), 201 and 212. ASJ Gaur has posted the matter for formal framing of charges on August 14. Police arrested Deepak Khanna, Amit Khanna, Krishan, Mithun, and Manoj Mittal in the case on January 2. Co-accused Ashutosh Bhardwaj, and Ankush, were subsequently given bail by a metropolitan magistrate's court, while the present court on May 13 granted the relief to Deepak Khanna. Delhi police had filed an 800page charge sheet against the seven accused on April 1 and the case was later committed to

## Animal safety primary goal, says Rai at AWB"s 1st meet

Delhi Development Minister, Gopal Rai, led the first meeting of the newlyconstituted Animal Welfare Board at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday. During the meeting, Gopal Rai highlighted the board's significance in advancing the well-being of animals in the city and outlined its primary objectives.

"The establishment of the

Delhi Animal Welfare Board represents a significant stride in enhancing the lives of animals in our city. With 27 members from 19 different categories, all committed to the cause of animal welfare in Delhi, our primary focus is on preventing cruelty to animals and improving their overall well-being," expressed Gopal Rai.

In line with the board's mission, the Minister announced the implementation of various measures to support animal welfare in the city. "We have given instructions to



deploy 5 mobile vans, dedicated to animal treatment, and we are also in the process of setting up 5 diagnostic centers equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for comprehensive health check-ups," he added.

Gopal Rai further underlined the Kejriwal government's unwavering dedication to the welfare of both Delhi residents and animals within the city. He emphasized that the Animal Welfare Board's inaugural meeting served as a platform to address multiple issues concerning animal welfare, with particular emphasis on the welfare of stray animals. As part of their efforts, relevant departments have been directed to ensure prompt deployment of mobile vans to address the needs of stray animals effectively. Additionally, comprehensive plans are underway for the establishment of diagnostic centers aimed at providing essential healthcare services to animals.

"The Animal Welfare Board holds a critical responsibility in enforcing strict compliance with animal welfare laws across Delhi, providing support to associated institutions, and offering expert guidance in this domain.

The board consists of 27 members from diverse backgrounds, including MLA Somdutt and Smt Bandana Kumari, who are fervently engaged in animal welfare efforts in the state, along with senior officials from relevant departments and representatives from SPCA, Gaushalas, and the Animal Welfare Board of India," Gopal Rai stated.

## Underground cabling for power wires inaugurated in Ballimaran

In line with the Kejriwal Government's ongoing efforts to enrich the aesthetics of Delhi's walled city, Food & Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Thursday inaugurated the underground cabling project for electricity wires, commencing from Gali Qasim Jaan to Lal Kuan in Ballimaran.

The significant venture, with an approximate budget of Rs. 2 Crores, is being executed by BSES. The primary objective of this underground cabling initiative is to preserve the historic architectural character of the walled city, in readiness for the forthcoming G20 Summit in Delhi.

During the inauguration ceremony, Hussain emphasized that beyond enhancing the beauty of the area, the underground cabling work ensures the safety of the local residents by eliminating the presence of high-tension electricity wires that used to hang above the



drilling techniques, BSES aims to efficiently bury the electric wires underground, adhering to a strict time-bound sched-

Addressing concerns about inconveniences during the construction, Hussain assured that the department is committed to minimizing disruptions for local shopkeepers and commuters throughout the cabling The Minister advised that

the underground cabling activities be conducted preferably during night hours to avoid any inconvenience to traders and the general public. Hussain further underscored the Delhi Government's dedication, under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal,

ment of the Ballimaran assembly constituency. He highlighted various ongoing development projects, including the installation and maintenance of high mast lights, development initiatives in katras, segregation of electric wires, installation of new water pipelines, road construction and repair, sewer line work, as well as the establishment of new school buildings, community centres, and underground reservoirs.

As Delhi gears up to host the prestigious G20 Summit, the underground cabling project stands as a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to preserving the city's rich heritage while embracing modern advancements in infrastructure.

The Food and Civil Supplies Minister's inauguration of this pivotal project marks yet another step towards making Delhi a model city that amalgamates history and progress seamlessly.

## LG on late night checks of city's facelift

STAFF REPORTER ■

Delhi"s Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena is leaving no stone unturned in preparing G20 summit. In his unique approach to reviewing and inspecting maintenance and makeover efforts, Saxena has been personally visiting and assessing roads and stretches associated with the prestigious event during late-night outings. To minimize inconve-

nience to the public and avoid disrupting traffic, Saxena ventures out of Raj Niwas in the late evening (9:30 PM) for two to three hours. On July 25, he inspected the stretch between Dhaula Kuan and 11 Murti on Sardar Patel Road. The next night, he visited

the Mother Teresa Crescent stretch from 11 Murti to Teen Murti Round About, Teen Murti Marg, and Akbar Road.



Approximately 60 roads and stretches, earmarked for use by G20 delegates, are undergoing extensive sprucing up. The Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the Chief Secretary

and officials from the Public Works Department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Delhi Development Authority, will continue visiting these

areas during late-night hours until August 30. Their goal is to ensure last-minute cleanliness, repair pavements, and enhance greenery. During his recent visits, the LG lauded the work undertaken by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and expressed hope that the final touches to spruce up the city will be completed

city ready for the G20 Summit, these efforts aim to maintain long-term preparedness. VK Saxena's on-ground initiatives have already led to a thorough makeover of the stretch between Dhaula Kuan and IGI

Additionally, he has been actively involved in supervising operations during recent floods, such as at the flooded Raj Ghat and the site of the collapsed Regulator No.12 opposite the WHO Building. During his late-night outings, the LG is accompanied by three vehicles carrying flower pots to be placed at suitable locations, workmen for minor repairs, and machinery for tree pruning where necessary.

## **Govt exploring bus-mounted** air purifier use, says Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**▲** Government is exploring the potential of Bus Roof Mounted Air Purification Systems (BRMAPS) to capture Particulate Matter in the highly polluted metros, Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday in Parliament

He said that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a Statutory Body under the Union Environment Ministry has installed Pariyayantra Filtration units on top of 30 buses to filter dust in Delhi-NCR.

Dr Singh informed that the CPCB conducted pilot trials of various new technologies for management and improvement of air quality in Delhi-NCR through premier institu-Augmentation and Purifying (WAYU) units for traffic junction pollution abatement in

He said, under this study, 54 units were installed which operated at five traffic intersections in Delhi i.e., ITO, Anand Vihar, Shadipur, Wazirpur Chowk and Bhikaji Cama Place for reduction in air pollution.

A pilot study was conducted on control of dust emissions using dust suppressants. Under this, application of dust suppressant (salts of calcium/magnesium and bio additives) was done at Sarai kale khan road, DDA construction site at Narela and

Dilshad Garden flyover to Shaheed nagar metro station to tions. A pilot study was con- check the control on dust

> Sharing details about antiair pollution measures, he said that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi and CSIR-National Environmental **Engineering Research Institute** (CŠIR-NEĔRI), Nagpur are engaged in the R&D activities to address air pollution issues in six cities i.e. Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has supported the Research & Development (R&D) project for development of indigenous photonic systems for real time remote monitoring of air quality parameters, he said.

## Delhi HC: Rotten chana under PM POSHAN can' be allowed

### 'It brings bad name to noble cause'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said an entity that provided rotten chana (chickpeas) to school children as part of dry ration kits under PM-POSHAN Scheme during the Covid pandemic cannot be permitted to continue to supply food items as it brings a bad name to a noble cause initiated by the government.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, while hearing a petition by a society against its debarment from supplying mid-day meals under the scheme for providing "sub-standard" food items to a government school here, said the seriousness of the looked as children are the future of the country.

The supply of rotten chana and dalda (a vegetable oil used for cooking) cannot be condoned as it was the duty of the petitioner to ensure that nutritious meal is provided to the children for their development, the court said. "Supply of rotten chana or vanaspati and dalda cannot be condoned and persons who indulged in such activities cannot be permitted to continue to supply food items under PM-POSHAN Scheme. In fact it is incidents like these which bring bad name to a noble cause that has been initiated by the Government to encourage children to attend schools," said the

court in a recent order. Since the order of debarment passed by the Directorate of Education did not specify the time limit, the court remanded the matter to the authorities to fix a timeline till which the

from supplying mid-day meal In the present case, the petitioner had supplied a batch of dry food materials to a school here in 2022. It was subsequently found that the chana provided in the kit was rotten and vanaspati had been given in place of refined oil. The petitioner assailed its consequent debarment on the ground that packets of chana were opened seven months after delivery and therefore rotting could not be ruled out. It also said it was not spec-

ified by the authorities concerned that only refined oils were to be supplied and not vanaspati (vegetable oil). The court said in order to ensure that the nationwide shut down of schools due to COVID-19 did not detrimentally affect children, an interim policy measure was introduced under the PM-POSHAN Scheme for supply of dry ration kits to

## Closing Badarpur KV is against society's interest, says Delhi HC

Court orders authorities to ensure school remains functional

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that shutting down the Kendriya Vidyalaya NTPC in Badarpur on the ground of the closure of the power plant there would be detrimental to the interest of society, the Delhi High Court Thursday asked authorities to ensure the institute remains functional.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said that until a committee under the chairmanship of the Delhi lieutenant governor comes up with a solution, NTPC — which is owned and controlled by the government will continue to fund the school that caters to local restrusts that the committee will resolve the issue to ensure that the school which is functioning since 1981 is not closed down. Needless to say that till a solution is arrived at, NTPC will keep funding the school in question," said the bench, also comprising Justice Saneev

Besides the LG and the chief secretary (as the nodal officer), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan commissioner, an official from the ministry concerned and the representatives of the parents and teachers association as well as the NTPC will be part of the committee, the court said.

The court's order came on a PIL by NGO Social Jurist against the alleged closing down of Kendriya Vidyalaya NTPC Badarpur. Earlier, the court had directed the authorities concerned not to close down the school. During the hearing, the court was also

informed that after the closing of the power plant five years ago, children of the officers employed there were no longer studying in the school and even the land has been handed over to the Centre.

The court remarked that the school cannot be shut down as children from the neighbouring areas were study-ing there and NTPC can't seek its closure. "These are poor villagers. We can't close down the school. Please keep funding it...Closing a school on this ground would be detrimental to the interest of the society at large," the court remarked.

Senior advocate Gopal Jain, appearing for NTPC, told the court there was a need to strike a balance between the interest of the students and the obligation cast on the undertaking to fund the school. He said a pragmatic and practical solution should be arrived at by the authorities concerned in the

## HC refuses to put blanket ban on sale of acid

Directs Govt to strictly implement rules to prevent its misuse for crimes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Thursday refused to completely ban the sale of acid in the city, saying it could adversely affect businesses and individuals who require it for lawful purposes.

It directed the Delhi government to strictly implement the existing rules and regulations for sale of acid and prevent its misuse for crime. The high court said in cases of noncompliance of rules or unlawful sale of acid, the authorities must take swift and decisive

imposing strict penalties on those found to be involved in illegal sale or misuse of acid, the state authorities can create a deterrent effect and encourage compliance, it said. "The issue demands continued vigilance and proactive measures.

While a regulatory mechanism is in place, we believe much more needs to be done. The Delhi Poisons Possession and Sale Rules, 2015 incorporate provisions that permit sale of acid to vendors who are licensed at discretion of licensing authority. The license is issued only to applicants who demonstrate compliance with the stipulated provisions.

'These provisions must be diligently and strictly enforced, and State must ensure effective safeguards to ensure that acid does not fall into hands of

 ■ Rajya Sabha on Thursday as members of the opposition alliance, INDIA, boycotted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting in protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's failure to make a statement on the Manipur violence in Parliament.

The Rajya Sabha BAC comprises 11 members, including the Vice President as its exofficio chairman. However, three MPs from the 26-member opposition front, known as the INDIA alliance, decided to boycott the BAC meeting. The members who skipped the meeting were Jairam Ramesh (Congress), Misa Bharti (RJD), Derek O'Brien (TMC), and BRS's Keshav Rao.

Amidst disruptions and adjournments in the first half, the post-lunch session saw the Rajya Sabha pass the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023

The bill was passed in the absence of opposition party members who had staged a walkout over the Manipur vio-



Parliamentarians welcome Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar (unseen) in House during Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Thursday

resumed at 2 pm. This marks the third bill passed in the Monsoon session despite a complete boycott by the Opposition. The Congress accused the BJP of obstructing Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from speaking in the Rajya Sabha following External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement on developments in India's foreign policy.
The opposition MPs of the

INDIA alliance had arrived at the Parliament wearing black clothes as a mark of protest against the Manipur violence.

The Manipur issue has been a key reason for the continuous logjam in both Houses Piyush Goyal actively instigat-

lence issue after the House since the monsoon session commenced. Leaders from the alliance group met on the chamber of Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament to discuss further strategies and political and constitutional instruments through which the Modi government can be forced to speak on the burning issues in the

> Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh, a Rajya Sabha member, expressed his displeasure with the BJP's actions and said, "BJP continues to cross all limits of decency and decorum in Parliament.

> Today morning no less than the Leader of the House

Mallikarjun Kharge-ji from speaking in the Rajya Sabha to raise INDIA's demands for PM's statement on Manipur and for a discussion on it thereafter." Leader of the House Piyush Goyal took a swipe at the Opposition leaders, stating, "It is very unfortunate that the Opposition is politicizing the issues." The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed by a voice vote in the absence of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

The bill aims at curbing piracy to help the film industry and simplifying the licensing procedure by seeking to amend the Cinematograph Act, of 1952. Union Minister Anurag Thakur proposed a maximum three-year jail term and a fine up to five percent of the production cost of a film for persons making pirated copies

The bill also proposes to allow the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to grant certificates to films with perpetual validity by doing away with the 10-year validity

# Opp boycotts BAC meet Logiam continues in Lok PNS IN NEW DELHI Tensions escalated in the Third College of Third College of

Aday after Lok Sabha Speaker accepted no-trust motion moved by the Congress-led Opposition in Lok Sabha, the House on Thursday continued to witness bedlam over the Manipur issue as the government pushed its legislative business and passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, amidst heavy din.

The house was adjourned for the day at around 3.50 pm after amid chants of 'INDIA-INDIA- an acronym for the opposition alliance—by the oppostion members. Several of Congress and other opposition members were wearing black clothes as a mark of protest. The house proceedings

remained disrupted from the word go on the Manipur issue. Speaker Om Birla sought to run the question hour in the middle of the noisy protests. Lok Sabha was adjourned thrice before BJP MP Kirit Solanki, who was in the chair,



adjourned the House for the day. The Opposition members continued to be in the well of the house, carrying placards saying 'INDIA is with Manipur'. On Wednesday, Lok Sabha Speaker had accepted the no trust motion moved by Congress deputy-leader of the Gaurav Gogoi and assured appropriate time for discussion on the matter. However, the Congress party has demanded that the discussion should be held immediately.

It is estimated that the notrust motion would be tested between 332 MPs on the ruling side to the Congress-led Opposition numbering around

141 MPs in the Lok Sabha. While the motion is bound to be defeated, the Oppostion wants to use the occasion to slam the government's han-

The government which wants to table around 17 key bills looked to be in a hurry to push the legislative business. In the ruckus and Opposition protest over Manipur, the government managed to pass Jan Vishwas Bill' with voice vote without any discussion in Lok Sabha. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 was passed in Lok Sabha on Thursday after the House resumed at 3 pm amid

dling of various issues.

Opposition sloganeering over the Manipur issue.

The Jan Vishwas Bill aims to decriminalise around 180 offences across 42 laws governing environment, agriculture, media, industry and trade, publication, and other domains that create barriers to the ease of doing business in the country Union Minister Piyush Goyal piloted the bill amid constant slogans of I.N.D.I.A slogans from the Opposition

Taking a dig at the black attires of the Opposition MPs Goyal said "inka Kal bhi Kala hain, aaj bhi Kala hain aur bhavishya bhi Kala hain..", he said adding "by wearing black clothes Opposition is trying to hide its black deeds".

A verbal spat broke out between Goyal and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury a over the disruption by the opposition of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement, prompting a brief adjournment of the

## India lost \$4.2 bn due to flood, drought, heat in 2022:

India lost \$4.2 billion due to flood-related calamities followed by drought and heat waves that majorly wreak havoc on the agriculture sector in 2022, said a report by the World Meteorological Organisation 'The State of Climate in

Asia 2022' report released on Thursday highlighted that overall Asia was the world's most disaster-impacted region last year with over 80 weather, climate and water-related calamities, of which majority were flood and storm events claiming more than 5 000 people during the same year. More than 50



affected and there were more than USD 36 billion in economic damages. The other Asian countries that faced significant losses were Pakistan and China. The report red-flagged that as most glaciers in the

million people were directly High-Mountain Asia region had lost significant mass as a result of warm and dry conditions in 2022, future food and water security and ecosystem can have major adverse implications. It noted that India's lower course of the Ganges and

Brahmaputra basins had one of the region's largest precipitation deficits, triggering drought-like conditions. These basins are a source of livelihood for millions of people engaged in agrarian activities in India as well as Bangladesh. Also, India's few regions received the highest daily precipitation totals in central India, the Western Ghats (India), and Khasi hills.

The heavy rainfall lasting from May to September triggered multiple landslides and river overflows and floods, resulting in casualties and damage, as per the report. In India, after floods, lightning is another major cause of death. In 2022, thunderstorms and lightning killed around 1200 lives in different parts of the country. The mean temperature over Asia for 2022 has registered a second-record increase of 0.72 °C. It was above the 1991–2020 average. The 1991–2020 average was itself 1.68 °C, which was above the WMO 1961-1990 reference period for climate

Furthermore, both Asian parts of the northwest Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean are warming at a mean rate comparable to the global rate, which is estimated at 0.64 W/m2,the report said about the Asia, that the continent with the largest land mass extending to the Arctic, is warming faster than

the global average. The warming trend in Asia in 1991–2022 was almost double the warming trend in the 1961–1990 period, it said.

"This report summarizes the state of the climate and the extreme events and their socioeconomic impacts in Asia in 2022. In 2022, many areas in Asia experienced drier-thannormal conditions and drought. China, in particular, suffered prolonged drought conditions, which affected water availability and the power supply. The estimated economic losses from the drought affecting many regions in China were over US\$?7.6?billion. Pakistan, by

flooding," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas. "Most glaciers in the High Mountain Asia region suffered from intense mass loss as a result of exceptionally warm and dry conditions in 2022. This will have major implications for future food and water security and ecosystems," he said.

