

'Powered by e-commerce, India's internet economy to grow 6-fold'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India's internet economy is expected to register six-fold growth and touch USD 1 trillion in terms of online transaction value by 2030...

have led the path of digital innovation, small and medium businesses and large enterprises after the pandemic have started to use digital technologies to become more competitive...

segment is expected to grow 5-6 times to USD 65-75 billion by 2030 from USD 12-13 billion in 2022. The report estimates that the online travel segment will grow 4-5 times to USD 55-60 billion by 2030...

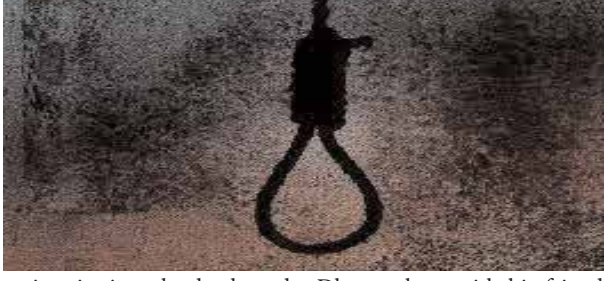
Shah lauds Govt's work to...

From Page 1

Rupala praised the Government's initiatives in the Fisheries Ministry, mentioning that the total expenditure on fisheries from Independence to 2014 was Rs 3,860 crore...

Rape victim's father ends life over police inaction

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



A minor rape victim's father was found dead in his house in Jalaun district. Though the police said no suicide note was found, the man's family alleged that he ended his life due to inaction of the local police...

an inquiry into the death, and action would be taken based on the report. According to the police, last Sunday, an FIR was lodged against three people...

India vibrant democracy: US ahead of Modi...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, the recently announced enhanced strategic and defense partnership between India and the US (INDUS-X) is expected to empower the industry and strengthen India's role as a net security provider...

increasing importance of India as a major commercial and defense partner for the US. He praised the Security of Supply Chain Agreement and reciprocal defense procurement agreement...

Pilot mulls new party...

From Page 1

Randhawa also said it is the media which is raising the issue. Randhawa claimed that 90 per cent of the matter was resolved and the rest was also not an issue. When asked about the 'formula' to broker peace between Gehlot and Pilot...

which is held annually, are in full swing in Dausa. The event is being supervised by Minister of State for Agriculture Marketing Murari Lal Meena known to be a close associate of Pilot.

upcoming Assembly elections later this year. While some sources, both within the Congress and close to Pilot, suggest that the former Rajasthan Congress chief may announce the formation of a new party...

Father's fighting spirit makes 'dead' boy walk...

From Page 1

Asked why people mistook him as 'dead', a doctor at SSKM Hospital said Biswajit might have gone into 'suspended animation' - a state of slowing down biological functions...

and because of him, I have got back this life again. Baba is everything to me," Biswajit told PTI from the hospital bed. Coromandel Express, in which Biswajit was travelling, crashed into a stationary goods train...

BSF...

From Page 1

The two injured Assam Rifles personnel have been evacuated to Manipur and search operations are in progress, the Indian Army's Spear Corps, headquartered in Dimapur, added on Twitter.

NCB busts global drug network...

From Page 1

"This is the largest-ever seizure of LSD blots in the country during a single operation. So far, six individuals in their twenties have been arrested, and we are currently pursuing another cartel," said NCB Deputy Director General (Northern Region), Gyaneshwar Singh...

two weeks. The blots are of the 'gammagoblin and holy spirit of asura' brands, according to Singh. LSD abuse is prevalent among young people and can lead to serious health issues, Singh emphasised.

LSD (around six blots), which is considered a commercial quantity of the hallucinogenic drug, invites strict legal action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

ious states, accepting payments through cryptocurrency and UPI. The contraband was shipped through couriers and postal networks. The Darknet refers to the concealed Internet platform used for illicit activities such as drug sales...

'Rich nations could pay poor...

From Page 1

"It is a matter of climate justice that if we are asking nations to rapidly decarbonise their economies, even though they hold no responsibility for the excess emissions that are destabilising the climate, then they should be compensated for this unfair burden," said Dr Fanning.

be released into the atmosphere to achieve a given climate target, such as keeping global warming to 1.5°C Celsius. Starting from 1960, that carbon budget is equivalent to 1.8 trillion tons of CO2.

just under one quarter of its fair share. Using carbon prices from the latest IPCC scenarios, the researchers were able to put a monetary value on each country's excess emissions in a world that respects the 1.5°C climate target.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

DATE OF BIRTH

I, Vimmi Kuldeep Kaur Ghai w/o Late Mahinder Singh Ghai R/o 15/1 Old Chandrawal Magazine Road, Civil Line New Delhi-110054 declare that my date of birth wrongly mentioned in Army Service records as 24-05-1965. My correct date of birth is 10-04-1964.

PD(057)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Venkataramanan son of Late Shri Viswanathan Resident of L043 Gulshan Vivante sector 137 Noida 201301 hereby change my name from Viswanathan Venkataramanan to Venkataramanan and have updated my government identity for all purpose.

PD(059)A

I, Kamala Venkat w/o of Venkataramanan resident of L043 Gulshan Vivante apartments Sector 137 Noida have hereby changed the spouse name Viswanathan Venkataramanan to Venkataramanan as my spouse has changed in all government identity cards including Aadhar.

PD(060)A

Office of the Managing Director Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.

Short Term E-Tender Notice No- 05/UCDF/2023-24. Date- 06.06.2023

Table with 3 columns: Item No., Name of work, Details

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Dwaika Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 M:- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE: Known to all that my client Rajee Singh is owner of PLOT AREA 380 SQ. Yards...

PUBLIC NOTICE: To be known to all: VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA S/O SH. RAMCHANDRA SHARMA R/o 31/881, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019...

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Jay Prakash Goid who is purchasing the built up Property bearing No.RZ-25-B4-C, area measuring 56 Sq. Yds...

PUBLIC NOTICE: Known to all that my client M/5 R.J. Enterprises is owner of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor Without Roof Right of Property No-98 Area 30 Sq Yards out of Rect No-39 Min, Killa No-8, Situated at New Lahore Shastri Nagar Village Khurji Khas, Illaga...

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Dwaika Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 M:- 9899013918

From Page 1 The Ministry also directed zonal railways and its undertakings to conduct a week-long safety drive...

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Opp must present good alternative in 2024: NCP

Worried over attacks on Muslims, Christians, says Pawar

PTI ■ AURANGABAD

If the Opposition comes up with a "credible" alternative ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, people may consider it, said NCP president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday...



The senior NCP leader was speaking in a 'Sauhard Baithak' (meeting to foster amity) at Mahatma Gandhi Mission University in Maharashtra's Aurangabad.

Speaking about next year's general elections, he said, "My concern is if people will have the same approach for the (2024) Lok Sabha elections as they have for States (Assembly polls)..."

K'TAKA MAY RE-VISIT ANTI-COW SLAUGHTER ACT

Centre will take cognizance of Govt's move: Rupala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister and BJP leader Parshotam Rupala on Tuesday said that his Government would take "cognizance" of the Karnataka Congress Government's move to "re-visit" the anti-cow slaughter Act...

Answering a question on the politically-sensitive issue the Union Minister said, "Once the ruling party in the State takes a final stand, the Central Government will take cognizance of the issue."

Took help of Fadnavis' wife to nab bookie: Maha cops

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

More than a fortnight after they filed a detailed chargesheet before a Special ACB court, the Mumbai Police on Tuesday claimed that they took the help of banker-singer Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis...



After the chat transcripts between Jaisinghani and Amruta surfaced in the media, the Investigating Officer (IO) in the case Ravi Sardesai said that "the entire conversation that took place between the two on February 24, 2023 was carried out as part of the strategic advice" to find out the location of the accused bookie...

Jaisinghani (58) and Anishka (24) are accused of offering a bribe of Rs 1 crore and "blackmail" her to get the latter's father off the hook in a police case. The chats that took place between Jaisinghani and Anishka on February 24 are part of a 733-page chargesheet filed before the Special ACB Court on May 18.

"We instructed the complainant to engage him through WhatsApp chats and other means for a prolonged period till the accused was apprehended," Sardesai said.

Fadnavis had said that while his wife had blocked the suspect woman's number, the accused woman tried to blackmail his wife using one fake video. "The FIR filed by my wife talks about the corruption and bribery attempt. Anil Jaisinghani is a bookie, missing for four or five years. There are 14 cases against him. His daughter Aniksha, who is educated, got in touch with my wife after the previous MVA Government came to power in the State."

CBI probe must unravel truth, not suppress it: Didi



CBI officials during the probe into the triple-train accident, near Bahanga Bazar railway station in Balasore district

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As politics intensified over the June 2 triple train crash in Odisha that left about 288 dead and more than 1,100 injured — mostly from Bengal — State Chief Minister Banerjee once again questioned on Tuesday the efficacy of the CBI investigation into the mishap...

During the visit she once again questioned the efficacy of the CBI investigation into the train accident "as technically it is the Commissioner of Railway Safety that is most well-equipped to do the job."

Banerjee who swapped her prescheduled visit to Darjeeling with Tuesday's trip to Odisha, said that irrespective of who investigated the accident the "truth must come."

Banerjee's take on the CBI investigation Bengal Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari said the CBI investigation would reveal many things. It would reveal whether there was a TMC hand in a suspected sabotage or not...

Bengal Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari responded almost instantaneously wondering why the Trinamool Congress was so worried about CBI investigation saying he would appeal to the central agency to also investigate the post train accident telephonic conversation between two senior Railway officers...

Curiously her nephew Abhishek Banerjee had earlier said that the CBI investigation was being ordered in order to hide the failure of the BJP Government and divert the issue to some other direction for political purposes.

On the death toll Banerjee said that it was time for helping the victims and not the time for arguments. "It is not the time for arguments. So many people have died... let us work the people. Let us be on the side of the people," Banerjee said adding 31

passengers from Bengal who were travelling in the ill-fated Coromandel Express and Humsafar Express were still missing. This even as latest reports quoting the Chief Secretary of Odisha put the death toll to 288. About 1,100 were injured in the accident.

Reacting rather strongly to Banerjee's take on the CBI investigation Bengal Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari said the CBI investigation would reveal many things. It would reveal whether there was a TMC hand in a suspected sabotage or not...



Karwal: Traumatized NDRF personnel to get counselling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Director General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Atul Karwal on Tuesday said that trauma has gripped the rescuers as one of the personnel hallucinated that he was seeing blood and another lost his appetite post the rescue operations at Balasore district in Odisha.

eat after this rescue operation," Karwal said.

In this backdrop, the NDRF has initiated psychological counselling and mental stability courses for the personnel once they return from a rescue and relief operation where they saw several deaths and victims suffering from excruciating pain.

In his inaugural address at the one-day 'Annual Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Response-2023' being organised by the NDRF at the Vignyan Bhawan here, he said the accident was so severe that the coaches got mangled, trapping several bodies inside.

Nine NDRF teams were deployed for rescue operations following one of the worst railway disasters in India that killed at least 278 people and injured more than 1,100.

"Our personnel need to be mentally and physically fit and hence we have included various physical and mental fitness programmes. Counselling sessions are being conducted to ensure good mental health of the rescuers," he said.

According to official data, the force rescued 44 victims and retrieved 121 bodies from the spot.

Karwal said such sessions were held for rescuers who came back from Turkey recently after undertaking operations in the earthquake-hit country.

"I recently met the personnel who were involved in the rescue operation following the Balasore train accident... Someone told me he hallucinated that he was seeing blood every time he saw water. Another said he lost the urge to

The NDRF was also in the process of hiring a permanent counsellor in its ranks rather than hiring their services on a temporary basis, he said. About 95 per cent of the estimated 18,000 personnel-strong force was "fit" after special fitness and health exercises were launched in January last year, Karwal said.

100 unidentified bodies after triple train crash, Odisha starts DNA sampling

PTI ■ BHUBANESHWAR

With over 100 unidentified bodies from the Balasore triple train crash piling up in different hospitals here, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar has started DNA sampling of the claimants, an official said on Tuesday.

ing the bodies after DNA sampling as they can be preserved in the container for six months.



Of the 278 dead people, 177 bodies have been identified while another 101 need to be identified and handed over to their families. AIIMS, Bhubaneswar had received 123 bodies of which around 64 have been identified.

been handed over to someone else. We had identified Upendra from the tattoo mark on his

body," the relative said. However, Dr Pravass Tripathy, Deputy Superintendent of

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, said that the bodies were being handed over after a detailed inquiry. It is a fact that more than one family has been claiming a single body and for that DNA sampling is being done.

Replying to a question, he said that it may require at least 7 to 10 days to get a DNA sampling report. As the bodies are now being kept in the container, there should be no problem in preserving them, he said.

Most of the victims belonged to West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu besides Odisha.

NIA raids 10 premises of Dala's allies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the NIA Special ACourt, Mohali, declared Arshdeep Singh Dala a Proclaimed Offender (PO) in a targeted killing conspiracy case, the agency on Tuesday raided several premises, connected with associates of the Canada-based "individual designated terrorist" in Punjab and Haryana.



The searches were conducted at 10 locations at the premises of associates of Dala and his close aide and absconder, Manpreet Singh alias Peeta, currently living in the Philippines in a case registered suo moto by NIA on August 20, 2022, the NIA said.

Several incriminating materials, including digital devices, were seized during the raids, conducted as part of NIAs crackdown on 'individual terrorists' and terrorist outfits engaged in criminal/terrorist activities in India. A total of six accused have so far been arrested in the case, the agency said in a statement.

The case relates to the terrorist activities of proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation, Khalistan Tiger Force etc. Such activities include smuggling of terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosive and IEDs across international borders.

The smuggled goods are for use by operatives/members of terror outfits and organised criminal gangs operating in various parts of the country for carrying out terrorist acts like bomb explosions and targeted killings among other such crimes.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Stoking passions

The row over cow slaughter in Karnataka can turn ugly; efforts must be made to resolve the issue

Karnataka is witnessing a heated debate around cow slaughter, which has sparked passionate discussions on religious sentiments, cultural practices, economic considerations and animal rights. With the BJP is now taking it up as an issue by protesting against the statement made by Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh, it has all the chances of snowballing into a major issue. The issue has thus put the state government in a delicate balancing act as it strives to address the concerns of different stakeholders while maintaining social harmony. Ironically, the controversy started after the Minister stirred the hornet's nest by suggesting the withdrawal of the anti-cow slaughter legislation. The legal framework surrounding cow slaughter in India is complex and varies from state to state. The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, which was passed by the BJP-led government in Karnataka in February 2021, extended the existing ban on cow slaughter to include bulls, bullocks, oxen and calves. It goes without saying cows hold immense cultural and religious significance in India. For many, the cow is revered as a sacred animal symbolising fertility, purity and motherhood. The religious sentiments attached to cows have contributed to the demand for a ban on cow slaughter in several states. Needless to say, it can easily become a political and social issue.