The report, one of a series of WMO regional State of the Climate reports, was released during a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's (ESCAP) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. "The United Nations Secretary-General's "Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All,"

WMO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), is more critical in Asia, which is the world's most disaster-impacted region and where the effects of transboundary climate-related disasters are on the rise," said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

Enhancing food system resilience is a high priority in Asia, as was emphasized in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of most of the parties to the Paris Agreement in WMO Members, the report further noted.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE **FICICI** Home Finance

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051 **Shifting of Branch** 

Notice is hereby given that ICIC Home Finance Company Limited has decided to shift the branch located at 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010 as a result of recalibration of business. The new branch address is ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 2nd floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad- 201010 which will be effective from Oct, 2023.

\*Existing branch will cease to operate after completion of specified notice period as per regulatory norms.

For ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. Priyanka Shetty Company Secretary

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, CHENNAI ICICI BANK Limited ICICI Bank Towers, 3rd floor, West Wing, Plot No. 24, Ambattur Industrial Estate Chennai- 600058 ...Applicant

Bulldyers Integrated Solutions Private Limited No. 48, Arcot Road, Saligramam Chennai- 600093 and 5 others

...Defendants

D3. Mrs. Renu Rai (07/04/1971) W/o. Santosh Kumar Rai R2 5/290. Gate No. 5B, 5C, Gitaniali Park West Sagarpur South West Delhi New Delhi- 110 046.

D4. Mr. Santosh Kumar Rai (08/07/1958)

S/o. Bisun Ra R2 5/290. Gate No. 5B, 5C,

South West Delhi New Delhi- 110 SUMMONS

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 o the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of sum Rs. 5,43,15,323 therein together with current and fitting interests and other collections. future interest and other reliefs You are hereby summoned to appear and file written statement before this Hon'ble Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on 25.08.2023 to answer the claim. If you intend to file any documents

you may file the same with a list of documents along with the written statement. You are also requested to file you You are also requested to life your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Hon'ble Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed. Please take notice that, in defaul of, your appearance on the above mentioned day before the Hon'ble

Tribunal, the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence Dated at Chennai on this 27 th day of July 2023. Sd/- R. SUGUMARAN Counsel for the Applicant



Athletic Stadium, Cujira, Bambolim -Goa. :- ed.tsag-goa@gov.in Website :- www.tsag.org

TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY) (https://eprocure.goa.gov.in)

No. NGS/Sports Equipment/2023/Fencing/2176

The Executive Director, Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) on behalf of Governor of Goa invites online percentage bids "Supply & Installation of Fencing Sports Equipment for the 37th National Games, Goa 2023"

### TENDER SCHEDULE

a) Last date for ONLINE SUBMISSION of Tender is 07/08/2023 upto 15:00 hrs

b) The Technical Bid will be OPENED on 08/08/2023 at 15:00 hrs. c) The date of opening of the Financial Bids will be conveved through letter of CORRIGENDUM (which shall be uploaded on https://eprocure.goa.gov.in website only)

For Detailed Tender Notice & for participation please Visit https://eprocure.goa.gov.in

(Executive Director) The Sports Authority of Goa

DI/ADVT/929/2023



// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना // भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स श्री पवन स्टोन क्रशिंग इंण्डस्ट्रीज, करमंदा लाईम स्टोन (लो-ग्रेड) माइनिंग प्रोजेक्ट (प्रो. श्री दुखीराम राठौर) ग्राम- करमंदा, तहसील - बलौदा जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) द्वारा खसरा क्रमांक 1032/2, 1035, 1034/1 1036, 1032/3, 1033/2, 1034/2 एवं 1038/2, कुल क्षेत्रफल 1.979 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज ) - उत्खनन क्षमता - 1,10,010 टन प्रतिवर्ष वे पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेत् लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल मे आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरणे संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथव लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 28/08/2023 को समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे स्थान- आवेदक की ग्राम - करमंदा स्थित निजी भूमि खसरा नं. 1032/2 तहसील - बलौदा, जिला जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के आफिस मेमोरेंडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA,III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशो का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्ये होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ई.ऑई.ए. रिपोर्ट कार्यपालकसार की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेत् कार्यालय कलेक्टर जिला - जांजगीर-चांपा, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, कार्योलय जिला पंचायत जांजगीर. जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) अकलतरा, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा, महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र चांपा, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा, मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पंचायत बलौदा, तहसील-बलौदा, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत - करमंदा, बैजलपुर, तेन्दुभाटा, रैनपुर, करमंदी, ओराई, मौहार दर्रापाली, तहसील-बलौदा, जिला- जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग जोरबाग रोड़, नई दिल्ली, मुख्य वन संरक्षक, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्योवरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर - 19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.



PUBLICATION FORM No. 1 **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** 

600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknov (Area of Jurisdiction, Part of

DRC NO. 776 OF 2022 Notice under Rule-2 of the lind Schedule of Income Tax Act, 1961, read with Section 29 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcv Act. 1993 ICICI BANK LTD

**HIMANSHU AND ANOTHERS** 

1. Himanshu Gupta S/o Sri Ram Kishor Gupta R/o-A-23, Sector -47-1, Police Station, Sector49, Noida, Noida

201301 (U.P) Also at- Sdg Software India Pvt Ltd. A 10, Sector-2, Noida -201301 2. Vandana Rani W/o Shri Himanshu Gupta R/o-A-23, Sector-47-1, Police Station, Sector 49, Noida -

201301 (U.P.) 3. M/s JKG Construction Private Limited Registered office : B-174, Yozna Vihar, Delhi - 110092

Corporate Office at- D- 64, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad -201010

(U.P.) Through its Director

A. This is to notify a sum of Rs.
59,82,163 (Rupees Fifty Nine
Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand
One Hundred Sixty Three Only) together with pendent-lite and future interest @ 10% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filling of the original application i.e. 15.03.2019 till further realization become due from you as per Certificate Bearing No. 776 of 2022 dated 06.04.2022 in O.A. No. 466 of 2019 passed against you by

B. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993. C. You are hereby ordered that declare on affidavit the particulars

Hon'ble DRT, Lucknow.

of assets on or before 07/09/2023. D. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 07/09/2023 at 11 A.M. E. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay the following-

Rs. NIL Publication charges Miscellaneous expenses Rs. NIL Rs. 63,000/ Given under my hand and seal at Recovery Officer -II

Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

### EAM accuses Opp of prioritising partisan politics PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar on Thursday charged the Opposition with practising partisan politics after he was repeatedly interrupted in the Rajya Sabha while apprising the house about the achievements of the foreign

The Opposition raised a din on the issue of Manipur when he was speaking prompting the treasury benches also to

indulge in sloganeering. Most of the Opposition members were dressed in black attire.

contrast, suffered disastrous

"It is extremely unfortunate that the opposition is prioritising partisan politics," Jaishankar lamented to reporters outside, expressing disappointment over their refusal to acknowledge the Vice President, and Prime Minister. "If you claim to be 'INDIA' but if you are not prepared to listen to India's national interests, then what kind of India are you?" he said. Parliament proceedings devolved to a contest of vocal reprisals on Thursday as the opposition and government lawmakers clashed in a cacophony of "INDIA, INDIA"

successes of India's foreign policy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits abroad, was continually disrupted by the opposition. The minister dubbed the opposition's clamour as "partisan pol-

and "Modi, Modi" slogans. Jaishankar's address, an

Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge retorted, accusing the Prime Minister of evading his responsibilities towards parliament while actively campaignwant to protect democracy and the constitution. He is disrespecting the Parliament,"

## 1 more held for links with ISIS Maha cell

PNS NEW DELHI

Tn a major breakthrough in the ISIS Maharashtra module case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested another person for promoting the violent activities of the banned terrorist outfit.

Dr Adnanali Sarkar (43) was arrested following raids from Kondhwa, Pune. The NIA seized several incriminating materials, such as electronic gadgets and several documents related to ISIS, during searches at Sarkar's Kondhwa house."The material exposed the accused's allegiance with ISIS and his role in promoting the outfit's violent agenda by motivating and recruiting vulnerable youth," the NIA said in a statement.

The agency alleged that the accused had hatched a conspiracy to further ISIS terrorist activities, known by different names such as Islamic State (IS)/Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)/Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)/Daish/ Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP)/ISIS Wilayat Khorasan/Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham Khorasan (ISIS "Sarkar was trying to dis-

turb the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of the country, and wage a war against the Government of India as part of the ISIS conspiracy through the organisation's 'Maharashtra ISIS module, as per NIA investigations," it said.

This is the fifth arrest in

the case registered by NIA on June 28, 2023. Four others were arrested by NIA in Mumbai on July 3, 2023 after

extensive searches in Mumbai,

Thane and Pune.

They were identified as Tabish Nasser Siddiqui from Mumbai, Zubair Noor Mohammed Shaikh aliasAbu Nusaiba from Pune, and Sharjeel Shaikh and Zulfikar Ali Barodawala from Thane. The agency will continue to probe Maharashtra ISIS module case to unravel full contours of ISIS conspiracy, it

## One held for crypto fraud

PNS NEW DELHI

he CBI on Thursday arrest-■ ed Sahil Pal, an accused in an ongoing investigation of a case related to crypto frauds. On Wednesday, the agency had recovered cash to the tune of about Rs 1 crore from the premises of Pal during searches at his premises in Ďelhi.

Pal was produced before a special CBI court here that remanded him to the CBI custody till July 29 for further interrogation.

The instant case was registered on May 11 against Pal and Ashish Bhambhani, both residents of Delhi and other unknown persons on the allegations that the accused have

been impersonating as Canadian Government officials, utilizing this facade to execute their fraudulent activ-

ities, the CBI had said. Their modus operandi involved providing fake technical support consultation to unsuspecting foreign victims and then coercing them into transferring cryptocurrency funds.

The ill-gotten cryptocurrency assets were subsequently routed through multiple crypto wallets (Bitcoins), ultimately ending up in the perpetrators' own crypto accounts. While Pal is a resident of Mukherjee Nagar in North Delhi, Bhambhani lived in Rajouri Garden.

## Scientists find central mechanism behind cognitive decline with age

Scientists at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus have discovered what they believe to be the central mechanism behind cognitive decline associated with normal aging.
"The mechanism involves

the mis-regulation of a brain protein known as CaMKII which is crucial for memory and learning," said the study's co-senior author Ulli Bayer, PhD, professor of pharmacology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "This study directly suggests specific pharmacological treatment strategies." As per the study published in the journal

using mouse models found that altering the CaMKII brain protein caused similar cognitive effects as those that happen through normal aging. Bayer said that aging in mice and humans both decrease a process known as S-nitrosylation, the modification of a specific brain proteins includ-

Science Signaling, researchers

ing CaMKII. 'The current study now shows a decrease in this modification of CaMKII is sufficient to cause impairments in synaptic plasticity and in memory that are similar in aging," Bayer said.Normal aging reduces the amount of nitric oxide in the body. That in turn reduces nitrosylation which decreases

memory and learning ability, the study said. Bayer said the new research

opens the way toward developing drugs and other therapeutic interventions that could normalize the nitrosylation of the protein. He said that holds out the possibility of treating or staving off normal cognitive decline for an unknown period of time. He pointed out that this

would only work in normal age-related cognitive decline, not the decline seen in Alzheimer's disease and dementia. "We know this protein can be targeted," Bayer said. "And we think it could be done pharmacologically. That is the next logical step.

## Farmers our food providers: Minister | Around 40 crore turnout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Registration Fees Ravindra Jaiswal said that the farmers are our food providers and termed the release of the 14th installment of Kisan Samman Yojana by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a big gift to farmers. He was addressing the farmers in a programme organised to watch the live telecast of the PM at the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra at Ramnagar under Kashi Vidyapeeth development block here on Thursday.

He said that it was a special day for crores of farmers of the country when the PM released the installment at Sikar in Rajasthan during the day when through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Rs 2,000 has been directly deposited in the accounts of 8.5 crore farmers of the country. More than Rs 17,000 crore has been transferred to the farmers through this installment.

On the occasion, Jaiswal also distributed seed bags free of cost to five farmers. Apart from this, the live telecast of PM's programme was also seen by the farmers at many other centres in the district including



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal distributing a seed bag to a farmer in Varanasi on Thursday

Rajatalab and Tilanga of Arajiline block, Dasepur of Harhua, Takkhu ki Bowli of Sewapuri, Goppur of Chiraigaon, Bhiti and Babatpur of Baragaon, Marui of Pindra, and Sindhora and Munari of

The programme was coordinated by Sangam Singh, District Agriculture Officer. On the occasion, free mini kits

of seeds of some millets like Maduwa, Ragi, Jowar and Bajra were also distributed to the progressive farmers by the Agriculture department. Besides, the farmer-friendly schemes of the Agriculture department were discussed in detail by Deputy Agriculture Director Akhilesh Singh. The programme was organised by Dr Vivek Dixit of

IFFCO. District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Development Himanshu Nagpal, MLC and district BJP president Hansraj Vishwakarma, city BJP chief Vidya Sagar Rai, Suresh Singh, Ashok Patel, many senior officers of Agriculture department

and a good number of farmers were also present.

## Kashi emerging as sports hub in Purvanchal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

This parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fast emerging as a sports hub of Purvanchal (eastern UP) as work is going in full swing to renovate Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium at Sigra apart from adding latest facilities. Besides, the construction works have already been started at Ganjari in Rajatalab area where an international standard cricket stadium is being built by Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) itself. Not only this, new looks have been given to Bada Lalpur Stadium apart from renovating and adding modern sporting facilities at Mini Shivpur Stadium and several big indoor and outdoor stadiums in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and IIT (BHU), which was one of the UP's venues to host some of the sports disciplines of Khelo University Games held recent-

The city has already emerged as education and health hubs apart from providing global markets to local traditional Geographical District One Product' (ODOP) items and exporting of horticultural and agricultural products. While UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Sports and Youth Welfare Girish Chandra Yadav was inspecting Sigra Stadium on Wednesday, along with Secretary (Sports) Suhas LY, they were informed by the Municipal Commissioner (MC) Shipu Giri that 80 percent works of Phase-1 have been done and it is expected that the same would be completed by October this year whereas the works of Phase-2 and 3 will be completed by March, 2024. The foundation



UP Sports Minister GC Yadav seeing model of renovated Sigra Stadium in Varanasi on Wednesday

stones for Phase-2 and 3 were laid by the PM in March last when he was attending an international health programme in nearby Rudraksh Convention Centre.

It was also the same month (March last) when BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla and Rajatalab area where the state government has acquired about 32 acres of land by giving compensation of Rs 121 crore to farmers where the BCCI will construct an international level cricket stadium on the line of world's biggest Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad. This stadium will be constructed by the BCCI itself with the cost of Rs 300 crore and have a capacity of 30,000. It is expected that when the stadium will be completed by next year, then it will be the first of Purvanchal and third of UP to host an international cricket event. At present, despite all sporting talents the players of this region rarely as per the international stan-

move ahead of playing Ranji Trophy and those who belong to this region and get berths in Indian teams like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Surva Kumar Yadav, Radha Yadav and many others did the same by playing from other state teams.

During his inspection at Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing and proposed projects and directed the concerned officials to complete the under-construction projects with quality. He specially emphasised that the projects should be completed on time and there should be no laxity at any level. The Sports Secretary suggested some changes in the design of the multipurpose hall being constructed under Phase-I at Sigra Stadium, asking the architect to visit the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium in Greater Noida, so that the stadium being built could be prepared

dards. Besides, the Sports Minister also reviewed the progress of the 100-bed hostel for boys and girls being built by the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) in Lalpur. At a review meeting, Chief Development Officer informed that more than 1.5 lakh people had participated in the Khelo University Games in

Earlier, while addressing a function at Harhua development block, UP Sports Minister encouraged 72 Yuvak Mangal Dal and 72 Mahila Mangal Dal selected in the last year 2022-23 and said that the medal winners in the state level sports competitions of the Youth Welfare department will be given opportunities in government jobs.

He also said that the construction work of the playground is being done in every gram panchayat.

## DRM conducts safety inspection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Newly-appointed Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava conducted a window-trailing safety inspection on Banaras-Prayagraj Rambagh rail section of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on Wednesday. During his hectic inspection, the DRM also saw the progress of ongoing development and other works on this railway section to improve safety in rail operations and better amenities for passengers.

After making a thorough inspection of Madho Singh and Gyanpur Road stations, the DRM looked after the station panels, station buildings, platforms, foot over bridges, food and vending stalls, waiting rooms, circulating areas, entry and exit points, cleanliness and maintenance etc. Srivastava also inspected the relay rooms, IPS rooms, point crossings, maintenance registers, cancellation counters etc related to security and instructed the concerned personnel to strictly follow the security rules. After this, he inspected the passenger facilities and progress of



complete the work on time maintaining high quality.
Later, the DRM inspected

Jhunsi and Prayagraj Rambagh stations and saw the preparations for the upcoming  $\bar{\text{Kumbh}}$ Mela at the stations, such as temporary constructions for Kumbh pilgrims, the work plan of CCTV cameras and control rooms for security.

Prior to this, he reviewed the progress of the major under-construction rail bridge rivers Ganga, Yamuna and invisible Saraswati) between Daraganj-Jhunsi. He instructed the officials of the executive company Rail Vikas Nigam

Limited (RVNL) to complete the same within the stipulated During his inspection, he was also accompanied by senior officers including ADRM (Infra) Rahul Srivastava, Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Senior

Divisional Commercial Manager Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Operations Manager Ajay Pratap Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer-III Anuj Verma, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer-I Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Operations) Anil Kumar Srivastava, Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar and many other senior RVNL and NER officers.

## expected in Mahakumbh

Mahakumbh 2025 will be a grand event in more than one aspect. Its magnitude can be understood by the fact that around 25 crore people had visited Kumbh 2019 whereas the authorities are expecting a turnout of around 40 crore in Mahakumbh 2025.

One can gauge the magnitude of Mahakumbh 2025 by the fact that for Mahakumbh 2013, the mela covered an area of 1,600 hectare, which was increased to 3,200 hectare in 2019. However, for 2025, authorities will increase the area by over one and a half times more, roughly around

Talking to mediapersons, Maha Kumbh Mela Adhikari, Vijay Kiran Anand said, "Maha Kumbh will be divided into 25 sectors and there will be one police station in each of these 25 sectors. However, there will be more than 100 police outposts". In comparison to this, Kumbh 2019 was spread in 20 sectors. Likewise, the number of pontoon bridges too will also

be more in 2025. In 2019 authorities had made 22 pontoon bridges across Ganga and Yamuna whereas in 2025, the number of pontoon bridges will be 27, said Anand. Likewise, to meet any untoward incident of fire, each sector will have one fire station each. About the bathing ghats,

the official informed that the devotees coming to Maha Kumbh will have a stretch of 10 kilometres to bath during the 44 days of the mela in 2025. Theme based gates for different sectors in mela area There will also be several

parking lots across the city and near the mela area. "Arrangements will be made near the mela area and also in outskirts of the city, to accommodate around four lakh vehicles in a day", said the official. Likewise, there will be mul-

tiple entry and exits for the vast mela area. "There will be theme based gates for different sectors and areas of the mela so that if anyone wants to meet his relative or someone, he or she can

inform about their whereabouts on the basis of the theme of the respective gate", said the Maha Kumbh Mela Adhikari.