Controversies arise from the interpretation and implementation of these laws. Critics argue that the legislation can be misused to target minority communities and that it infringes upon personal choices and dietary preferences. They emphasise the need for a more inclusive approach that respects cultural diversity and individual rights. Karnataka, being one of the leading agricultural states in India, has a significant cattle population. The restrictions on cow slaughter have implications for the dairy industry, leather industry and beef exports. Some argue that banning cow slaughter hampers the livelihood of farmers and adversely affects the economy. Another perspective in the row over cow slaughter revolves around animal rights and cruelty. Animal welfare activists advocate stricter regulations and enforcement to ensure ethical treatment to all animals, including cows. The Karnataka government finds itself in a challenging position, needing to address the concerns of diverse groups while preserving social harmony. The government has a responsibility to protect the rights and interests of all citizens while maintaining law and order. Through dialogue, mutual respect and a comprehensive approach, it is possible to navigate this sensitive issue and foster a society that upholds both religious beliefs and individual rights while promoting sustainable development and animal welfare. In power for only a few days, the Congress government would not like to get embroiled in any controversy that derails its development work. It would do well to reign in its Ministers who shoot from the hip.

PICTALK



A monkey drinks water from a tap on a hot summer afternoon, in Jammu

The legacy of Raja Ram Mohan Roy



RAJDEEP PATHAK

His ideas resonated with other social thinkers of his time and inspired them to question and challenge the orthodox Indian society

India's social, cultural, and religious landscape underwent a remarkable transformation in the 19th century, largely due to the efforts of visionary individuals who challenged the orthodoxy prevailing in Indian society. One such luminary was Raja Ram Mohan Roy, whose 251st Birth Anniversary went amiss by many. It was his tireless pursuit of social and religious reforms that left an indelible mark on India's history. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, often hailed as the "Father of Modern India," was a visionary who championed the cause of social and religious reforms during the early 19th century. He emerged as a fierce critic of social evils and religious dogmas prevalent in Indian society, advocating for progressive ideas that aimed to usher in an era of enlightenment and rationality.

One of his most significant contributions was his relentless fight against the practice of Sati, the immolation of widows on their husband's funeral pyre. Recognizing the inherent injustice and cruelty of this tradition, he tirelessly campaigned for its abolition, eventually succeeding with the passage of the Bengal Sati Regulation Act in 1829. His critical stance on this issue sparked a wider discourse on women's rights, highlighting the need for gender equality and social justice.

He also recognized the power of education and rational thinking in transforming society. He established the Hindu College in Calcutta, later known as Presidency College, to provide modern education and promote scientific temper among the Indian youth. He firmly believed that education was the key to emancipating individuals from the shackles of ignorance and superstition, ultimately leading to societal progress.

In an era dominated by religious orthodoxy, Raja Ram Mohan Roy advocated for religious reform and interfaith dialogue. He criticized various irrational practices and condemned the idolatry prevalent at the time. He was a staunch advocate for monotheism and spoke of rationality and moral conduct. His efforts led to the formation of the Brahma Samaj, a socio-religious



reform movement that sought to reconcile traditional Indian values with modern ideas.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy's ideas resonated with other social thinkers of his time and inspired them to question and challenge orthodox Indian society. Debendranath Tagore, the founder of the Brahma Samaj and father of Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, carried forward Roy's legacy by advocating for religious and social reforms. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, another prominent social reformer, fought against child marriage and championed women's rights, echoing Roy's ideals of gender equality and education.

Jyotirao Phule, a social reformer from Maharashtra, established 'Satyashodhak Samaj', which aimed to eradicate social discrimination and caste-based oppression. Phule challenged the traditional caste system and advocated for equal rights for all individuals, irrespective of their social background.

While the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and subsequent social thinkers have undeniably made a lasting impact on Indian society, contemporary India still grapples under the darkness of rising incidents of violence against women and other crimes. Despite significant advancements, regressive mindsets and very often conservative

practices continue to hinder the realization of a truly inclusive and egalitarian society.

It shudders to read newspapers every morning with stories of heinous crimes that haven't stopped despite all law and order enforcement in force. Whether it is the news of a 15-year-old girl who was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped by two people, including a milkman she was acquainted with, in Gurugram on May 20, 2023, or other similar stories of rape, molestation, or murder over trifling issues, society and administration are lacking or losing our focus.

From gender discrimination to addressing patriarchal norms and regressive attitudes, it is a whole question of giving a new identity and shape to these structural and societal problems that hinder development. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that challenges traditional gender roles, promotes gender sensitization (both boys and girls), and ensures the enforcement of laws protecting the rights of citizens and expanding the vigil more rigorously by the administration to curb such growing menace.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy emphasized the importance of rational thinking and education as means of social transformation. His advocacy for scientific temper and

critical reasoning continues to inspire individuals to challenge structural malice. By promoting rationality, he paved the way for a more enlightened society that questions dogmatic values and seeks evidence-based solutions. His courage, intellectual rigour, and unwavering commitment to social justice provide a model for those seeking to challenge societal norms and effect positive change. His legacy serves as a reminder that individual actions, driven by a strong moral compass, can have a profound impact on society.

It is crucial for individuals, civil society organizations, and the government to work collectively to address the persisting challenges and build a society that upholds the principles of equality, tolerance, and human dignity. By fostering dialogue, promoting education, and embracing diversity, we can continue the journey towards achieving a more equitable and harmonious society.

This would be a greater tribute to such social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, than mere symbolism on birth and death anniversaries that has obscured the thrust and significance of such teachings.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

HIS ADVOCACY OF SCIENTIFIC TEMPER AND CRITICAL REASONING CONTINUES TO INSPIRE INDIVIDUALS TO CHALLENGE THE STRUCTURAL MALICE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MERCURY KILLING SPARROWS

Sir — Along the north Karnataka region, little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows build their nests in the houses of villages. Climate change has already caused their population to decline across the north Karnataka. But that's not the only threat they face. Mercury pollution especially from North Karnataka power plants deposits into our soil and water, and can make its way to little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows habitat, forming toxic methylmercury. This gets into the birds' bloodstream from their food supply, negatively impacting the survival of their nests. The Environmental and Forest ministry should strengthen and update the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants otherwise Methylmercury impacts not only sparrows but also other wildlife species' reproduction, growth and development, behaviour, immune response, and overall survival.

VijayKumar H K | Raichur

TIPU JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Sir — In Karnataka, once again the preparations of celebrating the birth anniversary of Hazrat Tipu Sultan Shaheed Rahmatullah, which was put on hold during the BJP rule.

Remember that the current Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during his previous tenure as Chief Minister, had decided to celebrate 10 November 2015 as the birthday of the erstwhile Mysore state ruler. After that, the BJP party protested against this decision in the state. The protest turned violent and a 60-year-old man was reportedly killed in the ensuing clash. The BJP government also removed the history of Tipu Sultan from the textbooks. The revision committee had removed the title "Tiger of Mysore", by which Tipu Sultan was known. Tipu Sultan said, "A day's life of a lion is better than a hundred years of a jackal's life" Tipu Sultan fought against the British in 1791 and was eventually treacherously defeated and martyred in 1799. When he was martyred British

India-Australia cricket series



record needs no reiteration; the English county cricket experience seems to have done a world of good to his confidence.

Skipper Rohit Sharma is an enigmatic player but when he gets going he is unstoppable. Right now, Shubman Gill can hardly make any mistake, and if he and Rohit can give a decent start to the innings at the top, then nothing like it. Besides, there is the gritty Ajinkya Rahane. It is stunning how the Indian fast bowling attack, marshalled well under some astute captains, has grown to throw the opposition batters into disarray. Now, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj should unsettle any batting attack with their guile. With a possible Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin combination or an extra pacer in Umesh Yadav or Shardul Thakur in place of Ashwin, the bowling looks intimidating. The stage is set for a five-day cricket feast and if everything clicks well, India should go all the way.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

said, "India is ours from today"

Tipu Sultan was a person who had sacrificed himself only for his country and even now British afraid and trembled by his name, it's being tried to bury his name in the dust of history and to exchange the real freedom fighters with a person who didn't participate and who was with British Empire, that's shameful.

BJP is attempting to turn the people's attention from the mainstream by renewing the names of places to hide its failure but now people are awarding gradually their rights, BJP would not succeed in its mission. Tipu Jayanti must be celebrated.

Tauqueer | Chennai

UKRAINE WAR

Sir — Just last month, Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner Group of private soldiers fighting for the Russian army, admitted that Ukraine had lost more than 20,000 fighters in a drawn-out battle for the east-

ern city of Bakhmut. Then last weekend, not Ukraine but the Russians themselves admitted that Ukrainian troops launched a massive counteroffensive in the eastern part.

Ukrainian commanders have sent mechanized brigades, including heavy battle tanks, along with conventional troops, to attack several positions in the southern Donetsk region where Russian troops are stationed. Moscow is no longer going ahead and retreating will destroy its prestige. So should it now be assumed that the defeat of the Russians has started from here? The West should become more alert now because on the lines of 'what doesn't die', Russia can also use nuclear weapons as its last weapon.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Dr Ambedkar's theory on the origin of castes

The thinker firmly believed that the absence of inter-caste marriage was one of the major reasons for caste consolidation

The views of Dr BR Ambedkar on the origin, mechanism and development of castes in India come to the fore in his very important book titled "Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development" published in 1916. Dr Ambedkar very systematically and scientifically analyses the origin and development of castes in India. According to Dr Ambedkar, the critical evaluation of the various characteristics of caste leaves no doubt that prohibition; or rather the absence of intermarriage — endogamy, to be concise — is the only one that can be called the essence of caste when rightly understood. But some may deny this on abstract anthropological grounds, for there exist endogamous groups without giving rise to the problem of caste. In a general way, this may be true, as endogamous societies, culturally different, making their abode in localities more or less removed, and having little to do with each other are a physical reality. Dr Ambedkar draws a conclusion that Endogamy is the only characteristic that is peculiar to caste, and if we



succeed in showing how endogamy is maintained, we shall practically have proved the genesis and also the mechanism of caste. Thus, the superimposition of endogamy on exogamy means the creation of caste.

According to him there are four means by which numerical disparity between the two sexes is conveniently maintained are; burning the widow with her deceased husband, compulsory widowhood, imposing celibacy on the widower and wedding him to a girl not yet marriageable. They create and perpetuate endogamy, while caste and endogamy are one and the same thing. Thus, the existence of these means is identical with caste and caste involves these means. This is the general mechanism of a caste in a system of castes. Caste in India is a very ancient

institution and its mechanism is very complex than what is discussed above.

Dr Ambedkar argues that complex though it is in its general working the Hindu society, even to a superficial customs observer presents three singular uxorial customs, namely: i) Sati or the burning of the widow on the funeral pyre of her deceased husband, ii) Enforced widowhood by which a widow is not allowed to remarry, iii) Girl marriage. This high flown and ingenious sophistry is why these institutions were honoured, but do not tell us why they were practised. According to Dr Ambedkar, they were practised because they were regarded as ends or as means, Sati enforced widowhood and girl marriage are customs that were prominently intended to solve the problem of the surplus man and surplus woman in a caste and to maintain its endogamy, and caste without endogamy is fake. While discussing the development and spread of the castes in India Dr Ambedkar stated that Manu is the lawgiver of India. Manu did not give the law of caste,

because caste existed long before Manu. He was an upholder of it. Thus the great man theory does not help in solving the spread of castes in India. The Hindu society was composed of classes Brahmins, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. The sub-division of a society is quite natural. But the unnatural thing about the subdivisions is that they have lost the open-door character of the class system and have become self-enclosed units called castes. The question is: were they compelled to close their doors and become endogamous or did they close them of their own accord? There is a double line of the answer: Some closed the door: And others found it closed against them. One is a psychological interpretation and the other is mechanistic, but they are complementary and both are necessary to explain the phenomena of caste formation.

(Prof Sunil Goel is an eminent social scientist, Dean and Chairman at Dr BR Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, and Dimple Khokhar is a researcher)



SUNIL GOEL



DIMPLE KHOKHAR



FIRST COLUMN

THINK LESS TO LIVE LONGER

Take a pause to check what kind of thoughts are being created in your mind



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The human mind has amazing and the most extraordinary capacities to create, remember and evoke and to travel into the past and future of free will. Not many of us know that everything that is visible to us through our physical eyes today, every particle of matter that we can touch and feel now first had its blueprint in the human mind. In other words, everything outside is a physical manifestation of what is inside. Therefore, everything in the universe was first born as a thought or a tiny sentient point or dot. A dot has no length, breadth or width, but it has immense power and contains a lot.

It's estimated that an average person has around 70,000 thoughts per day. So, how many of us focus on observing our thoughts? Maybe very few... Do we ever think of putting a brake on or a full stop to our thoughts? Neuroscientists estimate that the human brain contains 100 billion neurons. Each neuron has about 1,000 connections. Each connection fires, on an average, 200 times per second resulting in 20,000 trillion calculations per second! And all this consumes loads of life energy. Hence, if we can reduce the number of thoughts even by a small percentage, then it can have a huge bearing on our life. That is why it has been proven scientifically that practising silence for a few minutes every day gives you the power of that conserved energy. Because, once we succeed in reducing the number of thoughts, we will start observing a remarkable improvement in the quality of our thoughts.



How? It's simple! When we reduce the number of thoughts, then the thought congestion comes down and we will be able to hold every thought a little longer. The longer we can hold on to a thought, the more potent the thought becomes. We should understand the fact that every thought has creative power, hence the longer we hold a thought, the more powerful it becomes. With every thought, we send out the essence of ourselves, which mixes with other essences and creates and re-creates our physical environment. Thinking too much is like eating too much. The heaviness of our mind makes it impossible to remain light and flexible. We get stuck on little things, and gradually the little things become huge which we cannot shake off. Often when we think too much, we fantasise and overreact. Thus, we create negative feelings. Hence it is far better to observe than to absorb every word, feeling and attitude, to get over-involved, or react too much. Today we all are experiencing how the present era dominated by vices and wickedness is promoting devilish tendencies. Hence, the speed and intensity of negative thoughts are much greater than the positive ones which are very few. The major part of these positive thoughts fritters away before implementation due to a greater momentum of internal weak thoughts and the force of the external environment presently conducive for unrighteousness. Under such circumstances, the practice of meditation lends power to our thoughts. It helps us to realize our positive and pure intentions by reinforcing and re-programming them into our minds. It helps us to create an internal positive environment that is independent of the external vicious world. So much is its capacity that in its most powerful stage, our mind could even transform the outside negative vibrations and situations into positive ones. Vibrations are transferred only in a state of non-doing. That's the significance of sitting in the seat of meditation.