Maha Kumbh 2025 will start from Paush Purnima (January 13) after which Makar Šankranti will be on January 14, Mauni Amavasya on January 29, Basant Panchami on February 3, Maghi Purnima on February 12 and February 12 and Mahashivaratri on February February 26, 2025.

The three Shahi Snan (royal bath) by the 13 Akharas of the country will take place on January 14 (Makar Sankranti), January 29 (Mauni Amavasya) and February 3 (Basant Panchami).

## **NEP** focuses on diversity, **local context: Singh**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The New Education Policy (NEP)-2020 focuses on a new era of India's education system, aiming to equip students with the skills, knowledge and values necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world, informed principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, IFFCO, AK Singh.

He was briefing the media at the school while marking country.

three years of implementation of NEP in various schools in the country, including KV's. Singh said NEP focuses on diversity and local context, equity and inclusion, community participation, use of technology, emphasise conceptual understanding, unique capabilities, critical thinking and creativity and all these aspects are well catered in KVs of the

He added that the NIPUN initiative has been implemented in all schools along with Balvatika which has been started from this year at KV AFS Manauri and KV IFFCO Phulpur. Likewise, the concept of Vidya Pravesh has been implemented successfully in all the schools.

"This three-month concept is launched for class one students in the country to

ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy through "Jadui Pitara learning" by the end of class III and not later than class V by 2025.

He also elaborated on various vocational educational skills like AI, IT which are being conducted in various KVs from class VIII

## Shrawan: Tattoos of religious symbols latest trend among youth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Getting tattoos on spiritual and religious symbols seems to have become the latest trend among youngsters this

Apart from Kanwariyas, young devotees of Lord Shiva are getting inked with tattoos like trident (trishul), Mahakal, Shivlinga, Om, swastikas and serpents. A square-inch tattoo glorifying Lord Shiva's Mahakal and another 'Om Namah Shiva' are the most common choices among the youngsters, irrespective of gender.

Bobby, a prominent tattoo artist, says "Youngsters are fond of tattoos and they are expressing their faith". He added, "The young devotees are getting inked with Lord Shiva images and symbols to

feel a deeper connection with For Harsh Kesarwani, tat-

toos are a new form of devotion. "I was excited to get a tattoo on Lord Shiva on my upper arm not to seek any attention but to connect myself with the world of spiritualism". Another tattoo lover, Monika says, "It's our choice to express our devotion and faith towards deities. I find tattoos the best way to move myself into devoutness". Interestingly, many kanwariyas are getting inked with religious symbol tattoos. A few years back, tattooing was not in vogue in the city during the festive season.

With the time changing, come up in the city. In view of the ongoing Shrawan month, tattoos saying 'Om', 'Om Namay Shiva', 'Mahadev'and

symbolic Trishul and Mahakal are more in demand. "It takes at least half an hour to ink a selected tattoo," said Bobby, adding that devotees remain patient while they are inked with religious symbols on their

neck and upper arms.

ELECTROCUTED: One person died when the wire of the LT line broke and fell in Badiya village. The police and JE and SDO of the Electricity department were informed. The police team reached the spot and the villagers gathered. The villagers were pacified by the police and the body was sent to the post-mortem

Dharamraj Bind of Badiya police station of Yamunanagar, used to do farming for his livelihood. As per the written complaint given by his wife Kiran Bind around 10:30 am on Thursday he went bathe at the handpump located in front of the house when suddenly the electric wire of the LT line broke and fell.

Dharamraj died due to electrocution. According to her, the electric wire going over the handpump near the house had become very old and dilapidated.

She alleged that for changing it we had given an application to the JE and SDO of the Electricity department a year ago but its officials and employees did not pay attention to it. The result of which was that her husband lost his life, she lamented.

Kaundhiyara Vinod Kumar said action will be taken by filing a case on the basis of the

## Rich tribute paid to brave soldiers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Kargil Vijay Diwas was cel-ebrated at New Cantt here on Wednesday to commemorate the victory of Indian armed forces in Operation Vijay in 1999 in Kargil sector. It is also celebrated to honour the courage and valour of Indian armed forces and supreme sacrifice made by the Indian soldiers for their motherland in this war which lasted for more than 60 days.

On the 24th anniversary Maj Gen Jai Singh Bainsla, GOC, HQ Purva UP and MP Sub Area, in a solemn wreath laying ceremony at New Cantt

Maj Gen Jai Singh Bainsla in a solemn wreath laying ceremony at **New Cantt here paid rich tribute and** homage to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the war.

here paid rich tribute and homage to the brave soldiers of Indian Army who sacrificed their lives during the war. In addition to officers from all three services i.e Army, Air Force and Navy, large numbers of veterans were present to pay their tribute to the bravehearts who participated in the Kargil War. After the wreath laying ceremony an interaction with

the veterans from Pravagrai was also held in the Sub Area Headquarters.

ARRESTED: The Dhoomanganj police arrested Rahil Hasan, an active member of the slain mafia Atiq Ahmed gang and brother of Kammu and Javed, with a countrymade bomb. He was involved in the incident of fighting and firing in Kesariya village of Atiq

Ahmed. Since then the police was looking for him against whom many criminal cases were registered. Dhoomanganj Kotwali inspector Rajesh Maurya said Rahil Hussain of Kasarí Masari, Dhoomanganj, had created a ruckus two days back. Since then the police was looking for him. He was arrested from Damupur turn. Six country bombs have been recovered from him. According to the police, Rahil's two brothers Kammu and Javed have been shooters of Atiq. However, later Kammu and Javed became opponents of Atiq. Both the brothers had filed a case against Atiq and his close ones only.

## Land for Vindhya University inspected

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Muthukumarasamy B and District Magistrate Divya Mittal inspected the land for Vindhya University and new collectorate building in Barkachha village on Wednesday. During the inspection the DC was accompanied by officials of BSNL, PWD, Jal Nigam, Higher Education, Forest and Revenue departments. Additional District Magistrate (Finance and revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla, CRO Satya Prakash Singh and subdivisional magistrate (SDM) Sadar Chandrabhanu Singh

**HEALTH CAMP:** On the

direction of DM Divya Mittal a health camp has been organised at Vindhyachal to examine the health of labourers involved in the work of Vindhya Corridor project. City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh said the camp will run under his supervision and will continue till the medical examination of all labourers is done. He said all facilities, including check-up and medicines, will be provided free of cost in the camp. The facility for labourers will be made available from time to

time in future too, he added.

ARRESTED: The Adalhaat police arrested an presented the preliminary report about the land to the DC accused of rape with minor girl and DM. CRO Satya Prakash on Wednesday. One person Singh and SDM (Sadar) were had lodged a named comdirected to submit a detailed plaint at police station on July

had enticed away his daughter. After registering a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) the police started an investigation in the case. The accused was arrested by the police on Wednesday and sent to jail. In another case a complaint had been lodged by one person on July 3 alleging that his minor daughter was molested and when he objected to it, a group of outlaws attacked his house and assaulted the family members. After registering the case the police was investigating it and a juvenile offender was taken into custody and further action was taken as per the court orders.

Meanwhile the Lalganj police on Wednesday arrested two accused involved in the

woman had lodged a case at Lalganj police station on July 17 alleging that the accused had gangraped her minor daughter, impregnated her and gave medicines for abortion. She said when she reached the hospital with her daughter and the doctors informed her about it. Registering the case under relevant sections, the police took the foetus in possession for further investigation. One of the accused was caught within few hours. The investigation was on and the police found the role of more accused as suspected. As per the authorities the report related to foetus was still as awaited. The team was awarded

cash reward of Rs 15,000 by the SP for the successful operwww.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

## A wily move

The no-confidence motion against the Modi government will demarcate parties' stand

s India finds itself at the precipice of a crucial political juncture, the Opposition parties have chosen to wield their democratic right by introducing the fidence motion against the Modi government. This move comes while the nation is Manipur and the Government has chosen to be grapples with ongoing violence in Manipur and the Government has chosen to be silent on it. Gaurav Gogoi, the Congress MP from Assam, has moved the motion and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has accepted it. It is likely to be defeated as the BJP-led NDA has numbers in both Houses. Even the Opposition is quite aware of it. Then what is the rationale of bringing a no-confidence motion? If we delve deeper, the Opposition has indeed made a smart move as this would initiate a debate in Parliament and Prime Minister would have to speak while the country would be watching what he has to say on Manipur and the Opposition leaders would have timers in their hands to record how many seconds PM speaks on Manipur. Friendly parties

would have to convince their tribal voters why they chose to side with the government which did not protect the rights of tribals in Manipur. Then of course there are tribal MPs in the BJP itself who would have to face the embarrassment of an ostensible anti-trib-

With a majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP-led government has proven its strength on numerous occasions. However, a no-confidence motion poses a formidable challenge to the ruling coalition and its response could have far-reaching implications. The MNF has already parted ways with the NDA and that could ring alarm bells for the BJP. The no-confidence

debate would be what the Opposition is looking forward to exposing the government and cornering it. Several uncomfortable facts might roll out during the debate. Furthermore, the vote of no confidence would also be an occasion for the newly formed INDIA alliance to test its strength and how committed are its constituents. The INDIA alliance though has been a big move in Opposition unity but it has yet to pass the litmus test of standing united. If they can unitedly take on the government in Parliament, their morale would be high. The Opposition would be preparing to tatter the PM's northeast policy which he has championed. As a matter of fact, no confidence is a better way of getting heard and creating more impact rather than creating din in the well or walking out, thereby giving the government a clear walkover. It would indeed be interesting how the Opposition attacks the government and how the Government defends itself. Meanwhile the Opposition leaders sit outside in black clothes protesting Sanjay Singh's suspension from Lok Sabha adding to another embarrassment to its long list. The BJP must own the responsibility to run Parliament as well as the country; holding Opposition for its acts of omission and commission won't help, neither would running away from the issues. Face it!



## Dark disappearing act in Xi Jinping's China



Anyone on the wrong side of Xi magically vanishes from the scene. Such incidents confirm Xi Jinping's deep-rooted insecurities and dictatorial instincts

he black box of Chinese elites is rife with intrigues and machinations of powerplay at work. Selfpreservation of Xi Jinping or that of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are the two principal motivations. Last year, the optics of Jinping's predecessor, Hu Jintao, getting removed very dramatically (and reluctantly) during the five-yearly leadership reshuffle meeting was loaded with suggestions of the fate that awaited anyone on the wrong side of Xi Jinping, even if were to be former President and General Secretary of CCP. Officially attributed to ill health, Hu's reality remained shrouded in mystery, and he was only seen once thereafter - at the tribute ceremony to his predecessor, Jiang Zemin (both Hu and Jiang had served two mandated terms, unlike Xi Jinping, who changed the law to become 'leader for life').

Sudden disappearances from the public gaze with a complete media blackout of a discredited person is the norm in Xi's China. Once the richest Chinese in the world, Jack Ma, met the same fate. The poster boy of the success of the 'Chinese Dream' with his \$1 Trillion valued Alibaba, had crossed the line in what got famous as 'The Speech', criticising the Chinese establishment, and was soon put to task. Within days, his APO was scuttled, he was summoned for 'regulatory interviews' and then made to disappear from the public eye (save odd 'sightings'). His carefully curated 'reappearance video' had all the hallmarks of propaganda insincerity and hostage drama. A charade of bizarre irrelevancies (including spotting in Pakistan!) ensued, but essentially Jack Ma was diminished for posterity.

Chinese tennis star and three times Olympian, Peng Shuai, had similarly and presumably exceeded her liberty when she accused a former Vice Premier of sexual assault. Soon thereafter, Peng was seen recanting her stand in a carefully worded interview, wnich was followed by her ostensible decision to retire from tennis. Soon thereafter, the world's number 1 doubles player disappeared from the public eye and to a blank page with a chilling

reach. Yet another 'fallen' Chinese joined the ranks of Hong Kong-based publisher of gossipy books on Chinese elites, Gui Minhai, Interpol Chief Meng Hongwei, Actor Zhao Wei, dissent artist Ai Weiwei etc.,

Now, the ace Chinese practitioner of 'Wolf Warrior Diplomacy' and recently, the Foreign Minister, Qin Gang, has fallen from presumed grace and gone into the standard disappearance mode. Once touted as a rising star who served in extremely sensitive and prestigious appointments that could only have been cleared by Xi Jinping himself e.g., foreign ministry spokesperson, chief protocol officer, Ambassador to the United States, and lastly, Foreign Minister. The downward spiral route was typically Chinese i.e., sudden and unexplained disappearance after meeting foreign officials on 25th June. Then the rote 'health reasons' (as were used for Hu Jintao's physical eviction) were posited and soon the international observers feared the worst and a cryptic announcement of Wang Yi replacing Qin, with no further details or explanations. rellingly, all references attric uted to Qin were put to 'digital erasure' from official websites and any search on him led



THE ACE CHINESE PRACTITIONER OF **WOLF WARRIOR** DIPLOMACY' AND TILL RECENTLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, QIN GANG, HAS FALLEN FROM **PRESUMED GRACE AND GONE** INTO THE **STANDARD** DISAPPEARANCE description i.e., 'does not exist or has been deleted'. Also, Qin's supposed paramour has 'disappeared' from the public gaze. It seems to be a repeat of the familiar old-school purge of one who seems to have taken their 'entitlement' beyond Xi's acceptable levels. Rumours of an extramarital affair and child out of wedlock are bandied as the plausible reasons. Because his meteoric rise was directly attributed to Xi Jinping himself, that also runs the risk of besmirching Xi's name, should Qin's ostensible dereliction of philandering be seen as an excess by Xi's team, hence the purge. However, like all things in Xi's Chinese narrative, there will not be confirmation or denial of any speculation and like many before him, Qin Gang may be put to 're-education' and resurface again, or maybe

There will be whispers of rivals within the CCP who could have latched on to Qin's moral indiscretion to cut the wings of one who flew too fast and too far, for their ambitions. Ironically Qin had curried favour with Xi Jinping with profound statements that hailed the Chinese 'system of governance with what Qin himself called, 'Chinese wisdom, Chinese initiatives and Chinese strengths' - all those seem to have backfired

for him, as he walks the dark and lonely road of many like him, earlier. This sudden action reiterates the fact that nobody is indispensable or beyond correction in Xi's China, especially if they are seen to be proteges of Xi Jinping, as was the case of the Qin Gang.

If anything, such moves have the impact of sending powerful messages to all other functionaries within the CCP to toe the line and never take their positions for granted. While still featured in the State Council list, it is still suggestive of an ongoing investigation, but portents and history do not look encouraging.

Such incidents are also confirmation of Xi Jinping's deep-rooted insecurities and dictatorial instincts as the manner and the reasons for which some people are cut to size always have a 'cult-image' protecting angularity or beset with fears of regime change. These instances sap confidence, internally and externally, as the 'Chinese Dream' gets solidly discredited, and allies are spooked by the reality of Xi's China.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Li Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

#### Women farmers work at a field amid monsoon rains, on the outskirts of Hyderabad **OPPENHEIMER CONTROVERSY** Video games could take Sir — Oppenheimer is a biographical thriller film directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Cillian Murphy as J. advertising to the next level

Video game advertising has immense potential. It could be among the most innovative ways to engage potential customers

he world of advertising weltrends with every passing second, and brands are always seeking new ways to engage their audience. One such emerging channel is video game advertising. With the growing number of audience in the online and mobile gaming market, video games as a popular entertainment medium attracts all age groups. Video game advertising is now catching the eyes of marketers and is inviting brands to promote their products and services effectively.

One way video game advertising has an edge over traditional forms of advertising, often perceived as intrusive or annoying, is that they can be seamlessly integrated into the gaming experience. It brings more interactivity and personalization to the table. In addition, game advertising also paves the way for businesses to create a deeper bond with their target audience by leveraging the emotional bond that players advertising is undoubtedly Interestingly, this growth is

share with the game. Immersive experiences offered in video games can stimulate powerful emotions in players. By creating ads that connect with the theme and tone of the game, brands can tap into these emotions and develop connections with the

players Besides creating deep connections with your target audience, video game advertising promises a high return on investment. There have been instances where in-game advertising has helped brands significantly boost not only brand awareness but also purchase intent. Moreover, in-game proven to be more effective

than traditional forms of advertising. From impressions to conversions, video game advertising also offers a quantifiable ROI through different marketing metrics. This further allows marketers and brands to monitor and analyze the effectiveness of their advertising campaigns and tweak their strategies as needed. The future scope of video game advertising seems promising. The global ingame advertising market has witnessed exponential growth in the recent years and is expected to continue this upward trajectory.

fuelled by the ever-rising demand of social and mobile gaming, as well as advantages including costeffective advertising, broader reach and better ROI. In addition, the introduction of secure payment gateways for gaming has further mitigated fraud, which gives a boost to the market.

Video game advertising is an industry with immense potential. Clearly, this space is growing rapidly, and advertising could be among the industries to innovate in this sphere and make a significant impact. As more people indulge in video games, this form of advertising is gaining widespread recognition. There are numerous ways that ingame advertising can take shape, including pop-up adverts, in-game billboards, and product placement within the game. The moment is right for brands to dive into this emerging inventory and craft meaningful, engaging, and effective advertising campaigns within the realm of video

> (The writer is Founder & CEO, iCubesWire)

Robert Oppenheimer, the American physicist who led the development of the atomic bomb during World War II. The film explores Oppenheimer's life, achievements, and controversies, including his interest in Hinduism and the Bhagavad

One controversial scene in the film depicts Oppenheimer quoting a verse from the Bhagavad Gita after having sex with his wife Kitty. The verse he quotes is: "I have become death, the destroyer of worlds." This is the same verse Oppenheimer famously uttered after witnessing the first atomic bomb test in 1945.

Oppenheimer learned Sanskrit, the language of the Gita, and translated several verses himself, drawing parallels between Arjuna's moral dilemmas in the epic and his role in creating a weapon of mass destruction. However, some scholars and critics dispute Oppenheimer's interpretation, stating that his quote does not accurately reflect the original Sanskrit text. The actual verse states: "I am time, the destroyer of worlds." They argue that Krishna's words are meant to convey a cosmic perspective on creation and destruction and to guide Arjuna in fulfilling his

duty without attachment to outcomes. The film's portrayal of Oppenheimer reading the Gita after sex has sparked debate, with some viewers finding it disrespectful or inappropriate to use a sacred text in such a context.