By sitting in a state of non-doing, either in a space of high vibrations or in the presence of a person of high vibrations, those vibrations will be transferred to us. The power of non-doing is such that it enables you to tune in and inherit the higher vibrations, and in the presence of higher vibrations, all things become easy and possible. So, take a pause to check what kind of thoughts are being created in your mind for these will decide the degree of your happiness and satisfaction. And these will shape the kind of world you are creating for yourself every moment.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)

Economic cooperation in the neighborhood



K S TOMAR

The India-Nepal ties are bound to improve after Prachanda's recent visit, in which seven agreements have been signed at the risk of irritating the dragon

Almost ten years back, in 2014 Prime Minister Modi during his visit to Nepal had given his vision for better ties between India and Nepal. His vision to focus on Highways, I-ways, and Trans-ways (HIT) has been at the core to bring down the existing barriers. It was a different ambience during the recent occasion of signing the agreements with his counterpart, Nepal PM, Pushpa Kamal Dahal. Prime Minister Modi expressed his optimism and confidence that the relations between the two countries would be even better in future and called for making them 'Super Hit' in times to come. Nepal PM Prachanda also reciprocate the gesture and appreciated Modi's Neighborhood Policy.

Despite having close relations dating back to ancient times, it was the Indo-Nepal treaty of peace and friendship signed between the two countries in 1950 which had laid the foundation of closer ties. Rana rulers of Nepal had welcomed close relations with the newly independent India, fearing the danger of the ouster of their autocratic rule by China-backed communists.

The pro-China tilt of the communist government led by the former prime minister, KPS Oli brought the relations between the two nations to the lowest ebb which witnessed a positive trend of ascendancy after the coalition government comprising of present PM, Kamal Dahal, Prachanda's communist Party of Nepal-Maoists Center (CPN-MC) and Nepali Congress, as a dominant partner which is known for its proximity to India since decades.

Nepal has got every reason to smile as a trilateral power agreement became a reality after several years of stalemate which will ensure the import of 10,000 MW of power from Nepal to India for 10 years which will be earning thousands of crores of revenue and subsequently provide an advantage of additional availability of electricity for consumers in our country. It will enable Nepal to start the import of power up to 60 MW to Bangladesh through India though the final details will be worked out by the officials of the three nations soon.

As per Kulman Ghising, managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority, under the umbrella project, power companies of Nepal and India can sign medium - or long-term electricity trade agreements which will end the existing cumbersome procedure of renewing export agreements by Nepal every year. It will prove a path-breaking event as buyers and sellers can sign power agreements for 25 years and Nepal can visualize its prosperity through energy export to India or other countries.

Experts say that a key element of the bilateral partnership pertains to one of the important agreements signed between India and Nepal to develop the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydro Project which got approval from Nepal's Investment Board before the commencement of Prachanda's visit to New Delhi. India is also developing a mega 900 MW Arun-III hydroelectric project in Nepal besides having a 490 MW Arun-4 hydroelectric project in the pipeline which will be taken to a logical end shortly. India has also built several hydroelectric projects in Nepal which include Devighat (14.1 MW), Western Gandak (15 MW), Pokhara (1 MW), Trisuli (21 MW), etc. which reflect old and close cooperation between the two nations in the energy sector. Foreign Secretary, Vinay Mohan Kwatra observed that two PMs had agreed to



IT IS A HARD FACT THAT NEW ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE HYDEL SECTOR, HAS GOT TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THE HIMALAYAN STATE

(Writer is a senior journalist and political analyst)



achieve tangible and time-bound progress on the Pancheshwar multipurpose project and India will cooperate with Kathmandu to set up a fertilizer plant in Nepal.

Observers feel that the approval of the citizenship bill is being seen as an attempt by Prachanda to exhibit his closeness to India and the United States though it may irritate the Dragon. Second, Prachanda chose India over China for his maiden visit which has sent a good signal as it has proved fruitful which is evident from the signing of seven agreements thereby benefiting the people of both countries.

Former Nepali diplomats in Kathmandu felt that Modi and Prachanda refrained from touching the irritants which could have spoiled the outcome of the latter's visit. Prachanda tactfully touched the boundary issue and suggested resolving it through diplomatic channels. The communist led government of Oli had brought Nepal-India ties to the lowest ebb when a map was redrawn showing Indian territories like Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories which had infuriated India and it had outrightly rejected this mischievous move.

The then PM, Oli had also objected to the opening of an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand by defense minister Rajnath Singh on May 8, 2020. It connects the Lipulekh Pass having a height of

17,000 feet along the border with Tibet in Uttarakhand with Dharchula in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Experts had attributed Oli's actions to the Chinese strategy to unsettle age-old ties between India and Nepal. Nepal had also opposed India's action to bring out a revised political map showing the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh which had created bitterness.

As per clear determination and commitment to ensure the success of his visit, Nepal PM did not fall prey to the suggestion made by two former PMs of Nepal Viz. Baburam Bhattarai and KPS Oli wanted him to raise an issue about the Akhand Bharat mural in the newly inaugurated parliament building which presents Kapilvastu, Biratnagar and Lumbini as parts of India.

Both sides have agreed to speed up the completion of projects related to the Ramyanya circuit which comprises 15 tourism circuits thereby strengthening religious and cultural ties in future. Modi and Prachanda recognized the centuries-old 'Roti-Beti' bonds which refer to cross-border marriages between people of two nations and resolved to preserve the same at all costs. Prachanda, a diehard communist, gave preference to India over China while finalizing his foreign visit after becoming PM six months ago. Prachanda was seen in the traditional dress of Daura Suruwal which was a complete deviation from the communist ideology of

ignoring such micro-level codes. He also undertook a religious trip to Mahakaleswar temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and gave the signal to pro-Hindutva set up in Delhi.

Prime Minister Modi made significant observations about the impact of signing seven agreements with his counterpart Prachanda which will have a special bearing in shaping future economic ties which will be of mutual benefits and relevance. The well-calibrated agreements having a goal of far-sightedness covered various fields including cross-border petroleum pipeline trade and commerce, development of Integrated Check Posts and hydroelectric projects. Modi observed, "myself and Prachanda took many important decisions to make partnership between the two countries as 'Super Hit' in future." Prachanda was firm in his perception when he said "the age-old ties between two nations are of special significance and multi-faceted."

Analysts opine that outcome of the four-day visit of Prachanda may not align with the policy of China to wean away Nepal from India because the signing of seven agreements may change the dynamics of ties between the two nations which may reach new heights in future. It is a hard fact that new economic cooperation especially in the hydel sector has got tremendous potential to bring prosperity to the Himalayan Kingdom.

The never-ending fight of Kinnaur women for property rights

Women in the region have been fighting for their ancestral property rights for decades. Will they ever get it, remains to be seen

Despite several years of protest, legal battles, and a recent meeting with the country's President regarding the ancestral property rights of Kinnaur women, the unfortunate reality remains that these women are still unjustly barred from enjoying their rightful land rights.

"Wazib ul Urj," a 93-year-old customary law practiced in Himachal Pradesh's tribal district, is the main cause behind the landlessness of Kinnaur women. This customary law deprives women of inheriting property belonging to a male member of the family through succession in spite of the fact that such women are their lineal descendants. Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh, which was declared a scheduled area and recognized by



SARITA BRARA

the Kinnaur tribe as a Scheduled Tribe under Article 342 of the Indian Constitution, has only brought more hardships than benefits to the women of this community.

Back in 2013, the author had done a story on the issue in 2013 citing the cases of the women in Kinnaur who had to suffer because of the denial of their right and the campaign launched by Mahila Kalyan Parishad - a group seeking equal rights for women in ancestral property matters based in Reckong Peo. Yet, their situation remains intact even after ten years.

Sangeeta from Ribba village in Pooh block in Kinnaur district lost her husband in May 2012. At that time, her three daughters were unmarried, and her only son was just

14 years old. Neither Sangeeta nor her daughters inherited anything from her in-laws' property. All the property, including the agricultural land, is registered in her son's name, who is now 24 years old. Sangeeta relies entirely on her son for support and cannot even obtain a loan from the bank as nothing is in her name. Despite not owning any property or a house, she does not receive a widow's pension.

"Once my son gets married, I will have to depend on the good will of my daughter in law and that of my son's for I have nothing I can call my own," expressed Sangeeta. Because of this law, Sangeeta was barred from inheriting her ancestral property, while both her brothers had a share in it.

Similarly, Seema Negi from Reckong Peo, also the secretary of Mahila Kalyan Parishad, bought land and made a house with her own money, spending lakhs of rupees. However, for the last several years she has been running from pillar to post to get the property registered in her name. As she married a person from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, he cannot get property in Kinnaur, neither can Seema nominate him. The property had to be ultimately registered in her mother's name who has gifted the same to her daughter in her will. "I spend my own money and yet not a shred of land is in my name? Is that not injustice?" lamented Seema. The law does not allow her sons as well to inherit it because their

father is not from Kinnaur. Only if they are married to a Kinnauri woman the property can be transferred in their name. Previously, the security of women in the Kinnaur tribe was ensured through a provision in the tribal society's customs. Under this provision, the father-in-law would formally pledge a portion of the land and the house to the daughter-in-law in a written agreement. The document was then kept by the bride's father. In case of any dispute with the husband, the bride would retain possession of that portion of the house and land for her lifetime. However, currently, this traditional custom, which provided a form of security for women by guaranteeing them a place to live, is disregarded, while the dis-

criminatory custom prohibiting daughters or wives from inheriting property continues. In 2005, under Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, of 1956, women in many states of the country were given the right to ancestral property but no changes were effected in the rules related to land in the tribal areas of Kinnaur.

Fighting for the rights of women in ancestral property, Mahila Kalyan Parishad held several meetings of all the Mahila Mandals and Panchayat Pradhans. Later they organised a meeting at the district level in Reckong Peo and a rally was held to press for the demand of giving rights to women in ancestral property. A memorandum in this regard was given to the then Himachal Pradesh Governor

on 24th of May 2012. Meanwhile, they started a signature campaign and had got signatures of at least 10000 men and women till then. In 2015, a single judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh felt that denying the right of women in ancestral property was wrong and that daughters have the right to ancestral property as their sons. Even a rally welcoming the verdict was organised on the 14th of July 2017. But the decision was stayed by the Supreme Court after it was challenged. "While the fight in and outside the court will continue, only time will tell whether women in Kinnaur will ever get the right to ancestral property or our struggle that started over twenty years ago will go in vain," Manjari expressed.

Dam collapse in Ukraine triggers emergency

Moscow, Kyiv blame each other

The wall of a major dam in southern Ukraine collapsed on Tuesday, triggering floods, endangering Europe's largest nuclear power plant and threatening drinking water supplies as both sides in the war rushed to evacuate residents and blamed each other for the destruction.



Russian rockets are launched against Ukraine from Russia's Belgorod region, seen from Kharkiv, Ukraine on early Tuesday.

miles) of front line in the east and south.

It was not immediately clear whether either side benefits from the damage to the dam, since both Russian-controlled and Ukrainian-held lands are at risk. The damage could also hinder Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south and distract its government, while Russia depends on the dam to supply water to Crimea.

But Helms reserved judgement, also noting a Russian history of attacking dams.

Wheat prices rise following major dam collapse

Washington (AP): The collapse of a major dam in southern Ukraine sent global prices of wheat and corn higher. Wheat prices gained 2.4% in early trading Tuesday at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, to \$6.39 a bushel.

Ukraine brands Russia as 'terrorist state'

AP HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)

Lawyers for Ukraine told the United Nations' top court Tuesday that Russia bankrolled a "campaign of intimidation and terror" by rebels in eastern Ukraine starting in 2014 and sought to replace Crimea's multiethnic community with "discriminatory Russian nationalism" after its occupation and annexation of the region.

Ukraine wants the world court to order Moscow to pay reparations for attacks and crimes in the regions, including for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 that was shot down by Russia-backed rebels on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew.

Another lawyer on Ukraine's team, David Zions, said that pro-Russia forces in eastern Ukraine "attacked civilians as part of a campaign of intimidation and terror. Russian money and weapons fueled this campaign."

Turning to alleged breaches in Crimea of a convention to combat racial discrimination, Koh said that, following its illegal occupation and annexation of the peninsula, Russia "sought to replace the multiethnic community that had characterized Crimea before Russia's intervention with discriminatory Russian nationalism."

project to erase the rights and culture that make Ukraine a proud, multi-ethnic nation, to wipe out what makes Ukrainians Ukrainians and what makes the Crimean Tatars, Crimean Tatars."

deporting and illegally transferring children from Ukraine. Russia isn't a member of the court and doesn't recognize its jurisdiction.

Both Russian and Ukrainian authorities brought in trains and buses for residents. About 22,000 people live in areas at risk of flooding in Russian-controlled areas, while 16,000 live in the most critical zone in Ukrainian-held territory, according to official tallies.

The dam break added a stunning new dimension to Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month. Ukrainian forces were widely seen to be moving forward with a long-anticipated counteroffensive in patches along more than 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) of front line in the east and south.

Witnessed by journalists onboard a Philippine coast guard patrol boat, the BRP Cabra, the drills focused on a scenario involving the interdiction and boarding of a vessel suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction off the Bataan Peninsula, Philippine coast guard spokesperson Commodore Armand Bailo said.

Coast guard drills strengthen South China Sea security

AP ABOARD BRP (PHILIPPINES)

US, Japanese, and Philippine coast guard ships staged law enforcement drills in waters near the disputed South China Sea on Tuesday as Washington presses efforts to reinforce alliances in Asia amid an increasingly tense rivalry with China.



Armed Philippine Coast Guard personnel run on board the PCG Melchora Aquino ship during a Coast Guard drill off the waters of Bataan, Philippines on Tuesday.

The US Coast Guard deployed one of its most advanced cutters, the 418-foot (127-meter) Stratton, in the June 1-7 exercises hosted by the Philippines, Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia.

"Together we'll demonstrate professional, rules-based standards of maritime operations with our steadfast partners to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Banga meets VP Kamala Harris

Washington (PTI): The World Bank's newly-appointed President Ajay Banga has met Vice President Kamala Harris during which they talked about developing and implementing an action plan to raise the level of ambition in mobilising private investment.