Amarjeet kumar | Hazaribag

### **MNF PULLS OUT OF NDA**

Sir — As per the report the Mizoram Chief Minister and president of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) Zoramthanga on Wednesday said that his party decide on pulling out of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Many MNF leaders and the party's two parliamentarians from Mizoram -- C. Lalrosanga of Lok

### **Dr Kalam's death anniversary**

THE EDITO



APJ Abdul Kalam, India's former President, remains an inspirational figure as we approach July 27, his death anniversary. Dr Kalam's journey from a science administrator to becoming the President of India is a testament to his exceptional leadership and strong dedication to serving the nation, earning him the well-deserved title of the "Missile Man of India". Beyond his pivotal role in India's nuclear weapon test in 1998, He was a prolific writer, with notable literary works like "Wings of Fire" and "Ignited Minds," which continue to

commemorate the legacy of the "Missile Man of India," let us find inspiration from his extra-

have expressed their desire to withdraw the party's support from the NDA on the Manipur unrest and Uniform Civil Code (UCC) issues. Zoramthanga, who along with his ministers and MNF MLAs, took part in Tuesday's 'Solidarity March', organised by the NGOs Coordination Committee in the Mizoram to express solidarity with the violence Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur, Zoramthanga on Monday, while addressing the party workers said that the state government and the MNF party are not afraid of the NDA government at the Centre. With this, all is not well

for NDA in Mizoram. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### THE FOREST CONSERVATION BILL

— The bill has been adopted as expected. This Act is sure to reduce the forest cover, strip the Tribes of their land and Rights over the forest, and throw forests for exploitation of minerals and natural resources by avaricious profit-mongering Sabha and K. Vanlalvena of Rajya Sabha - cronies, besides a significant drop in car-

ordinary life journey and his steadfast faith in the potential of the youth. Bishal Kumar Saha | Murshidabad bon sink. 1/3 of forest cover is recommended for any country and so in India also as

motivate people from all walks of life. He served

as a President who was strongly connected with

the public, making education and public service

a top priority throughout his tenure, setting an

inspiring example for other leaders. Dr Kalam's

contributions to India's technological advance-

ments were diverse and far-reaching, spanning

from aeronautics to healthcare. Furthermore, He constantly emphasized the importance of

empowering the youth, encouraging them to

pursue their ambitions and unlock their limit-

less potential, even after his passing. His vision

of a progressive and innovative India continues

to shape the nation's technological landscape

as evident in the sincere tribute paid by Prime

Minister Modi on his birth anniversary. As we

per Forest Policy 1988, whereas we have only 1/5 of the land covered by forest. As such we still have a long way to go. It is a pity that we are yet to draft a proper definition for the forest.

Supreme Court went a step ahead with all good intentions and ruled to stop felling trees directing that the FC Act would apply to all land parcels that were either recorded as forest or resembled the dictionary meaning of forest.

The Bill adoption is cleared by the Joint Parliament Committee, which has a maximum number of members drawn from the ruling party.

The committee does not seem to have made a proper assessment of the subject. Even the 6 dissents are just brushed aside to hasten the adoption of the Bill. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

## **ASEAN MATTERS: EPICENTRUM OF GROWTH**

In the China plus one model, ASEAN and QUAD must cater to regional aspirations



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The recently concluded ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Jakarta was themed "ASEAN Matters, Epicentrum of Growth. A significant outcome of the meeting was the release of the ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which perhaps for the first time acknowledged, the importance of the Indo-Pacific region in ASEAN's overall bilateral and multilateral engagements. It is worth noting that ASEAN member countries, and the group as a whole, are being wooed by the US, China, India and several other nations having significant strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific. While China has an upper hand vis a vis other nations over ASEAN, the joint statement released during the foreign ministers meeting seems to suggest that ASEAN countries may be warming up towards other regional groupings in the Indo-Pacific such as QUAD ( a group of US, Japan, India and Australia) and AUKUS (group of UK, US and Australia).

The joint statement from the ASEAN foreign minister's meeting read "We expressed concern on the intensifying geopolitical tensions in the region, and further underlined the value and relevance of the AOIP to ASEAN's peace, security, stability and prosperity. We were determined to further promote the AOIP in our interactions with partners and to mainstream and promote the implementation of the AOIP through concrete projects and activities in order to promote mutual trust, respect and benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We welcomed the support of all our partners to the AOIP, among others, through the issuance of joint statements and other forms of collaboration and support. We continued to encourage our partners to support and undertake substantive, practical and tangible cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in the AOIP, on the four identified key areas, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, SDGs) 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation.'

If we pick some key objectives highlighted in the joint statement, maritime cooperation, connectivity and economic cooperation are all



aligned with QUAD's objectives in the Indo-Pacific. In May this year, the QUAD leader's vision statement reiterated the centrality of ASEAN, for a principles-based development of the Indo-Pacific region. It mentioned "we reaffirm our consistent and unwavering support for ASEAN centrality and unity. We are committed to ensuring the Quad's work is aligned with ASEAN's principles and priorities and continues to support implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). We underscore ASEAN's regional leadership role, including in the East Asia Summit, the region's premier leader-led forum for strategic dialogue, and the ASEAN Regional Forum. We strongly support Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship and its Chair theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of

However, as many critics have pointed out that ASEAN and QUAD are yet to engage formally on several of the commonalities propagated by them in their respective dialogue boxes. ASEAN countries, as some point out, may not be fully aligned or acclimatised with QUAD's vision for the region. However, the current chair of ASEAN, Indonesia, may be more favourable to having a meaningful dialogue with QUAD. It helps that the QUAD has steered away categorically from being a military partnership to more of a cooperation model on critical and emerging technologies, climate change, maritime cooperation and resilient supply chains. It helps for ASEAN to not have a colosseum in their backyard where two large powers, US and China collide. Many of the ASEAN nation countries are more favourably inclined to have China take the lead than a USled body. However, with the inclusion of the six ASEAN countries in the US-led Indo-Economic Framework (IPEF), to which India is also a founding partner, these nations would be finding some value in QUAD.

(The (writer is a policy analyst)

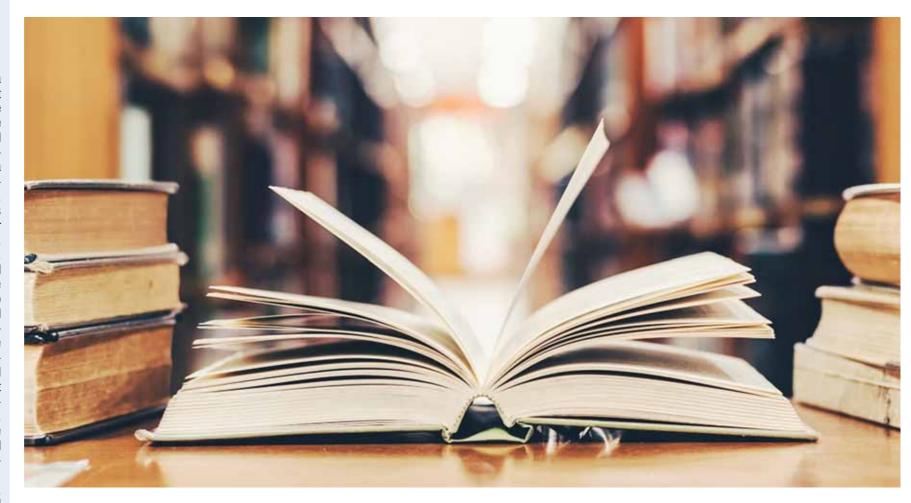
## Inculcating a culture of reading





YUVRAJ MALIK

A civilization that reads, thinks and pushes forward fresh ideas, requires easy access to books and reading materials, whether in print or digital space



ne of the most fascinating aspects of reading is its ability to transport us to places we've never been, know people we can never meet. I remember vividly how, as a child, I found joy in my books during times of melancholy or happiness or any free time. As I turned the pages, I could feel the wind on my face as I soared through the skies with the birds or meandered through the mysterious streets of far-off lands, laughing or crying with the characters I loved. The characters in these stories became my friends, their triumphs and struggles mirroring my own.

But reading isn't just about stories or fantasy; it is a window into wisdom and knowledge. It is the ultimate superpower. Within the pages of a book lie the secrets of the universe, the histor ilizations, and the musings of brilliant minds. As we read, our minds expand, our perspectives broaden, and new ideas take root. It is through reading that we can learn from great philosophers, understand the complexities of human nature, and make sense of the world around us. Books and reading play a vital role in shaping the life of an individual.

Reading gives freedom to the mind and opens up avenues for knowledge, imagination, and information, thus contributing to the making of a well-rounded human being. It not only helps in the improvement of language—rather this is just the tip of an iceberg for what reading can achieve for the individual, society, and the policymakers. Its impact operates in a multi-layers manner. It improves vocabulary, increases awareness, develops critical and analytical thinking as well as enables us to broaden our horizons towards various aspects of life.

Introduced to children at a very young age, it initially acts as a medium of



APPROPRIATE **BOOKS AND** MATERIALS ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TO ALL CHILDREN IRRESPECTIVE OF

THEIR LOCATION AND SOCIAL STATUS

(Archna is from joint Secretary School, Education and Literacy & Yuvraj is the director National Book Trust)

education and eventually nurtures

ideas, giving shape to the mind.

In today's fast-paced world,
where information bombards us from all sides, taking the time to read can feel like a luxury. But let us not forget the immense joy that comes with immersing ourselves in a good book. The joy of feeling the weight of a novel in your hands, the anticipation before flipping the first page, and the satisfaction of turning the final one. It is a moment of pure bliss, a reminder IS TO MAKE of the power of the written word and its ability to ignite a spark AVAILABLE within our souls. All intellectuals and famous people have talked about this joy of reading.

"Books Are My Favourite READING Library, With Many Thousand Books, To Be My Greatest Wealth." Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

> Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi once underlined, "When citizens read, the country leads." Aligned with his thoughts, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on a knowledgebased society and the creation of global citizens with global values and perspectives.

It reflects the necessity to acquaint ourselves with the developments taking place around the world to prepare and work in the direction of becoming a nation of citizens equipped with proper knowledge as well as being competent and willing to take challenges. A country with well-read human resources and necessary

skills directly contributes to the

economic, social as well as cultur-

the building blocks of develop-

A civilization that reads, thinks and pushes forward fresh ideas, requires easy access to books and reading materials, whether in print or digital space. This is now covered as a part of the education

In the past too, campaigns like 'Vanche Gujarat,' which means 'Read Gujarat,' at regional levels created a great impact on the younger generation. This mission was an initiative to inculcate reading habits and a culture of bookmindedness in society. In one of the speeches by the PM, he had urged the public to replace bouquets with books while greeting people, suggesting now this would make a huge difference in their

However, the challenge is to make available appropriate books and reading materials accessible and affordable to all children irrespective of their location and social status. The digital accessibility of content has provided a new ray of hope to create an even playing field for developing a suitable reading ecosystem.

During the presentation of Union Budget 2023, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance, announced setting up a National Digital Library for children and adolescents to "facilitating the availability of quality books." In addition, the creation of a physical library at the panchayat level to give access to a digital library has also been announced. In continuation of this, the al growth of the country, acting as National Book Trust, India, and

similar other sources will be encouraged to publish suitable books for these libraries as well as promote reading habits across the country with a special focus on providing non-curricular titles in regional languages and English, making up for the loss of learning during the pandemic.

For a society to be inclusive and progressive, it is important to be educated and not just literate. Books can contribute to one's life without even making the individual realize the extent of their effect on them. How just picking up a book to read can change lives, transform thoughts, and develop opinions and perspectives.

It provides a wide array of scope to explore and ponder over facts, stimulates the brain and helps one grow mentally and emotionally. Metaphorically, books can be considered like an open door, which takes us into a whole new world filled with endless possibilities and opportunities.

In this context, the role of the National Digital Library (NDL) is significant. Being set up by the Ministry of Education, the NDL project seeks to develop a framework of a virtual repository of joyful reading resources with a deviceagnostic single-window search facility. Albert Einstein rightly said, "The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.

The National Digital Library can help us realize this in a better way, as one can read in it on any device, whenever and wherever the children want. Ah! The joys of reading may be experienced by all.

## Adopt 'citizen'-based planning to make cities resilient

The vulnerable communities must be consulted while city planning to make them liveable and the process sensitive to its residents

ike most extreme weather events, urban floods ⊿have increased in frequency and intensity. Be it the Srinagar floods in 2014, Chennai in 2015, Mumbai in 2017 and Bengaluru in 2022 climate change is combining with encroachment on water bodies, river beds, haphazard urban construction and inadequate drainage to compound the pattern of monsoon floods and convert it into a cycle of annual man-made disasters. So once again, the recent floods in Delhi and this week in Junagadh have shifted public discourse back on the question of infrastructure failures, planning and building resilience in Indian cities.

In these conversations, the recognition that the impact of these crises is not even across



SANDEEP CHACHRA

(The writer s Executive

Director, of ActionAid

different sections of "cityzens" is most often muted. As with all natural and man-made disasters, the impact felt is highly differential.

People having scarce to no savings, highly vulnerable to income and wage loss and living in precarious housing - the so-called slum dwellers, face the full impact of inclement weather and floods.

Except for rare occasions, heavy rain and flooding will lead only to civic inconvenience or an unexpected holiday for most of the middle and upper class, with prospects of drinking warm tea and hot pakoras to celebrate the rain.

As part of ActionAid Association's flood relief and response work during the Chennai floods of 2015, we documented the losses and

damage that families in the low-lying areas – what is typically in city planning circles called "untenable" areas of the city. We found that losses suffered by such families, numbering thousands, were never compensated fully. Most residents of those areas were from the Dalit community and in the unorganised sector - in daily wage work, domestic workers and street vendors.

The impact is not just short-term. Flood control measures also impact vulnerable people the most.

Thus, after the Chennai floods of 2015, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board removed thousands of families from the city's Saidapet, Kottapurum, RA Puram and Nadambakkam areas to Perumbakkam and Ezhil Nagar. After nearly a decade of floods, the families continue to face the challenges of displacement rather than the deluge. Some studies tell us that almost 20% lost their livelihoods on relocation.

It was not rain in the city as much as the rains in Himachal Pradesh that caused the floods in Delhi. The downpour in the mountains led to an enhanced flow of water in the river Yamuna and the need to release water at the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana. The waters of the Yamuna rose to the highest level on record, beating the previous high set in September 1978.Flooding affected five districts of the city, and the

administration evacuated

almost 35,000 people and

relief camps. Families living on the banks of the Yamuna lost household articles, suffered house damage, and wage workers in low-lying areas lost several days of daily income. What is ironic is that the preceding months saw

heatwaves engulf cities. Then earlier, the story of pollution led to a ban on construction activities with little or no compensation to construction workers. So, while the paradigm of urban planning and development certainly needs to shift on questions related to land use, infrastructure, commons and nature-based solutions for advancing cities on a path of sustainability, we also need to bring into the discourse leadership from the vulnerable "cityzens" who suffer housed more than 5,000 in in all forms of extreme weath-

er and disasters to realise the city we need now!

Paradigm shifts in urbanisation need visioning and a participatory democratic momentum and, therefore, cannot be technocratic, topdown exercises. A transformed and renewed approach to urban life calls for social momentum on the part of the "cityzens"; and on the part of city governments, a determined journey of trust for participatory democratic processes. Learnings from the history of participatory budgeting, which was first developed in the 1980s by the Brazilian Workers' Party and the People Plan Campaign of 1996 in Kerala, can be adapted and further developed in the urban context in India to advance and realise the idea of peoples visioning, planning and budgeting for the city, within the framework of sustainable cities and the right to the city embodied in the New Urban Agenda. Setting up city-based peoples' commissions on sustainable urbanisation under the aegis of the ongoing National Mission for Sustainable Habitats would perhaps be a good starting point to progress peoples' visioning, planning and budgeting for the city. While developing a

People's Vision of the City (PvoC) programme in 2015, we found it a valuable process for advancing the idea of collective ownership and the right to access and enjoy urban resources and to build up collaborative efforts to re-structure the city space.

Greek wildfires

## Niger's prez detained as soldiers declare coup

Niger's president defiantly declared Thursday that democracy would prevail, a day after mutinous soldiers detained him and announced they had seized power in a coup over the West African country's deteriorating security situation.

While many people in the capital of Niamey went about their usual business, it remained unclear who was in control of the country and which side the majority might

A statement tweeted by the army command's account declared that it would back the coup in order to avoid a "murderous confrontation" that could lead to a "bloodbath." It was not possible to confirm that the statement was gen-

Meanwhile, President Mohamed Bazoum - who was elected in 2021 in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since its independence from France and is a key ally of the West appeared to have the backing of several political parties.

"The hard-won achievements will be safeguarded. All Nigerians who love democracy and freedom will see to it," Bazoum tweeted early Thursday morning.

Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou issued a similar call on news network



France 24, asking "all Nigerien democratic patriots to stand up as one to say no to this fac-

He demanded the president's unconditional release and said talks were ongoing. Benin President Patrice Talon, head of the Economic Community of West African States, is expected to lead mediation efforts.

Bazoum is a key ally in the West's efforts to battle jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel region. Extremists in Niger have carried out attacks on civilians and military personnel, but the overall security situation is not as dire as in

neighbouring nations.

The fight against extremism in the region has become a major arena in which the West and Russia have vied for

Bazoum was seen by many as the West's last hope for partnership in the Sahel after Mali turned away from former colonial power France and instead sought support from the Russian mercenary group Wagner. Wagner appears to be

making inroads in Burkina

Western countries have poured aid into Niger, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited in March, seek ing to strengthen ties. American, French and Italian troops are currently stationed in the country to train its soldiers, while France also conducts joint operations.

But the threat to Bazoum has raised concerns that Niger could also turn away from the

On Thursday, several hundred people gathered in the capital and chanted support for Wagner while waving Russian flags. Later, they began throwing rocks at a passing politician's car.

### UK lawyers' watchdog opens probe into

PTI ■ LONDON

asylum cases

The UK's watchdog for solicitors said on Thursday that it is investigating legal firms and individuals suspected of breaching rules in advising clients on making false asylum claims. The Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA) said it is looking to take "urgent action" after UK Justice Secretary Alex Chalk wrote to its chair in the wake of an undercover investigation by 'The Daily Mail' newspaper earlier this week.

The sting operation report included claims that illegal migrants from Punjab are being allegedly advised by some lawyers in the UK to fake persecution over their support for Khalistani groups to apply for asylum in the country. It even prompted British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to take to Twitter to condemn the actions of the solicitors caught up in the sting.

"This is what we're up against. The Labour Party, a subset of lawyers, criminal gangs they're all on the same side, propping up a system of exploitation that profits from getting people to the UK illegally. I have a plan to stop it," Sunak tweeted. His Cabinet minister in the Ministry of Justice, Alex Chalk, followed this up with a letter demanding that the SRA use the "full force of sanctions" at its disposal against solicitors found to be abusing the country's immigration system.