It was the first official US engagement with the World Bank since Banga took office on Friday. During the meeting on Monday, the vice president underscored the Biden-Harris Administration's strong support for the World Bank's efforts to make investments and spur policy reforms that reduce poverty and advance achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the White House said.

tion initiative," it said. Harris conveyed the United States' intention to work with World Bank shareholders and Banga in the leadup to the September G20 Leaders' Summit. Recognising that the public sector alone cannot meet the immense development needs, the Vice President also underscored the US commitment to work with the World Bank and other shareholders to develop and implement an action plan to raise the level of ambition in mobilising private investment, the White House said.

Advertisement for UPSIDA (Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority) featuring a table with project details.

Earthquake strikes Haiti; 3 dead

Port-Au-Prince (AP): An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.9 struck southern Haiti early Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring several others, authorities said.

Top court to hear Suu Kyi's bribery conviction appeal

Bangkok (AP): Myanmar's Supreme Court has agreed to hear a special appeal of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's bribery conviction for allegedly receiving gold and thousands of dollars from a former political ally, legal officials said Tuesday.



Court decided last Friday to hear the special appeal of the corruption case, in which she was convicted of receiving USD 600,000 and seven gold bars in 2017-18 from Phylo Min Thein, the former chief minister of Yangon, the country's biggest city. She was sentenced to five years in prison in April last year after being found guilty of bribery.

Kuwait holds another polls mired in gridlock

AP DUBAI

Voters in Kuwait were casting ballots on Tuesday for a third time in as many years, with little hope of ending a prolonged gridlock between the ruling family and assertive lawmakers after the judiciary dissolved the legislature earlier this year.



and low number of people running," said Dania Thafer, executive director at the Gulf International Forum, a Washington-based think-tank.

other and reach a consensus for the interest of Kuwait," said Badr Al-Turaiji, one of the thousands who braved the searing heat to cast his vote.

Notice of Postal Ballot for Himalaya Food International Limited, including company details and voting instructions.

'NATO full membership is top priority'

AP TOKYO

Sweden's defence minister said Tuesday his country's top priority is to gain full NATO membership before the allied leaders gather for their next summit, saying an addition will make the trans-Atlantic alliance even stronger.

'EU chief not interested in top job at NATO'

Berlin (AP): The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, says she has no interest in becoming the new leader of NATO as the trans-Atlantic military alliance seeks a successor to Jens Stoltenberg.

of NATO as soon as possible," said Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson, in Japan for talks his Japanese counterpart and other officials.

Employees of US aid group accused of embezzlement

Dakar (Senegal) (AP): An American-based aid group said that at least USD 900,000 was stolen from its Congo programs by members of the organisation who conspired with outsiders.

Employees of US aid group accused of embezzlement. Dakar (Senegal) (AP): An American-based aid group said that at least USD 900,000 was stolen from its Congo programs by members of the organisation who conspired with outsiders.

Iran unveils hypersonic missile amid US tensions

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran claimed on Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at 15 times the speed of sound, adding a new weapon to its arsenal as tensions remain high with the US over Tehran's nuclear programme.



The new missile — called Fattah, or "Conqueror" in Persian — was unveiled even as Iran said it would reopen its diplomatic posts on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia after reaching a détente with Riyadh following years of conflict.

That's about mid-range for Iran's expansive ballistic missile arsenal, which the Guard has built up over the years as Western sanctions largely prevent it from accessing advanced weaponry.

Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound, could pose crucial challenges to missile defence systems because of their speed and manoeuvrability.

what appeared to be a moveable nozzle for the Fattah, which could allow it to change trajectories in flight. The more irregular the missile's flight path, the more difficult it becomes to intercept.

America. Russia claims to already be fielding the weapons and has said it used them on the battlefield in Ukraine. However, speed and manoeuvrability isn't a guarantee the missile will successfully strike a target.

Senior diplomats hold talks to avoid escalation

AP ■ TAIPEI (TAIWAN)

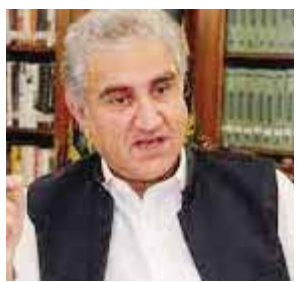
Senior US and Chinese diplomats held "candid and productive" talks in Beijing and agreed to keep open lines of communication to avoid tensions from spiralling into conflict, officials said ON Tuesday.

officials briefly interacted at a forum in Singapore over the weekend. China's Foreign Ministry said Kritenbrink and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu "had candid, constructive and fruitful communication on promoting the improvement of China-US relations and properly managing differences."

Qureshi released from jail, to meet Imran Khan today

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who was among some of the top leaders of Imran Khan's party to be arrested following the May 9 violent protests, was released from a Rawalpindi prison on Tuesday following a court order.



residence in Lahore on Wednesday and discuss the prevailing political turmoil in the country, according to Geo TV.

there are countless innocent people who should be released. I will try, and we will pursue their cases after consultation with our legal team," the Dawn newspaper quoted Qureshi as saying.

'Expect parties to agree on simultaneous general elections, provincial polls'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court expects the country's warring political parties to reach a consensus on holding general elections and provincial polls for all the legislatures on the same day to end the polarisation in the polity, a media report said on Tuesday.

the political parties in the country to heal the polarisation in the polity and to arrive at a single date for holding general elections to all the constitutional assemblies," the bench said in its order.

Imran's wife seeks protection from arrest in all cases

PTI ■ LAHORE

Wife of former prime minister Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi, on Tuesday, filed a petition in the Lahore High Court seeking a blanket cover in all cases registered against her across the country, a media report said.



and law enforcers from arresting her in any undisclosed case.

being summoned as an accused or a witness to record the statement.

Phone hacking case: Prince Harry makes landmark court appearance

PTI ■ LONDON

Prince Harry on Tuesday became the first senior British royal to give evidence in a high court trial in over 100 years as he appeared in the witness box here to allege "utterly vile" unlawful information gathering, including by phone hacking, by journalists working for the Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN).



pin on me mainly because I thought that, if they are printing this rubbish about me and people were believing it, I may as well 'do the crime', so to speak," he said.

ple to account for what they have done and that he was "determined to get to the bottom of it once and for all".

Pope hospitalised briefly for tests 2 months after bronchitis

Rome (AP): Pope Francis briefly went to Rome's main hospital on Tuesday for tests and returned to the Vatican, two months after he was hospitalized with an acute case of bronchitis.

Pak PM calls for relief to poor, middle class

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities to take major steps in the budget for the welfare of poor and middle class, in an effort to make it people-friendly ahead of general elections which are expected in October.

Pakistan, currently in the throes of a major political as well as economic crisis, is grappling with high external debt, a weak local currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves.



Sharif said that maximum relief should be given to the public by utilizing the available resources in the best possible manner, according to an official statement.

He ordered that a comprehensive plan should be devised for giving direct subsidies to the farmers.

A revolutionary leap for virtual reality

AP ■ CUPERTINO (US)

Apple on Monday unveiled a long-rumoured headset that will place its users between a virtual and real world, while also testing the technology trendsetter's ability to popularise new-fangled devices after others failed to capture the public's imagination.

the crowd. Apple didn't immediately reveal the goggles' price, although they are expected to cost in the USD 3,000 range, likely limiting their appeal to a fairly narrow band of video-game enthusiasts and affluent technophiles.

product, it would leave Apple in the same bind as other major tech companies and startups that have tried selling headsets or glasses equipped with technology that either thrusts people into artificial worlds or projects digital images with scenery and things that are actually in front of them — a format known as "augmented reality".

to push into the mainstream by changing the name of his social networking company to Meta Platforms in 2021 and then pouring billions of dollars into improving the virtual technology.