## 'Trump wants to see Biden impeached'

McCarthy acknowledged

there's still much that is

unknown about Joe Biden and

whether he had any awareness

or involvement in his son's

business deals that would arise

what we know and what we

don't know," said Rep. Tom

Cole, R-Okla., a seasoned law-

maker and committee chair-

know — we don't know if any

money went directly to

President Biden or not," Cole

said, explaining the message to

the House GOP. "That's what

they do the investigations

about."Rep. Marjorie Taylor

Greene, R-Ga., said McCarthy

also told them if it comes to a

Biden impeachment inquiry,

he's going to ask that "you be with me on this." Greene, a

Trump ally backing impeach-

ment, said no one rose during

the private meeting to object.

that the House is considering

an inquiry, the Republicans

are elevating a once rare con-

Kuwait executes five prisoners, including

man convicted in 2015 mosque bombing

By putting Biden on notice

The speaker went through

"There's a lot we don't

to an impeachable offense.

Donald Trump wants to see President Joe Biden impeached, and the former president's allies in Congress and his 2024 GOP presidential rivals are eager to join that fight as his own legal challenges mount.Trump's chief oppo-nent, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, this week said the House Republicans "are absolutely within their rights" to consider an impeachment inquiry against Biden.

Former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, also running for president, said Republicans would be "justified to do it." And House GOP leaders aligned with Trump are foreshadowing what's ahead.

"House Republicans will leave no stone unturned," said Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, the fourth-ranking House GOP leader and a top Trump ally, who is sometimes mentioned as a potential vice presidential pick.

This week, the prospect of impeaching Biden over the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden, emerged from the far corners of the GOP's right flank to the mainstream in the Republican Party.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced on Fox News that the House may open an impeachment inquiry into Biden, and expanded on his plans at a Tuesday press event at the Capitol.

Behind closed doors Wednesday, however, the Republican speaker told GOP colleagues it's early in the impeachment process, and ment charges over high crimes and misdemeanors — into yet another tool being wielded in party politics. It's a political escalation, urged on by Trump, after his own two impeachments.

The prospect of a Biden impeachment inquiry also comes as Trump faces mounting legal cases, including a potential federal indictment in the investigation led by Special Counsel Jack Smith over his efforts to overturn the election in the run-up to the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol.

Trump is the only president in U.S. history that has been twice impeached — first in 2019 over his phone call urging Ukrainian President Voľodymyr Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on the Bidens or risk losing U.S. military aid, and again in 2021 in the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol by Trump supporters trying to overturn Biden's elec-

Now, as the Republican party's frontrunner for the nomination to take on Biden in 2024, Trump has long seethed over his impeachments at the hands of House Democrats. McCarthy has suggested the Trump impeachments could be expunged, as proposed by Stefanik and Greene. But Trump wants Biden to face similar impeachment charges.

They impeach me over a perfect' phone call, and they don't impeach Biden," Trump posted online in capital letters this week, calling the current gressional check on executive

reach Athens outskirts Rhodes (AP): Wildfires reached the outskirts of Athens

on Thursday as strong gusts of wind caused flare-ups around

> fires have raged across parts of the country during three successive Mediterranean heat waves over two weeks, leaving five people dead, including two firefighting pilots, and triggering a huge evacuation of tourists over the weekend on the island of Rhodes. Water-dropping helicopters

Greece, disrupting highway traffic and rail services. The

and a ground crew scrambled early Thursday to a blaze in Kifissia, just north of Athens, which was quickly put out. Near the central city of

Volos, a wildfire burned on two fronts, forcing a section of Greece's busiest highway to close for several hours, while national rail services passing through the area were delayed. Greek firefighters also bat-

tled flames on Rhodes for a 10th successive day, while flareups were reported on the island of Evia. The World Meteorological

Organization, a UN body, and a European Union climate change service reported Thursday that temperatures in the month of July set a new global record.

As Southern Europe fights extreme heat and wildfires, parts of central Europe have been hit with winter conditions. Subfreezing temperatures, frost and snow have been reported in the Tatra mountains, which run through Poland and Slovakia. In Italy, firefighters battled

brush fires in the southern mainland regions of Calabria and Puglia, as well as the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, helped by temperatures dropping some 13 degrees Celsius (55 F) into the low- and mid-30s C (high 80s F). Sicily remained the focal point, with fires continuing to burn near the capital, Palermo, as seven aircraft were engaged to douse the flames."Without doubt, we can see that all across the Mediterranean the climate crisis is here and it's affecting us all more strongly than perhaps even scientists had warned us about," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Thursday during a meeting with the country's president, Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

## Late Shri Desh Bandhu Gupta, R/o Flat No-151, Block-D, Sector-18, Rohini Delhi-110085. I am the Owner/Purchare of Flat No. 151, Block-D,

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Rajeev Lochan, S/o

Sector-18, Rohini Delhi-110085 vide DDA file no The original documents i.e. Allotment letter, Demand letter, DDA Possession Letter, NOC for Electric & Water connection, Site Possession Letter and all bank challan and others papers has been lost. An FIR of this has been lodged in

Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above amed person at above address/phone No. 9456655556 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Div. property can personally inform or write to Dy

Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Ameeta Mathur, D/o Late Shri Rajendra Behari LaI, R/o DDA SFS Flat No 1202, Ground + First Floor (Duplex), Pkt-A. No 1202, Ground + Frist Floor (outpiex), PKI-A, Sec-A, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070 at presently I am the Co-owner/Co-Allottee of Flat No. 1202, Ground + First Floor (Duplex), Pkt-A, Sec-A, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070 vide DDA

file no F126(771)83/SFS/VK/III.
The original documents i.e. DDA Possession Letter, NOC for Electric & Water connection, and others papers has been lost. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 693180/2023 on 25/07/2023. Definition through the control of the publication of this notice. The person (s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above amed person at above address/phone No. 9815217440 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this report year personally inform or write to Div. property can personally inform or write to Dy.

PUBLIC NOTICE
DOCUMENTS MISSING

Notice is hereby given that the property being land bearing M. No. 10, Kila No. 22 (0-18), M. No. 13, Kila No. 2/1 (4-14), 2/2 (1-3), 9/1/2 (4-2), Total 10 Kanal 17 Marla, Village Dudhola, Tehsil & Distt. Palwal, Haryana belongs to M/s Trinity Touch Private Limited, D-10, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024. The below mentioned two sale deeds are part of chain documents of the above property. (1) Sale Deed No. 319 dated 11-04-2007 and (2) Sale Deed No. 322 dated 11-04-2007, both registered at the Office of Sub-Registrar, Palwal. The above two original sale deeds were misplaced on 25.07.2023 by company's staff while visiting Defence Colony Market and these are not traceable. If anybody is in possession of the above original documents, they are requested to hand over the same to the below address. TRINITY TOUCH PRIVATE LIMITED
D-10, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
Tel. No. 011.71200900

Prosecutors said the five include the man convicted in mosque attack,

Abdulrahman Sabah Idan, three people convicted of murder and a convicted drug dealer from Sri Lanka. One of the convicted murderers was Egyptian, another was Kuwaiti.Idan, known as Saud, was a so-called Bidoon, a group largely made up of descendants of desert nomads considered stateless by the Kuwaiti govern-

During his trial, prosecutors described him as driving the Saudi suicide bomber to the Imam al-Sadiq Mosque in Kuwait City. The 2015 bombing occurred during midday Friday prayers inside the mosque, one of Kuwait's oldest The Islamic State group,

which at the time controlled large areas in both Syria and Iraq, claimed the attack, which also wounded over 220 people. The Sunni extremist group views Shiites as apostates deserving of death.It was the first militant attack in Kuwait in more than two decades. The attack was likely intended

Kuwait's Sunni and Shiite Muslim populations, but instead it was widely condemned and reawakened a sense of national solidarity not seen since Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of the small, oil-

to foment unrest between

continues to carry out sporadic attacks in Syria and Iraq.

#### rich country. The extremist group no longer controls any territory following a gruelling military campaign by an array of local and international forces, but

## kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

### NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Amit Jain having address at- C-6, Lohia Nagar Ghaziabad- Uttar Pradesh 201001 with Navvug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for the last

All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Amit Jain calling upon him to operate the locker has returned unserved and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Amit Jain within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

### kotak

### NOTICE

Locker hired by Ms. Anjana Batra having address at-3D-28 Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201001 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated and rent due for the last 8 years

All the 3 letters sent to Ms. Anjana Batra calling upon her to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Ms. Anjana Batra within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around

## kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by Mr. Anupan Jain/Nidhi Jain having address at- F-81, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201002 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated a 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains unoperated and rent due for the

All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Anupan Jain/Nidhi Jain calling upon them to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Mr. Anupan Jain/Nidhi Jain within 90 days from the date of this notice. break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023

## NOTICE

AP DUBAI

statement.

last 6 years.

not contactable.

at around 12 p.m

## **C** kotak

ruwait said on Thursday it ✓

executed five prisoners,

including an inmate convicted

over the bombing of a Shiite

mosque in 2015 that killed 27

people and was claimed by the

Islamic State group.

The inmates were hanged

at the Central Prison, Kuwait's

Public Prosecution said in a

### NOTICE

Locker hired by Ms. Hemlata Chaudhry having address at-141 Patel Nagar III Ghaziabad-Uttar Pradesh 201001 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated and rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters sent to Ms. Hemlata Chaudhry calling upon her to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Ms. Hemlata Chaudhry within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

## kotak

#### NOTICE

Locker hired by Mohd Harun/ Waseem Akram having address at- H No-392 Gali No-4 Hindan Vihar Sihanigate Ghahziabad Uttar Pradesh with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navvug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated and rent due for the last 7 years.

All the 3 letters sent to Mohd Harun/ Waseem Akram calling upon them to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Mohd Harun/ Waseem Akram within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

## kotak

Tyagi having address at- No-8

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Vandana Tyagi within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

### Locker hired by Ms. Vandana

Sec-15 Rajnagar Nr Hint Chowk Ghaziabad - Uttar Pradesh - 201002 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for the last 7 years. All the 3 letters sent to Ms. Vandana Tyagi calling upon her to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is

## EU opens antitrust probe against MS

Brussels (AP): The European Union announced Thursday that it opened a formal antitrust investigation targeting Microsoft into the software company's Teams messaging and videoconferencing app over concerns that its bundling with its Office productivity sofware suite gives it an unfair edge over competitors. The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's top competition enforcer, said that it would carry out its in-depth investigation as a matter of priority."

The investigation stems from a complaint filed in 2020 by Slack Technologies, which makes popular workplace messaging

Slack, owned by business software maker Salesforce, alleged that Microsoft was abusing its market dominance to eliminate competition — in violation of EU laws — by illegally combining Teams with its Office productivity software suite.

## Elon Musk wants to turn tweets into 'X's'

San Francisco (AP): Elon Musk may want to send "tweet" back to the birds, but the ubiquitous term for posting on the site he now calls X is here to stay — at least for now.

For one, the word is still plastered all over the site formerly known as Twitter. Write a post, you still need to press a blue button that says "tweet" to publish it. To repost it, you still tap "retweet".

But it's more than that.With "tweets", Twitter accomplished in just a few years something few companies have done in a lifetime: It became a verb and implanted itself into the lexicon of America and the world. Upending that takes more than a top-down declaration, even if it is from the owner of Twitterturned-X, who also happens to be one of the world's richest

"Language has always come from the people that use it on a day-to-day basis. And it can't be controlled, it can't be created, it can't be morphed. You don't get to decide it," said Nick Bilton, the author of 'Hatching Twitter: A True Story of Money, Power, Friendship, and Betrayal" about Twitter's origins. Twitter didn't



start out as Twitter. It was "twttr" - without vowels, which was the trend in 2006 when the platform launched and SMS texting was wildly popular. The iPhone only came out in 2007. Twitter co-founder Evan

Williams "went one day and purchased the vowels, two vowels for essentially \$7,500 each," when he bought the URL for twitter.com from a bird enthusiast, Bilton said.

At the beginning, people didn't "tweet" — it was "I'm going to twitter this," Bilton recalled. But "twittered" doesn't roll off the tongue and "tweet" soon took over, first in the Twitter office, then San Francisco, then everywhere.

We've been tweeting for well over a decade.

### Aro granite industries Itd.

Email Id: investorgrievance@arotile.com, Website: www.arotile.com

(CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510) Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Phone: 011-41686169; Fax: 011-26941984

#### **NOTICE OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Aro granite industries Itd. ("the Company") will be held o Friday, September 08, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. through video conference (VC/OAVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular No.14/2020 (dated 8th April 2020), 17/2020

(dated 13th April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5th May 2020) followed with Circular No. 02/2021 (dated January 13, 2021), 2/2022 (dated 5th May 2022)

3/2022 (dated 5th May 2022), 10/2022 (dated 28.12.2022) issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circular/s") and Circular No

SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 05th January 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue. Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year ended 31st March, 2023 of the Company shall be sent to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository participant(s). Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the 35th AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circular/s and SEBI Circular The Notice and Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company <u>www.arotile.com</u> and on the website(s) of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively, where the Company's share:

The Company is providing remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") to all its members to cast their votes on all the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Additionally, the Company is providing the facility of voting through e-voting system during the AGM ('e-voting'). Detailed procedure' for remote e-voting/e-voting has been provided in the Notice of the AGM which will be sent to you shortly

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest for receiving the Annual Report 2022-23 along with AGN Notice. Members are requested to provide their e-mail addresses and bank account details for registration to Alankit Assignments Limited, RTA o

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/the respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, folio number, scanned copy of share certificate (front and back) along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2022-23 along with AGM Notice by e-mail to ramap@alankit.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their e-mail address with their Depository Participants. Alternatively, shareholders/members may send a request to <a href="helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com">helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com</a> for procuring user ID and password for e-voting by providing above mentioned documents. Please note that the updation/registration of e-mail addresses on the basis of the above scanned documents will be only for the purpose o

sending the notice of 35th AGM and Annual Report for 2022-23. The Member(s) will therefore be required to send the e-mail ID updation request along with hard copies of the aforesaid documents to RTA for actual registration in the records to receive all the future communications including Annual Reports, Notices, Circulars, etc. from the Company electronically. Members holding shares in demat form can update their e-mail address with their Depository Participants. The Notice of the AGM shall contain the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join

The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for financial year 2022-23 will be sent to members in accordance with the applicable laws on their registere

Place: New Delhi Date: 27.07.2023

For Aro granite industries Itd Sabyasachi Panigrahi Company Secretary

### **kotak** Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Ashu Tyagi

having address at-H 87 Patel Nagar- III Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201001 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for last 7 years and rent due for the last 3

All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Ashu Tyagi calling upon him to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and he is not contactable It is hereby informed that

despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Mr. Ashu Tyagi within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around

## kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

#### NOTICE Locker hired by Ms. Chanchal

Chawla having address at-KA-68, Old Kavi Nagar Ghaziabad-Uttar Pradesh - 201002 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for the last All the 3 letters sent to Ms.

Chanchal Chawla calling upon her to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable. It is hereby informed that

despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Chanchal Chawla within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

### kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank NOTICE

### Locker hired by Mr. Gauray

Gupta having address at-C-8-263 Yamuna Vihar Near Government School Delhi-110053 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for the last 7 years. All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Gaurav Gupta calling upon him to operate the locker has returned unserved and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Gaurav Gupta within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

## Kim Jong meets with Russian defense min

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to discuss military issues and the regional security environment, state media said on Thursday, illustrating North Korea's support for Russia's war in Ukraine as the isolated country celebrated the 70th anniversarv of an armistice that halted fighting in the 1950-53 Korean

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim and Shoigu talked Wednesday in the capital, Pyongyang, and reached a consensus on unspecified "matters of mutual concern in the field of national defense and security and on the regional and international security environment."

During the meeting, Shoigu conveyed to Kim a "warm and good letter" signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, KCNA said. The report did not that were discussed.

North Korea has been aligning with Russia over the war in Ukraine, insisting that the "hegemonic policy" of the US-led West forced Moscow to take military action to protect its security interests. The Biden administration

has accused North Korea of providing arms to Russia to aid its fighting in Ukraine, although the North has denied the claim. The Kim-Shoigu meeting will help to "further boost the strategic and tactical collaboration and cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and security," KCNA said. In a rare case of diplomat-

ic opening since the start of the pandemic, North Korea invited delegations from Russia and China to attend the events marking the armistice of July 27, 1953. While the truce left the Korean Peninsula in a technical state of war, the North still



sees it as a victory in the "Grand Fatherland Liberation War."

KCNA said Kim also took Shoigu to an arms exhibition that showcased some of North Korea's newest weapons and briefed him on national plans to expand the country's military capabilities. State media photos and video from the exhibition showed Kim and Shoigu walking near a row of large missiles mounted on launcher trucks.

Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that the South Korean military was analyzing the military assets shown in the North Korean photos but did not share specific assessments. When asked about the pos-

sibility that Shoigu's visit was to discuss importing weapons from North Korea, John Kirby, the White House's National Security Council coordinator for strategic communications, didn't answer directly but said it was clear Putin is reaching out to other countries for support in fighting his war in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin knows he's having his own defense procurement problems, his own inventory problems, that his military remains on the back foot, and he's trying to shore that up," Kirby said. The North Korean festivities were widely expected to be capped later Thursday by a giant military parade in Pyongyang, where Kim could showcase his most powerful,

media, however, had not confirmed plans for a military parade.

Some experts say North Korea sees US confrontations with China and Russia over regional influence and the war in Ukraine as an opportunity to break out of diplomatic isolation and insert itself into a united front against Washington. Both Moscow and Beijing have been derailing US efforts to strengthen UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea over its flurry of missile tests since 2022.

The last time North Korea invited foreign government delegates for a military parade was in February 2018, when it held a low-key event that excluded Kim's ICBMs.

North Korea at the time was initiating diplomacy with Seoul and Washington as Kim attempted to leverage his nuclear program for badly needed economic benefits.

## 'Russia will make max efforts to avert food crisis'

Russian President Vladimir Putin told leaders and officials from most African countries on Thursday that his nation is making full efforts to avert a global food crisis despite concerns that its withdrawal from a deal allowing grain shipments from Ukraine will cause shortages and price

He spoke at the opening session of a two-day Russia-Africa summit attended by a sharply lower number of African heads of state and government compared with a previous summit in 2019.

"Our country will continue supporting needy states and regions, in particular, with its humanitarian deliveries. We seek to actively participate in building a fairer system of distribution of resources. We are taking maximum efforts to avert a global food crisis," Putin

"I have already said that our country can replace Ukrainian grain, both on a commercial basis and as grant aid to the neediest African countries, more so since we expect another record harvest this year," he said.

Russia and Ukraine agreed a year ago on a UN- and Turkey-brokered deal that reopened three Ukrainian Black Sea ports that had been blocked by Russia-Ukraine fighting and provided assurances that ships entering the ports would not be attacked.Russia declined to renew the agreement this month, complaining that its own exports were being held up. Both Russia and Ukraine

suppliers.Promising Russian food exports to Africa is key to Putin's stated goal of using the summit to bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.
Putin also announced

other moves to deepen relations with Africa, including increased enrollment of African students in Russian universities, the opening of Russian state news media bureaus in many African countries and a proposed "common information space in Russia and Africa, within which objective, unbiased information about events taking place in the world will be broadcast to Russian and African audi-

Africa's 54 nations make up the largest voting bloc at the United Nations and have been more divided than any other region on General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine.

It's the second Russia-Africa summit since 2019. The number of heads of state attending shrank from 43 then to 17 now because of what the Kremlin described as crude Western pressure to discourage African nations from taking

Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said that while only 17 heads of state are attending the summit, 32 other African countries are represented by senior officials or ambassadors. Along with grain, another issue likely to be on the agenda is the fate of Russia's Wagner mercenary group led by Yevgeny Prigozhin following its brief rebellion against the top military leadership last

## Pak's Senate approves Army Act amendment

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's Senate on Thursday passed a bill to amend the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 which proposes up to five years in jail for anyone who discloses sensitive information about the country's security and army.Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2023' amidst the government's efforts to prosecute former prime minister Imran Khan on the 'cypher' issue.The proposed bill states that a person who makes an unauthorised disclosure of information obtained in an official capacity for the security and benefit of Pakistan will be punished with rigorous imprisonment for up to five years.A person making a disclosure with the permission of the chief of army staff or an authorised officer will not be punished, it said.

It also stated that anyone who discloses information against the interests of the country and the Pakistan Army will be dealt with under the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.Khan's ex-

principal secretary Azam Khan earlier this month accused the 70-vear-old cricketer-turnedpolitician of using a cipher (secret diplomatic cable) from Pakistan's mission in the US last year to gain political mileage and build an "antiestablishment narrative".

A person subject to the Army Act shall not participate in any political activity until two years after his retirement, resignation, or dismissal from service. Neither would it be permissible for a person posted on sensitive duty to engage in political activity for five years following their service, it

Any individual found guilty of breaching the clauses barring political engage-ments would be liable for punishment of up to two years, it

Notably, the new law further says that if a person under the Army Act is involved in any electronic crime, the purpose of which is to defame the Pakistan Army, then action will be taken against them under the Pakistan Electronic Crimes

### 21 dead after boat overturns in Philippines

Manila (AP): At least 21 people died and 40 others were rescued after a Philippine passenger boat overturned on Thursday when it was lashed by strong winds in Laguna Lake southeast of Manila, police said. Police said rescue operations were continuing, but did not immediately provide figures for the total number of people on board the MBCA Aya when it capsized in Rizal

The boat capsized when its assengers moved to one side of the boat in panic when it was battered by fierce winds about 46 meters (about 150 feet) from Kalinawan village in Binangonan town, the coast

The Rizal provincial police said it immediately launched a search and rescue operation with the help of the coast guard and other local authorities and at that least 40 people were saved but 21 others drowned."The operation is still ongoing for the possible rescue of other passengers," the Rizal police said in a statement.

## Fighting in Ukraine has intensified, says Putin

Fierce fighting raged Thursday in southeastern Ukraine, where a Western official said Kyiv has launched a major push and Russian President Vladimir Putin said "hostilities have intensified significantly."

images appeared to be intercon-

tinental ballistic missiles that

the North has flight-tested in

recent months as it pursues an

arsenal that can pose a viable

threat to the continental United

States. Kim and Shoigu also

walked past what were possibly

new surveillance and attack

drones that had not been pub-

licly announced by the North.

Lee Sung Joon, a

Battles in recent weeks have taken place on multiple points along the 1,500-kilometre front line as Ukraine wages counteroffensive with Western-supplied weapons and Western-trained troops against Russian forces who invaded 17 months ago.

Putin praised the "heroism" with which Russian soldiers were repelling attacks in the Zaporizhzhia region of the southeast, claiming Moscow's troops not only destroyed Ukraine's military equipment but also inflicted heavy losses to Kyiv's forces.

He insisted Ukraine's push in the area "wasn't successful," although it was not possible to independently verify his report. A video of Putin's remarks, made in St. Petersburg at a



summit of African leaders, was posted on Telegram by a state reporter Pavel Zarubin.

Ukraine has committed thousands of troops in the region in recent days, according to a Western official who was not authorised to comment publicly on the matter.

Ukrainian officials have been mostly silent about battlefield developments since they began early counteroffensive operations, although Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said troops are advancing toward the city of Melitopol in the Zaporizhizhia region.

Though that could be a tac-

ments have used disinformation to gain battlefield advantages, such a maneuver would be in line with what some analysts had predicted.

They envisioned a coun-teroffensive to punch through

tical feint, and both govern-

the land corridor between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014, toward Melitopol, near the Sea of Azov. That could split Russian forces into two and cut supply lines to units farther west. Russia currently controls the whole Sea of Azov coast.

The counteroffensive faces deeply entrenched Russian defences featuring minefields, trenches and anti-tank obsta-

The Institute of Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported that Ukrainian forces launched "a significant mechanised counteroffensive operation in western Zaporizhzhia region" Wednesday and "appear to have broken through certain pre-prepared Russian defensive positions.

### NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Tel: 0135-2714074 Website: www.nagarnigamdehradun.com E-Tender Notice

NND invites RFP for Selection of Agency for conducting IEC/BCC Activites in 50 wards under NCAP/SBM in Dehradun from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document Interested bidders are requested to download the RFP document from e-tender portal Government of Uttarakhand from 28.07.2023, 02:00 PM onwards. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 04.08.2023 at 11:00 AM. Any Addendum/Carrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The last date & time for online submission of bids is 12.08.2023 up to 2:00 PM.

Letter No. 456/IEC/SBM-NCAP/2023 Date 27.07.23

Municipal Commissioner Nagar Nigam Dehradun

## SL all-party meeting to be reconvened after discord

PTI COLOMBO

The all-party meeting aimed 📘 at reconciliation and conferring full powers to Sri Lanka's provincial councils will be reconvened in a month after initial deliberations on Wednesday failed to yield any agreements, party officials said on Thursday. The all-party meeting was

called by President Ranil Wickremesinghe to discuss the government's National Reconciliation Programme and the way forward. MÁ Sumanthiran, a mem-

ber of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), tweeted that the Sri Lankan President's position vesterday was contrary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wish for full implementation of the India-backed

Peshawar (PTI): In yet anoth-

er cross-border love story, a

Chinese woman has travelled

Pakhtunkhwa province to

marry the man whom she

befriended and fell in love

Pakistan's Khyber

Chinese woman reaches Pak to

marry social media sweetheart

### 13A IMPLEMENTATION

13A.Before his recent visit to New Delhi, Wickremesinghe at a meeting with the Tamil parties represented in the north and east provinces had agreed to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment (13A) to the Sri Lankan Constitution with all-party consensus without the police powers being granted to the provinces. The 13A was India's pio-

neering move in 1987 to try and bring a settlement to the issue of political autonomy to the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It created nine provinces as devolved units with a temporary merger of the northern and eastern provinces. Sumanthiran said that Prime Minister Modi told Wickremesinghe to hold the stalled provincial council elections but the President had other ideas. "But yesterday we were told to choose one or the other," Sumanthiran tweeted. Sumanthiran was referring to Wickremesinghe's position that it was the political parties who must by consensus decide if the India-backed 13A should be fully implemented or scrapped altogether.

Prime Minister Modi durhis talks with Wickremesinghe in New Delhi had expressed hope that the Sri Lankan leader would be committed to implementing the 13A and holding the provincial council elections. He urged to ensure a life of respect and dignity for the Tamils.

**Imran alleges** 

forced drug

## **kotak** Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Singh/Sachin Tyagi having address at- S/o Horam Singh Dushyan Kiran Kumar Chander Kumar Vill Makanpur Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated and rent due for the last 8 years.

All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Natthu Singh/Sachin Tyagi calling upon them to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by Mr. Natthu Singh/Sachin Tyagi within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Ravindra

Kumar/Rashmi Garg having

address at- II C 217 Nehru Nagar

Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh

201001 with Navyug Market

Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak

Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at

30,31 Navyug Market,

Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-

operated and rent due for the

All the 3 letters sent to

Mr. Ravindra Kumar/Rashmi

Garg calling upon them to clear

dues and to operate the locker

has returned unserved and they

It is hereby informed that

despite this notice if dues not

cleared and locker is not

operated by Mr. Ravindra

Kumar/Rashmi Garg within 90

are not contactable.

last 8 years.

## **kotak**

NOTICE

Locker hired by Ms. Pratima Lal/Audh Behari Lal having address at- P-47 Sanjay Nagar Sector 23 Rajnagar Uttar Pradesh 201002 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated and rent due for the last 5 years.

All the 3 letters sent to Ms. Pratima Lal/Audh Behari Lal calling upon them to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if dues not cleared and locker is not operated Ms. Pratima Lal/Audh Behari Lal within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

kotak

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Sanjay

Kumar Pathak/Pratima Pathak

having address at- 10,

Madhubani Duplex, Kanth

Road Moradaba Uttar Pradesh

244001 with Navyug Market

Ghaziabad Branch of Kotak

Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at

30,31 Navyug Market,

Ghaziabad, 201001 remains

un-operated and rent due for

All the 3 letters sent to Mr.

Sanjay Kumar Pathak/Pratima

Pathak calling upon them to

clear dues and to operate the

locker has returned unserved

It is hereby informed that

despite this notice if dues not

cleared and locker is not

operated by Mr. Sanjay Kumar

Pathak/Pratima Pathak within

and they are not contactable.

the last 5 years.



All the 3 letters sent to Ms Radha Sharma calling upon her to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable

Sharma having address at-III 50 Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001 with Navyug Market Ghaziabad Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank** Ltd. situated at 30,31 Navyug Market, Ghaziabad, 201001 remains un-operated for the last 7 years.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Radha Sharma within 90 days from the date of this notice. break open of the said locker will be done on October 27th 2023 at around 12 p.m

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Shashi Kant

Tyagi/Vimal Tyagi having

address at- S/o Risal Singh E-

Block H No-SF-2 Shiv

Appartement Ghaziabad Uttar

Pradesh 201001 with Navyug

Market Ghaziabad Branch of

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

situated at 30,31 Navyug

Market, Ghaziabad, 201001

remains un-operated and rent

All the 3 letters sent to Mr.

Shashi Kant Tyagi/Vimal Tyagi

calling upon them to clear dues

and to operate the locker has

returned unserved and they are

It is hereby informed that

despite this notice if dues not

cleared and locker is not

operated by Mr. Shashi Kant

due for the last 7 years.

not contactable.

APPENDIX- IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Ede** Asset Reconstruction Company Limited [CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the

Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 41,48,830/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty only) pending Loan Account No. HHLDPR00492736, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 13.07.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loar Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 14.07.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from IMRAN KHAN and NIDAPRAVIN. The above-mentioned Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including

("IHFL") to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting as Trustee of EARC TRUST SC 439, vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.09.2021. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD" will be **Rs. 2,55,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only)** i.e. equivalen

the Immovable Property, had been assigned by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF PLOT NO- C-1A (PART C - 001A), BUILT ON NORTHERN PORTION ON 1ST FLOOR ADMEASURING 96.15 SQ MTRS., SEC - 3, ANSAL CHIRANJIVI VIHAR COLONY, VILLAGE MEHRULI, PARGANA DASANA, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201001.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.edelweissarc.in; For bidding

Date: 26.07.2023 EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD Trustee of EARC TRUST SC 439

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. [CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769] (**"Secured Creditor")**, the **constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"as is where is**", **"as is** what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 1,22,06,217/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Two Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen only) pending towards Loan Account No A005OOX [Old Loan Account No. HLAPDCP00231966], by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 20.07.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loar document(s) w.e.f. 21.07.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from MR. AJIT KUMAR MISHRA and MRS. MANISHA MISHRA with INVEST CARE PVT. LTD, and INVESTCARE PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD.

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the Imn Property, had been assigned by Indiabulis Housing Finance Limited ("IHFL") to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.09.2019. The said Loan Account has been further assigned by IARCL to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting as a Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust vide ent Agreement dated 26.04.2021 read with Rectification Deed dated

The Reserve Price for the Immovable Property will be Rs. 2,40,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 24,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

VILLA BEARING UNIT NO. KWO00A0069, COVERED AREA OF WHICH IS 524.78 SQ. MTRS. (5648.76 SQ. FT.), IN KINGSWOOD ORIENTAL AT JAYPEE GREENS WISHTOWN, SECTOR - 128, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH - 201301.

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD. TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

Tyagi/Vimal Tyagi within 90 For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.acreindia.in; For bidding, log or

Date : 27.07.2023 Place : NOIDA

#### 90 days from the date of this days from the date of this notice. days from the date of this confidence vote in the National notice, break open of the said break open of the said locker will notice, break open of the said Assembly. He has alleged that locker will be done on October be done on October 27th, 2023 locker will be done on October his ouster was part of a US-led at around 12 p.m 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m 27th, 2023 at around 12 p.m

#### with on social media, police said on Thursday. The woman, identified as Gao Feng, arrived in Islamabad last week by road from China via Gilgit on a three-month visit visa. The 21-year-old was picked up by her 18-vear-old friend Javed, a resident of Bajaur tribal district bordering Afghanistan, they

Javed took the woman to his maternal uncle's home in Samarbagh tehsil of Lower Dir District instead of his hometown due to the security situation in Bajaur District bordering Afghanistan. According to police, both were in contact through Snapchat for the last three years and the friendship developed into a

Gao married Javed on Wednesday after converting to Islam and her new name is Kiswa, the man's maternal cousin Izzatullah Khan told

Izzatullah said Gao arrived in Islamabad on July 20 where he and Javed received her. From there they came to Lower Dir District on July 21 where Gao stayed at Izzatullah's residence in Samarbagh.

nikkah on Wednesday and then left for Islamabad after the local police and district administration convinced them that her stay in the district was not safe due to security reasons and the Holy Month of Ramadan, Izzatullah said.

PTI over the phone.

Javed and Gao performed

Izzatullah further said that Javed is pursuing a Computer Science course at Bajaur Degree College and will do a court marriage with Gao in

confession by driver **PTI** ■ LAHORE

 $P_{\text{ister Imran Khan on}}^{\text{akistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan on}}$ Thursday alleged that police forced a driver to confess that he supplied him drugs.The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief said that the federal government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has fallen to great depths just to get him disqualified or jailed ahead of general elections later this year.

> 140 cases across the country and faces charges like terror ism, violence, blasphemy, corruption and murder since he was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-

Khan is facing more than

## Locker hired by Mr. Natthu

## Sensex declines 440 points

### As profit-booking hammers banking, auto

PTI MUMBAI

¬ quity benchmark indices→ Sensex and Nifty buckled Lunder heavy selling pressure on Thursday as investors pared exposure to bellwether stocks HDFC Bank, M&M, Nestle and Reliance Industries amid a mixed trend in global

Besides, the interest rate hike by the US Fed failed to boost sentiments in the domestic market, which saw a steep decline led by banking and auto stocks, traders said.

After opening with gains of over 125 points, BSE Sensex plunged 440.38 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 66,266.82, while Nifty declined 118.40 points or 0.60 per cent to close at 19,659.90

M&M was the biggest loser in the Sensex chart, falling 6.39 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, ITC, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank and RIL.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, L&T and Infosys were among the winners, rising up to 2.10 per cent.

"Markets witnessed wild ration on the expiry day as the ÚS Fed signalling one more rate hike dampened the sentiment and prompted investors to book profit in automobile, banking and oil & gas shares.

"However, realty and pharma shares were in the limelight



after the recent correction.

Many investors are not com-

fortable with the current valu-

ations, and hence are redeem-

ing their investment on every

ossible opportunity," Shrikant

Chouhan, Head of Research

(Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd,

The shares of the Mahindra

Nestle India Ltd on Thurs-

group firms fell amid reports

that M&M is looking to buy

around a 10 per cent stake in

day reported an increase of

36.86 per cent in its net profit at

Rs 698.34 crore for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023.

day reported a 38 per cent fall

in June quarter net profit at Rs

Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services, the US

Federal Reserve's interest rate

move, which triggered positive

cues globally, failed to boost the

sentiment in the domestic mar-

ket, which saw a sharp correc-

tion led by banking and auto

Tech Mahindra on Wednes-

According to Vinod Nair,

RBL Bank.

"The FOMC's decision aligned with market expectations as they implemented a 25 bps hike and expressed a datacentric approach for future rate actions. Positive global sentiment prevailed due to the reduced prospects of a US reces-

"Despite this, the domestic market witnessed sharp corrections led by banks and autos while pharma stocks performed on a positive start to their earnings season," Nair said.

On the 50-stock index Nifty, as many as 21 closed the session in the green, while 29 ended in red. Profit booking was the order of the day as investors preferred to book profit after the US Fed delivered a 25 bps rate hike yesterday. The benchmarks ended the expiry day on an uninspiring note, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research),

Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.48 per cent and smallcap index inched up 0.07 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, the auto index fell 1.28 per cent,

oil & gas declined 1.09 per cent, while the bankex slipped 0.77 per cent and energy went down ).85 per cent.

NSE Nifty

In contrast, healthcare rallied 2.39 per cent, realty jumped 2.11 per cent, telecommunication went up 0.40 per cent, and capital goods rose 0.31 per cent.

"Fed's statement today left the door open for an additional hike, but the final decision will depend on how the economic data evolve between now and then. It noted that its ratesetting committee "remains highly attentive to inflation risks," Devarsh Vakil - Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

Asian equities rose on growing speculation the US Federal Reserve is close to the end of hiking interest rates after the central bank said any further tightening would be datadependent.

"Major equity indices advanced across the region, with Hong Kong-listed technology stocks leading gains,

> In Asian markets, Hang end at 19,778.30.

India to meet 76% electricity requirements in 2023-24 from thermal power plants



PTI NEW DELH

India will meet 75.66 per cent of electricity requirement of 1,750 billion units in fiscal 2023-24 from thermal power plants, the government told parliament on Thursday.

The electricity generation programme has been fixed at 1,750 BU for the year 2023-2024. 75.66 per cent of electricity would be generated from thermal power plant with an average plant load factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) of 66.90 per cent," stated Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

Further, he also informed the House that there is adequate capacity available in the country to meet the rising demand of power with projected energy surplus of 56,796 million units (3.6 per cent) and peak surplus of 1,717 MW (0.7 per cent) in 2023-24.

In order to increase the power generation capacity in the country, 18 coal based thermal power projects having total capacity of 25,440 MW, one gasbased thermal power project with 370 MW capacity and 42

hydro-electric projects (above 25 MW) having total capacity of 18,033.5 MW (as on 30th June 2023) are under construction in the country, he informed the House.

He also stated that nuclear capacity totalling 8,000 MW is under various stages of construction.

Singh explained that there is adequate capacity available in the country to meet the rising demand of power with projected energy surplus of 56,796 MU (3.6 per cent) and peak surplus of 1,717 MW (0.7 per cent)

in the year 2023-24.

During April-June 2023
period, 4,07,762 million units of electricity was supplied against the demand of 4,08,621 million units leaving a deficit of 858 million units or 0.2 per cent, the minister said in another written reply to the House.

There is adequate availability of electricity in the country. Γhere is a negligible gap between energy requirement and energy supplied on account of factors attributable to discoms such as constraints in distribution network, financial constraints, commercial reasons etc., Singh stat-



### Rupee rises 9 paise against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee gained 9 paise to L close at 81.92 against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking the weakness of the American currency in the overseas market after the US Fed raised interest rates on expected lines

However, weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.
At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.92 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 81.91 to 82.03 in the day

The rupee finally settled 9 paise higher at 81.92 against the previous close of 82.01 on Friday. The rupee gained on the

weak US Dollar and positive Asian and European markets amid stimulus talks from China, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) hiked interest rates by 25 basis points to the 5.25-5.50 per cent range, the highest in 16 years

## SAT modifies order in ZEEL matter; permits Sebi to appoint authorised officer to decide case



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chandra.

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Thursday modified its earlier order and allowed Sebi to appoint an authorised officer to decide the alleged fund diversion case involving Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd's promoters Punit Goenka and Subhash

This was permitted due to a lack of whole-time members (WTM) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

"We direct Sebi to appoint another WTM, and if no WTM is available, then any authorised officer higher in grade or rank or position to the WTM would hear and decide the matter...The person who is appointed shall pass the order within the stipulated period," SAT said in its

order.

The order came after the capital markets regulator appealed to SAT to modify the appellate tribunal order passed on July 10 that directed it to appoint another WTM other than the WTM who had passed the order on June 12 in the ZEEL (Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd) case. This was done to

**BUSINESS AVENUES** 

Independent Safety Assessments (ISA)

Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999

remove bias.

there is no WTM at present to hear and decide the matter.

At present, there are three WTMs - Ananta Barua, Ananth Narayan G and Ashwani Bhatia. Bhatia is the WTM who passed the impugned order. Ananta Barua is going to retire on July 31, 2023, and therefore, is not in a position to hear and pass an appropriate order before his retirement, Sebi said.

"Ananth Narayan G could have been appointed to hear the matter, but we find that Ananth Narayan G was also part of the settlement proceedings and, therefore, in terms of paragraph nos 36 of our order dated July 10, 2023, there is a possibility that this WTM would be influenced by the discussion that took placed in the settlement pro-

ceedings," it added. In the interim order on June 12, Sebi barred Chandra and Goenka from holding the position of a director or key managerial personnel in any listed company for siphoning off funds of the media firm. Both Chandra and Goenka moved SAT seeking a stay on the Sebi order, citing injustice.

**BUSINESS BRIEF** 

**GURUGRAM:** RITES Ltd, India's leading transport infrastructure

**POWERGRID CELEBRATES KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS** 

Kargil War in 1999. The day commemorates the victory of

PARA SWIMMER SATENDRA FELICITATED

fro. Speaking on the occasion, the Social Justice and

outstanding effort in bringing glory to the nation

Operation Vijay, which was a significant military victory over

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

Lohiawho scripted History by crossing the English Channel to and

Empowerment Minister congratulated Satendra Singh Lohia for his

today felicitated International Para Swimmer Satendra Singh

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023 is celebrated annually across the country

on July 26th to pay tribute to the bravery and valor of the Indian

soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during the

consultancy and engineering firm, today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with DNV Business Assurance India PvtLtd. to jointly explore business opportunities in the areas of

RITES AND DNV SIGN MOU TO EXPLORE

### Corporate funding in energy storage halves to USD 7 bn ın Jan-Jun 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{otal\ corporate\ funding\ in}_{\ energy\ storage\ globally\ fell}$  55 per cent to USD 7.1 billion during the January-June period or first half of 2023, according to Mercom Capital.

The segment had attracted USD 15.8 billion during the same period in 2022, the research firm said in its latest

The report comes at a time when various governments across the globe are aiming to increase storage of renewable energy as part of their green initiatives to meet their net zero

"Corporate funding into energy storage companies reached USD 7.1 billion in 59 deals in 1H (first half) 2023, a 55 per cent decrease YoY compared to USD 15.8 billion in 60 deals in 1H 2022," it said. However, the corporate

funding in energy storage bounced back in April-June or Q2 2023 with USD 4.9 billion raised in 32 deals, a 126 per cent increase quarter-over-quarter (QoQ). The funding during the Q2 was up 67 per cent year-over-year (YoY), the report said.

The venture capital (VC) funding in energy storage in 1H 2023 was up 27 per cent with USD 3.8 billion in 43 deals compared to USD 3 billion in 48 deals in 1H 2022. The VC funding for energy storage companies was also up in Q2 2023 with USD 2.7 billion in 24 deals, a 148 per cent increase QoQ compared to USD 1.1 billion in 19 deals in Q1 2023.

The debt and public market financing activity in the first half of 2023 was at USD 3.3 billion in 16 deals, lower as compared to the first half of 2022, when USD 12.8 billion was raised in

12 deals. In first half of 2023, smart grid companies raised USD 1.8 billion in corporate funding in 33 deals, a 64 per cent increase compared to USD 1.1 billion raised in 25 deals in 1H 2022.

### Sebi mandates Legal Entity Identifier for all non-individual FPIs Common Application Form

TOP GAINERS

2.03 Sun Pharma

1.67 Divis Labs

LOSERS

Seng went up 1.41 per cent and Japan's Nikkei was 0.68 per cent higher. Chinese index

Shenzhen was down 0.41 per cent and Shanghai slipped 0.2

European markets were broadly higher with CAC 40 of France rising 1.35 per cent while Germany's DAX gained 0.89 per cent. The UK's FTSE

100 was up 0.30 per cent. In the US market on Wednesday, S&P

500 closed 0.02 per cent lower,

while Dow Jones settled 0.23 per

cent higher. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was

trading 0.95 per cent higher at USD 83.71 a barrel.

tors (FIIs) were net buyers in

the capital markets on

Wednesday as they bought

shares worth Rs 922.84 crore,

according to exchange data. Breaking its three-session losing run on Wednesday, the 30-

share BSE Sensex climbed 351.49 points or 0.53 per cent

to settle at 66,707.20. The

broader NSE Nifty advanced

97.70 points or 0.50 per cent to

Foreign Institutional Inves-

Apollo Hospital 0.65 Bharti Airtel

Tata Cons. Prod

9.64 Cipla

Change -118.40

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday made it mandatory for all non-individ-ual Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to provide their Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) details in common application form used for registration, KYC and account opening.

LEI, a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions, is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity, in any jurisdiction, that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique 20-character code to identify legally distinct entities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd

on Thursday reported a 30.5 per

cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 236.01 crore in the

first quarter ended June 30, 2023, driven by strong revenue

growth. The company had post-

ed a consolidated net profit of Rs

180.84 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Indian Hotels

Company Ltd (IHCL) said in a

regulatory filing.
Consolidated revenue from

operations were at Rs 1,466.37

crore during the quarter under

review as compared to Rs

1,266.07 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

at Rs 1,221.76 crore as compared

to Rs 1,053.12 crore a year ago, the company said. IHCL

Managing Director & CEO Puneet Chhatwal said the com-

Total expenses were higher

**Indian Hotels Company** 

consolidated net profit rises

30.5 % to ₹236 cr in Jun qtr



that engage in financial trans-

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directions mandate non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of above Rs 25 crore to obtain LEI code. Presently, FPIs are required

to provide their LEI details in the

pany ended the first quarter with

a strong performance led by a

leading portfolio, IHCL signed

11 (hotels) and opened 5 new

hotels across all its brands. With

our vast footprint across over

125 locations, we will leverage

the buoyancy in India's travel

and tourism sector," he added.

ing quarters remains strong

with the pace of demand driven

by domestic consumption

momentum, global events, and

revival of international arrivals,

Chhatwal said.

The outlook for the upcom-

"Maintaining our industry

double-digit revenue growth.

(CAF), used for registration, KYC and account opening of FPIs on a voluntary basis, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. 'It has now been decided to

mandate the requirement of providing LEI details for all non-individual FPIs," it added.

Sebi said that all existing FPIs, including those applying for renewal, that have not already provided their LEIs to their Designated Depository Participants (DDPs) will be required to do so within 180 days failing which their account days, failing which their account will be blocked for further purchases until LEI is provided to

## economy by 2027 Netweb Technologies shares jump 82%

in debut trade PTI ■ NEW DELHI

of Rs 500.

their DDPs.

Shares of high-end computing solutions provider Netweb Technologies made a strong debut on Thursday and ended the day with a premium of 82 per cent against the issue price

The stock began the trade at Rs 947, up 89.4 per cent from the issue price on the NSE. During the day, it hit an intra-day high of Rs 952 apiece. Shares of the company finally ended at Rs 912, rallying 82.40 per cent.
On the BSE, shares of the

company made its debut at Rs 942.50, witnessing a sharp uptick of 88.50 per cent. It later settled at Rs 910.50 apiece, a jump of 82.10 per cent.

The company commanded market valuation of Rs 5.104.72 crore. In volume terms, more than 1.70 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE and 11.02 lakh shares were on



Elargest lender SBI on Thursday advanced their estimate on the Indian economy becoming the third largest in the world by two years to 2027.

In a note that comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence of winning a third term and India galloping to being the third largest till 2029, SBI economists said India's real GDP will grow

at over 6.5 per cent in FY24.
"The path taken by India since 2014 reveals that India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy in 2027 (or FY28) based on actual GDP data as on March 2023, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014, when India was ranked 10th and two years earlier than our previous forecast of 2029," the economists said in the note.

PM Modi-led NDA government came to power in 2014. The RBI estimates the real GDP to grow at 6.5 per cent, which is one of the highest estimates by any watchers. At present, India is the fifth largest economy in the

The SBI report said the GDP will grow at 8.1 per cent in

ensures that the overall expansion surpasses 6.5 per cent. It also added that growing at 6.5-7 per cent is the new normal for the country.

Stating that the economy is in a "sustained goldilocks" period, the economists at the stateowned lender said becoming the third largest economy will be a "remarkable achievement by any standards" for India.

The incremental increase of USD 1.8 trillion estimated in the economy's size between 2022-27 will be more than the current size of the Australian economy,

the economists said. India's share in the global GDP will be 4 per cent by 2027, they said, adding that the economy will add 0.75 trillion to its

overall size every two years. Such a pace of GDP expan sion will make India a USD 20 trillion economy by 2047 when the nation will be celebrating a century of its existence as a free

A nominal growth of 11-11.5 per cent or a real growth of 6.5-7 per cent per annum will help India's compounded annual growth rate come to 8.4 per cent, it said, adding that such a growth is "eminently possible".

## Sales of luxury homes touching 3,100 units in Apr-Jun across 7 cities: CBRE

Luxury housing segment continues to witness a strong demand with sales of homes priced at Rs 4 crore and above

fold jump to 1,000 units during the second quarter of this calendar year from 50 units in the corresponding period of the last year. Sales of luxury homes in Delhi-NCR rose three times to 1,050 units from

In Pune, 150 units were sold in April-June this year as against nil in the year-

Sales in Mumbai declined to 750 units in the second quarter of this year from 800 units in the year-ago period. In Bengaluru, demand fell by half to 50 units during April-June as compared to 100 units in the corresponding period of the

We are witnessing an impressive growth and resilience of the luxury nousing segment. This surge signifies the strong demand and positive momentum in the luxury housing market.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate a stronger second half of 2023 in the residential market, supported by factors such as a healthy supply pipeline, the



approaching festive season, and stabilising mortgage rates," Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa of CBRE, said.

On the trend, DLF Group Executive Director & Chief Business Officer Aakash

rational needs. "Among other Indian cities that

have recorded a rise in demand for luxury properties, NCR stands out observing not just an increase in sale, but even rising rentals for luxury homes. Within NCR, Gurugram particularly has emerged as a preferred choice for luxury homebuyers, with large presence of HNIs (High Networth Individuals) and UHNIs (Ultra High Networth Individuals) base and a significant rise in the number of affluent millennials in the region," he said.

isation, improved affordability and aspi-

### ago period. Demand in Chennai and PTI ■ NEW DELHI Ohri said that the luxury housing sector Kolkata remained flat at 50 units each. is expected to sustain strong sales momentum, on the back of rapid urban-

touching 3,100 units during the April-June period across seven major cities, according to CBRE. Sales stood at 1,400 units in the year-ago period.
As per the data, Hyderabad saw 20-

## India clubbed with China, B'desh & Myanmar

he Indian men's football team has been clubbed with China, Bangladesh and Myanmar for the Hangzhou Asian Games in a relatively easy Group A, while the women have Thailand and Chinese Taipei in Group

The draw was conducted here on Thursday.

The Indian men's and women's football teams' participation at the quadrennial extravaganza was confirmed after the Sports Ministry decided to relax the existing selection criteria.

There are six groups in the men's competition. The top two teams from each group and four best third-placed teams will advance to the round of 16.

As far as the women's competition is concerned, the top team from each group and the three best second-placed teams will progress to the quarterfinals.

"Host nation China is going to be a very competitive game for our youngsters and I expect that this match will decide the winner of the

group.
"With all the respect to Bangladesh and Myanmar,

many, many youngsters in the senior national teams already, we need to outplay them on the pitch. I expect us to win the first position against China, and I expect our youngsters to do a brilliant job for India," Indian men's team coach Igor Stimac said on

Stimac also spoke about the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers.

"The World Cup Qualifiers draw 2026 was not kind or lucky for us. Having Qatar, one of the best Asian teams in our group, is going to be a big task, but we proved not long ago that we can find our way against such teams.

"And then Kuwait, by far the best team also, and Afghanistan or Mongolia which we played in recent past, once again we need to stay very clear. The second position in the group needs to

We need to do everything to prepare well, to get enough time from all the stakeholders of Indian football for a good preparation and make sure that India goes through to the third round of the World Cup Qualifiers," he said.

For the women's competition, 17 teams have been



divided into five groups where Group A, B and C has three teams each while Group D and E has four teams apiece.

Like the men's event, the women's competition shall also consist of two stages; group stage in a single round

robin league system and knock-out stage will consist of the quarterfinals, semifinals, bronze medal match and gold

medal match, all in single round knockout system. Indian women's side head coach Thomas Dennerby said

interesting draw. We definitely have a good chance against both teams. But our preparation time is the key. We need to work very hard for the next eight weeks."

India enjoyed early success in men's football in the Asian Games, winning gold in the inaugural edition in 1951

and repeating the feat in 1962. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had earlier refused to clear the Indian football teams for the Games on the ground that they were not ranked in the top-8 in

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) then made an appeal to the Sports Ministry to allow the two sides to take part in the prestigious event. Stimac also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter.

Since 2002, football in the Asian Games has been an U-23 affair with three players above that age being permitted in a team.

However, in this edition of the Games, 24-year-old players are also eligible to play because of the one-year postponement of the Games owing to the rising COVID cases in China last year.

Chhetri, first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and star defender Sandesh Jhingan are set to be part of the Indian men's team as the

three over-age players.

For the 2022 Asian Games, the date of birth cut off was January 1, 1999, and this cut off will read the country of the cut off will read to the cut off will read the cut of organisers had decided in February. The three overage players will also be allowed to

tion of the mega event. The Indian men's team currently occupies the 18th spot among the countries under Asian Football Confederation, while the women's side is ranked 11th.

play in the football competi-

The Indian men's team has entered the sub-100 club in the FIFA rankings once again, having won the SAFF Championship where it played against Lebanon and Kuwait. This year India had also won the Intercontinental Cup and the tri-nation football tournament featuring Kyrgyz Republic and Myanmar.

The women's team has also done well, beating Kyrgyzstan twice in the Olympic Qualifiers Round 1.

The Asian Games will be held from September 23 to



## **Bellingham off the** mark as Madrid down Man United

the first goal of his Real Madrid career as the Spanish giants defeated Manchester United 2-0 in a pre-season friendly in

English midfielder

Madrid defender

Brazilian international Vinicius Jr. might have doubled the Madrid lead shortly afterwards but scuffed his shot from eight yards

AP LIVERPOOL

at Anfield.
"We can

media channels.

almost got back on level terms after 36 minutes, but Marcus Rashford was just unable to find the target from a tight angle.

trol, United's frustration boiled over shortly before half-time when Lisandro Martinez clattered into Bellingham with a wild tackle. Bellingham reacted angrily and Martinez earned a booking for the

After a flurry of changes at half-time United looked improved after the break, but Madrid created the better chances, with Militao almost making it 2-0 on 69 minutes only to see his shot cleared off the

Madrid finally made

## Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe has refused

to meet officials from Al Hilal, dealing a potentially fatal blow to the Saudis' ambitious hopes of completing a world record 300-million-euro (\$333 mil-

The French star has refused "any discussion with the representatives of the Al-Hilal club, present in Paris this Wednesday," reported L'Equipe sports daily.

31st in the men'

World

touched the pad in 2:00.84.

Thursday.

the semifinals.

Championships here on

Aquatics

delegation from the Saudi club came to Paris to finalise the transfer of Brazilian Malcom from Zenit Saint

They also wanted to present their project to Mbappe while in the French capital.

"This approach will not succeed," added L'Equipe because the entourage of the 24-year-old player "refused any discussions with the representatives of the Saudi



"The captain of Les Bleus has never considered this been given permission by PSG option," the report added.

Riyadh-based Al Hilal had to open talks with Mbappe

despite him never having expressed an interest in moving to the fast-growing Saudi

Mbappe has one year left on his contract with PSG, who want him to leave now rather than for nothing next

But he is refusing to sign a new contract and the French champions believe he has already struck a deal to move to Real Madrid next year.

It is widely thought that Real hoped to pick up Mbappe

for free next year, attracting him with a colossal signing fee because they would not have to pay PSG anything for his

The standoff between Mbappe and the French club reached a new peak last weekend when they dropped him from their squad to tour Japan and South Korea. There have been sugges-

tions that Mbappe would not be selected for an entire year if he fails to find a solution

### **Nataraj** finishes 31st in 200m backstroke PTI FUKUOKA

Houston on Wednesday.

Bellingham, who joined Madrid from Borussia Dortmund in a \$114 million transfer in June, opened his account with an exquisite finish after just six minutes.

Antonio Rudiger caught the United defence napping with a superbly weighted ball that sent Bellingham bearing down on goal.

The 20-year-old took

one touch to control and then lifted a delicate chip over on-rushing United goalkeeper Andre Onana to give Madrid a deserved

iverpool captain Jordan

L'Henderson has completed

his move to Saudi Pro League

side Al-Ettifaq, both clubs announced on Thursday.

the latest big-name player to

move from the Premier League

to Saudi Arabia after 12 years

@JHenderson has completed a

Liverpool said on their social

Al-Ettifaq posted: "A

transfer to Al-Ettifaq,

The England midfielder is

confirm

out to let United off the

With Madrid in conchallenge.

the game safe in the 89th minute, with Lucas Vazquez crossing for veteran forward Joselu to light up the NRG Stadium with a stunning overhead kick

AP N WELLINGTON

Lindsey Horan denied the Netherlands a famous win over the United States on Thursday in a 1-1 draw while co-hosts Australia were primed to face Nigeria and seal a place in the last 16.

Premier Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj finished a dis-The United States beat 200m backstroke event at the ago to retain the World Cup and are now pursuing a third title in a row, something that has never been done before.

The 22-year-old clocked But they were far from 2:04.42 to finish last in his heat their best in front of a crowd as he failed to make the cut for of 27,312 in Wellington and fell behind in the 17th minute Of the 39 competing, the to a superb strike from midtop 16 swimmers across four fielder Jill Roord.

heats advanced to the semifinals. Vlatko Andonovski's side Srihari's personal best in the grew into the game and struck back just after the hour with event, which is also the best by an Indian swimmer, had come a header from skipper Horan, last year at the Commonwealth moments after she clashed Games in Birmingham when he with her Lyon teammate Danielle van de Donk.



#### The Americans might have won it after that, but the biggest match of the group stages ended in stalemate and neither side is yet assured of a berth in the knockout phase heading into their final group

States face Portugal and the with both expected to win.

US coach Andonovski described Horan's response to the altercation with Van de Donk as a turning point.

"It's a really good example of the leader that she is. She gets fouled, kicked, hurt and obviously it's a very difficult moment," Andonovski said. "And instead of crying

about it, she just goes and makes a statement.

His opposite number, Andries Jonker, was content with the point and called the game a good advert for women's football.

"These games are battles from the first second to the last. The only thing you can say is that women's football has evolved incredibly," the Netherlands coach said.

"We're there, along with On Tuesday, the United the US, and I'm very satisfied with that.'

### **VIETNAM OUT**

Portugal defeated Vietnam 2-0 in the other match in the group on Thursday in an encounter between two sides making their debuts at the World

First-half goals by Telma Encarnacao and Kika Nazareth ended Vietnam's hopes of going any further.

In the final match of Thursday, Australia suffered an embarrassing 2-3 defeat against Nigeria in front of a sell-out Brisbane crowd.

## Indian women draw 2-2 against Spain



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Navneet Kaur struck twice to help the Indian women's team register a come-from-behind 2-2 draw against hosts Spain in its second match of the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament here on Thursday.

Navneet was on target in the 14th and 29th minutes after Xantal Gine (13th) gave Spain the lead. The second goal for the home team was scored by Laia Vidosa (26th).

India will next play England in their third game of the tournament

### **Indian men's team** plays out 1-1 draw with Netherlands

with the Netherlands, who recently won the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022-23 title, in an intensely-fought match at the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation -International Tournament here.

but they bounced back on Then, in the match between Wednesday with an impressive performance.

compatriots Prannoy and captain Kidambi Srikanth, the former emerged victorious with a 19-21, 21-9, 21-9 win to advance to the quarters of the Super 750 tour-However, the Indian

## Satwik-Chirag, Prannoy and Sen enter Japan Open QFs PTI TOKYO

India's HS Prannoy prevailed in the match of compatriots after Lakshya Sen and the inform men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty sailed into the quarterfinals of the Japan Open badminton here on Thursday.

21-year-old Birmingham Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sen advanced to the quarters with a convincing pre-quarterfinals 21-14, 21-16 win over Japanese shuttler Kanta Tsuneyama in straight sets. Fresh from their triumph in

the Korea Open, the Indian men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj and Chirag too secured progress to the last-eight stage with their dominant win over the Danish pair of Lasse Molhede and Jeppe Bay.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag won 21-17, 21-11.

Sen's win over the 27-yearold Japanese shuttler took 50 minutes and, having cruised to win in the opening game, the man from Almora never let slip the advantage and grabbed the match quite comfortably.

21-23, 19-21.

Prannoy lost the opening game to Srikanth but fought

Badmintor women's pairing of Gayatri back strongly to claim the next

Gopichand and Treesa Jolly suftwo games and progress to the next stage of the tournament. fered an exit despite their valiant efforts against Nami Matsuyama For the duo of Satwik and and Chiraru Shida in their Chirag, it turned out to be an easy outing as they won in round-of-16 outing. They lost

straight games. The reigning Asian champions won the Korea Open (Super 500), Swiss Open (Super 300) and Indonesia Open

(Super 1000) titles this season.

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.

#### leader. A warrior. We're simply thrilled to have him.' The 33-year-old has finalised a deal with reported wages of up to £700,000-a-

Liverpool are due to receive



**Henderson completes move to Saudi club Al-Ettifaq** 

million) from the Saudi club. "As his Anfield chapter

now comes to a close, everyone at the club wishes to place on record their thanks and gratitude for everything Jordan did for us during his 12 years as a Red," Liverpool said in a statebyes to the club's fans on Wednesday

12 years into words and it's

"It's hard to put these last

even harder to say goodbye," he said in an Instagram post. "I will always be a Red. Until the Thank you for everything.

Henderson led the Reds to their first English league title for 30 years in 2020, a year after lifting the Champions League

The England international will be reunited with former Liverpool team-mate Steven Gerrard, who is Al-Ettifaq manager.

Henderson joined Liverpool from Sunderland in

2011 and succeeded Gerrard as

skipper at Anfield in 2015. France striker Karim Benzema quit Real Madrid to join Al-Ittihad, following his former Real team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo, who plays

for Al-Nassr.

players who have moved to Saudi Arabia include Chelsea's N'Golo Kante and Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino.

Other Premier League

### PTI BARCELONA The Indian men's hockey

India had lost to hosts Spain in their opening game,

In-form Harmanpreet Singh scored India's lone goal in the 12th minute, and Jasper Brinkman equalised for the Netherlands in the 40th.

## No idea if he'll travel to Ireland: Rohit on Bumrah

**PTI** BRIDGETOWN

ndia captain Rohit Sharma has indicated that his lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah's return to the fold is not imminent but he is desperately hoping to have him back before the World Cup.

While Rohit said "things look positive at the moment" as far as Bumrah's recovery is concerned, he couldn't guarantee if the fast bowler would hop on the plane to Ireland for the upcoming white-ball assignments in Ireland.

Speaking about Bumrah while addressing a press conference on the eve of the first ODI against the West Indies here, Rohit said, "The amount of experience he (Bumrah) brings is very important. Right now he's coming from a serious injury and I've no idea if he'll travel to Ireland because the team hasn't been announced yet.

"If he gets to play then it's good and we hope he plays before the World Cup. When a player returns from a serious injury, match fitness, match feeling are some key components, which are missing," said Rohit at the press conference ahead of the first ODI.

"We'll see what has been planned and everything depends on his recovery. We are in constant touch with the NCA and things look positive at the moment," added Rohit.

Bumrah had undergone surgery for a recurring back niggle in New Zealand in March and since then he has been on the recovery path.

The pacer had last played for India during the home T20Is against Australia in

**AP** COLOMBO

0 on Thursday.

in Colombo.

Noman Ali took seven wickets to lead Pakistan's

rout of Sri Lanka by an

innings and 222 runs to clinch

days and sweep the series 2-

the first seven and fast bowler

Naseem Shah took the final

three to bowl out Sri Lanka

for 188 in the evening session

Test as Sri Lanka suffered their heaviest Test defeat at

opening Test by four wickets,

Noman returned career-



Bumrah missed the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia and also missed the last Indian Premier League, a tournament in which he represents Mumbai

Last week the BCCI provided medical updates on the star

The matches in Ireland will be followed by the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, after which the Indian team will play three ODIs at home against Australia.

If Bumrah is not able to play in Ireland and Asia Cup, he will most likely feature in the series against Áustralia, which is scheduled to be held just before the World Cup.

Rohit also spoke about the Indian team's injury problems in their ODI setup and the need for

"You need experience when you go into big tournaments. But when there are injuries, you just don't know what you can do about it.

"Quite a few players are injured from our team but we try to identify players who are going to play in the World Cup and give them as many matches as possible so that they get the experience.

"Along with focusing on the XI, we need to focus on other 15-20 players too because anyone can get injured," the India opener said.

With the focus primarily on the World Cup, which India is hosting in October-November, Rohit said the team management will get a clear idea about players who could be picked with specific roles in mind for the marquee tournament, and also how the overall squad

"This (West Indies) is a very important series for us because many players are new here, they haven't played many matches, so it's important to give them exposure.

They should be be played and given a role and we will also get a chance to see that if they have been given a role, how they are performing in the role, how they are responding.
"We had focussed on all

things before the T20 World Cup last year that the new players who have come in the team how they perform in the roles they have been given.

"In the three matches here, what all players we can give chances to and then we will take a decision after these 10-12 ODIs (before the World Cup).

## Siraj rested for Windies ODIs as precautionary measure, flies back home

PTI NEW DELHI

India pacer Mohammed Siraj has been rested for the ODIs against the West Indies as a precautionary measure due to a sore ankle, the BCCI said on Thursday.

Siraj, who led the pace attack with aplomb in the Tests against the West Indies in the absence of seniors such as Mohammed Shami, flew back with the rest of the Test returnees.

"Mohd. Siraj has been released from Team India's ODI squad ahead of the three-match series against the West Indies," a BCCI media release read.

"The right-arm pacer has a sore ankle and as a precauadvised rest by the BCCI medical team," the release India have not named a

replacement for Siraj for the

three-match ODI series starting in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Thursday. In Sirai's absence, India's pace attacks now comprises Jaydev Unadkat, Umran Malik, Shardul Thakur, and

uncapped (in ODIs) Mukesh Kumar. "Siraj has been continuously playing since the IPL. Since then he has bowled in

three successive Tests. He will now directly join the Asia Cup camp in NCA for tune up to World Cup," a BCCI source said on Thursday.

## I've answered this question a lot of times: Rohit on Kohli's overseas Test form

**PTI** ■ BRIDGETOWN

An irked Rohit Sharma hit back at queries on Virat Kohli's overseas form in recent years, dubbing them as "outside noises" not concerning the

Former India captain Kohli recently ended his fiveyear long Test overseas century drought in the second match against the West Indies that ended in a draw in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Noman bags 7 as Pak

whitewash Sri Lanka

When a scribe asked if

there were concerns around the lack of big knocks from Kohli, the Indian captain said the team doesn't care about "outside noises".

"I've answered this question a lot of times. All the outside talk, who scored how many, took how many wickets... People who say such things don't know what happens inside," Rohit said during a pre-match press conference for the first ODI against the West Indies here on Thursday.

"For us, what happens



inside stays inside. We prefer that. For us, the most important thing is to win matches or It doesn't matter to us.

series, not who's talking what. "Our priority is the three ODI matches right now, we're focussing on that," he added. "Inside talks remain inside

and we want it to stay inside only. This is something that I have said a number of times and in future as well I will say this only," he added.

Kohli's latest hundred came in his 500th international match. It was his 76th century for India, having last hit an away ton in December

Kohli was dismissed for 76 in the first Test in Dominica.

## Bumrah is fully fit: BCCI secretary Shah

India will be sending a second string squad for the T20I series in Ireland but a fitagain pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is expected to be tested during the three matches in Malahide, BCCI serretary Jay Shah said on Thursday. Bumrah is currently doing

his extensive rehabilitation at the NCA post surgery to cure his lower back stress fracture and is expected to play a couple of warm-up games before a final call is taken.

"Bumrah is totally fit and he may go to Ireland," Shah told reporters here during a He also said that with 12

ODIs left before the World Cup, the endeavour will be to have a consistency in selection. "There will be consistency

in selections apart from Ireland tour," Shah added, making it clear that save Bumrah, who will be making a comeback, none of the World Cup bound senior players, including T20 captain Hardik Pandya will be selected for the three-match series which starts within six days of completion of the five T20Is against West Indies in the United States.
Shah also said that it is the

duty of BCCI to see that other



of health and hence there is so much of international cricket happening.
"For survival of other

boards, we have to tour everywhere. Injuries will happen as there is so much of cricket. We need look after other boards

### **INDIA 'A' SERIES**

After the end of the World Cup, the shadow tours which last happened in December 2022 will start with India 'A' travelling to South Africa before the senior team's full tour while England Lions will be coming to India before ness test," Shah said.

their five-Test series against the

### ALL SENIOR PLAYERS NEED TO PLAY DOMESTIC CRICKET The BCCI top boss also

outlined that all senior players who are not part of the Indian team need to play domestic matches.

"Recently, senior players like Cheteshwar Pujara and Suryakumar Yadav played Duleep Trophy. Whoever is not at NCA and not part of the Indian team will need to play domestic cricket. 80 per cent of the players have passed the fit-

## the second Test inside four The left-arm spinner took Pakistan, who won the

declared their first innings on 576-5 after just two overs in the morning session with a blowout lead of 410 runs. Abdullah

Shafique stood out with his 201 in an innings that saw three century stands, including a 124-run partnership with Agha Salman, who smashed an unbeaten 132. The hosts started strong-

Opener

ly with an opening stand of 69 until Noman bowled Nishan Madushka for 33 with his first ball of the day and ruled the roost thereafter. Dimuth

Skipper Karunaratne hit boundaries off Naseem and Shaheen Shah Afridi, with Madushka joining the charge until his departure

Left-hander Karunaratne fell for 41 after lunch and Noman soon sent back Kusal

Mendis and Dinesh Chandimal before Dhananjaya de Silva attempted to resist in his brief stay with Mathews. De Silva fell for 10 when

he was caught out by Abrar Ahmed while attempting a big heave over long-on. Angelo Mathews hit an unbeaten 63 and put on some fight with Ramesh Mendis before he was finally stumped off Noman, who went wicket-

less in Sri Lanka's first innings total of 166. Naseem bowled at express

pace and reversed the old ball to miss out on a couple of close lbw calls but finally wrapped up the tail with two wickets in one over.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan's concussion substitute Mohammad Rizwan reached 50 off 67 balls with three fours in the second over and put on 108 runs with

overnight partner Salman. Pakistan held all the aces after bundling out Sri Lanka for 166, with Shafique's maiden Test double ton guiding them to a mammoth total.

## **Ireland seals place for T20 World Cup 2024** PTI EDINBURGH

Ireland booked its ticket for the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup, set to be held in the West Indies and the United States of America after their qualifying round match against Germany was washed out.

Ireland thus sealed the second spot, with a game against an already-qualified Scotland still to be played on Friday. The top two teams in the European qualifiers go through to the main round. In the five matches the



Speaking on the qualification, Ireland captain Paul Stirling said that while his side will celebrate the achievement, it is eager to finish the qualifiers

"We are delighted to have achieved our primary objective of qualifying for next year's T20 World Cup. We came to Scotland with a clear plan and style of play we wanted to implement, and I think we delivered on that front," the skipper said.

"So we'll celebrate job done this afternoon, but there is a trophy on the line tomorrow, and we are keen to continue that winning momentum going into the India T20 series next month," concluded Stirling.

missed for 22 by a superb

Cummins delivery, the equiv-

alent of a fast leg-break, that the

batter could only edge straight

England's collapse con-



## 3 member boards request ICC to change World Cup schedule

Three full board members I have written to the International Cricket Council for a change in schedule of their matches in the ODI World Cup in India, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on

Thursday.

Speaking after a meeting with the associations hosting World Cup games, Shah said the issue of scheduling will be sorted in the next three four

days.
"Three members have written to the ICC for a schedule change. Only the date and timings will be changed, venues will not be changed. If there is a six day gap between games, we are trying to reduce to 4-5 days," Shah said during media conference

Thursday. "Picture will be clear in

happen in consultation with the ICC," he added. However the bCCI secre-

tary didn't specify which

nations have requested for a

date change. Asked about the re-scheduling of the big ticket World

Cup game between India and Pakistan in Ahmedabad on October 15, Shah, without referring to the marquee clash, said: "As I have said before, few member boards have written to the ICC and decision will be taken soon.' Both the BCCI and ICC

had announced the World Cup schedule last month and more changes are likely to cause problems for the fans. India open their campaign against Australia on October 8. A total of 48 games will be played across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19.

## Brook hits back in fifth Ashes Test after early Oz strikes

AP LONDON

Harry Brook counter-attacked in thrilling style after Australia picked up three early wickets on the first day of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval. England were 131-3 at

lunch on Thursday, having been wobbling at 73-3. Moeen Ali was 10 not out, while rising star Brook was unbeaten on 48 off just 41 balls. Australia have already

retained the Ashes as they are 2-1 up with one to play after a rain-affected draw at Old Trafford last week.

But the tourists arrived in London determined to secure their first Ashes series win in England for 22 years.

Australia captain Pat Cummins won his first toss of the series and opted to field in overcast conditions that promised to assist the fast owler and his fellow quicks.

Having outfielded England for much of the series, Australia dropped three catches in a morning session during which the hosts were well-placed at 62-0. Australia, however, man-

aged to reduce England to 73-3 either side of the drinks Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett ensured England made

a rapid start, scoring at a rate of six an over. Crawley, fresh from his dazzling 189 in Manchester, drove Josh Hazlewood on the

Left-hander Duckett almost took out non-striker Crawley when he thrashed an 85 miles-per-hour delivery from the fast bowler for anoth-



Duckett, however, should Next over, Crawley, on 11, have been out for 30 when he slashed at first-change Cummins's opening delivery, only for David Warner to drop a head-high chance in the the errors were not too costly,

was also given a reprieve when a diving Steve Smith failed to hold a much harder slip chance off all-rounder Mitchell Marsh. Fortunately for Australia,

41, caught behind down the legside off Marsh, although it needed the bowler's review to confirm the dismissal.

Duckett fell for a run-a-ball

Crawley, the leading runscorer in the series, was dis-

tinued when Joe Root was out for just five, playing on to an off-cutter from Hazlewood. Australia should have had

a fourth wicket when Brook, on five, edged Cummins, only for diving wicketkeeper Alex Carey to drop a onehanded catch when he might have got both gloves to the

Brook then cashed in on his good fortune with several fine drives and cuts before taking 14 runs off three successive Mitchell Starc deliveries with a cover-drive and a cut for four off the left-arm fast bowler followed by a superb hooked six.