Public Notice regarding property sale and Paradipt Port Authority Marine Department notice.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Fardkot advertisement for law courses.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR advertisement for walk-in-interview.

JASCH INDUSTRIES LTD advertisement for recruitment.

Public Notice regarding company matters.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR advertisement for law courses.

SABALENKA REACHES FRENCH OPEN SEMIS

AP ■ PARIS

World number two Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus powered past Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the French Open semi-finals.

The match was highly anticipated with Svitolina, who last year became a mother, refusing to shake hands with players from Russia or Belarus following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last year, which it calls a 'special military operation'.

Sabalenka, who next faces Czech Karolina Muchova, caused a furore in recent days, snubbing the media following her previous two matches after being grilled about the war and her country's involvement as a staging ground for Russian weapons and troops.

With several Ukrainian flags unfurled in the half-empty stands of Philippe Chatrier stadium, the pair traded blows at the start with neither managing to carve out a single break point in the first eight games.

But favourite Sabalenka, aiming for the world number one spot with a title win in Paris, grabbed the key break and then served out the first set a little later, with her opponent looping a backhand wide.

Svitolina broke for 2-0 in the second set as Sabalenka hit her 23rd unforced error but the Ukrainian was still on the back foot and allowed her opponent to pull the break back when she netted a backhand.

Sabalenka continued her demolition job, breaking again for 3-2 with an unreturnable forehand.

Svitolina stayed afloat thanks to her opponent's countless unforced errors, but the outcome was always in the Belarusian's hands.

Sabalenka ended it on the second match point with yet another forehand

winner and boos were heard as Svitolina walked straight to her bench while Sabalenka waited at the net.

Sabalenka's next opponent Karolina Muchova is in the French Open semifinals for the first time.

The unseeded Czech defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

SVITOLINA ACCUSES

Elina Svitolina accused Aryna Sabalenka of deliberately "inflaming" the tense stand-off between Ukraine and Belarus players at the French Open on Tuesday by staring her down at the net.

Sabalenka won their quarter-final 6-4, 6-4 and then approached the net in expectation of a handshake which Svitolina had already insisted she was not going to offer.

All Ukraine players refuse to shake hands with Russian and Belarusian rivals in protest at the ongoing war.

Svitolina was as good as her word, ignoring the world number two, who was leaning on the net, and calmly walked back to her chair.

Svitolina, however, was booed by the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd.

When asked if Sabalenka had inflamed the situation by standing at the net, Svitolina replied: "Yeah, I think so, unfortunately."

"I don't know why she was waiting, because my statements were clear enough about the handshake," added Svitolina, 28, who said she was not shocked by being jeered by a Paris crowd who had taken her to their hearts following her marriage to French player Gael Monfils.

"I was expecting that. Whoever in this situation loses, I guess, gets booed, so I was expecting that. It was not a surprise for me."



When she saw Sabalenka coming into the net on Tuesday, she thought: "What are you doing? I made my position clear."

Sabalenka had defeated another Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk in the first round. Kostyuk also refused to shake hands and she too was booed.

"Maybe she's (Sabalenka) not on social media during the tournament, but it is pretty clear. She played Marta as well the first round. So is quite simple."

Svitolina said she and her compatriots will continue their stance in the grass court season which culminates in Wimbledon next month.

"I won't sell my country for the likes of people," she said.

Svitolina said Sabalenka should also be fined for refusing to attend two mandatory press conferences following her third and fourth round matches.

Two years ago, former world number one Naomi Osaka was fined \$15,000 for not honouring her French Open media commitments.

Sabalenka said she boycotted her media duties because she didn't feel "safe" in an atmosphere where she faced a barrage of questions over the war and her links to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Belarus is a close ally of Moscow.

"It should be equal for everyone. For example, Naomi got fined last time and this time there is no fine for the player, who also skips the press conference," said Svitolina.

"I faced difficulties, I faced difficulty also with the question about Novak, about his statement about Kosovo. So I'm not escaping."

"I have my strong position, and I'm vocal about that. I'm not going try to win likeness of the people by betraying my strong belief and strongest position for my country."



West Ham eye history in Europa Conference League final

AP ■ LONDON

West Ham defender Thilo Kehrer has urged his team to make history by winning their first major trophy for 43 years when they face Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday.

The Hammers haven't lifted a significant piece of silverware since Trevor Brooking's header clinched a shock win against Arsenal in the 1980 FA Cup final.

In their first major European final since 1976, when they lost to Anderlecht in the Cup

Winners' Cup, West Ham are on the brink of finally ending their trophy drought. West Ham's most recent final was a painful penalty shoot-out defeat against a Liverpool side inspired by Steven Gerrard's masterclass in the 2006 FA Cup.

But David Moyes' men arrive in Prague as firm favourites to win the Europa Conference League against a Fiorentina team that finished eighth in Serie A.

Although West Ham came a disappointing 14th in the Premier League this term, but they will never get a better



chance to win the fifth major trophy in their history.

Their sole triumph in Europe came in the 1965 Cup Winners' Cup when Moore and Hurst were among the side that beat 1860 Munich in the final.

Kehrer knows Moyes' team have a chance to make their own history against Fiorentina.

"I said at the beginning of the season without knowing how it would go, bringing a title to West Ham is a big goal," the German said.

"Making history is being in the final. Now our focus and vision is completing the goal."

"You can feel the excitement of everybody around the club. For us players it's great to be in that place. We have the squad and quality to do it, so we're very confident."

Last season, West Ham lost to eventual winners Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League semi-finals. Declan Rice has been one of the few West Ham players to shine and the England midfielder — linked with Arsenal, Manchester City and Bayern Munich — could be playing his last game after Moyes admitted he is likely to leave in the close-season.

Guardiola warns Man City against CL final arrogance

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola has warned his Manchester City's stars that their confidence ahead of the Champions League final against Inter Milan cannot slip into arrogance as they aim to complete a historic treble.

Guardiola's men are one game away from becoming just the second side to win the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in the same season.

City are huge favourites for the clash in Istanbul on Saturday, having thrashed Bayern Munich and Real Madrid on route to the final. By contrast, Inter finished a distant third in Serie A and enjoyed a less demanding passage to the final as they beat Porto, Benfica and AC Milan.

However, the Italians boast the richer European Cup heritage, with three triumphs to City's none, and Guardiola has urged his team not to become complacent.

"Of course we are confident, so optimistic, but at the same time I cannot deny the difficulties and qualities of the opponents," said Guardiola at City's pre-match media day on Tuesday.

"I have never done it and especially in the final of the Champions League."

City remain on course to match the treble achievement of Manchester United's class of 1998/99 by beating the Red Devils 2-1 in the FA Cup final on Saturday.

Guardiola said that was far better preparation for the Champions League final than their only previous appearance in the European showpiece two years when his side lost 1-0 against Chelsea in Porto.

But he insisted City's stunning form in the past four months will count for nothing when it comes to getting the job done at the Ataturk Stadium.

City's only defeat in their last 27 games came at Brentford on the final day of the Premier League season after the title had long since been won.

"We know a final is about how you behave for 95 minutes. It's not about history, for history they are better than us," Guardiola said.

"It doesn't matter what you do in group stage, last 16, quarter-finals, Premier League or FA Cup. It's one single game you have to be better than the opponent."

Benzema admits Madrid departure 'hurts'

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema said leaving Real Madrid "hurts" at a goodbye ceremony on Tuesday ahead of his move to Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad.

The 35-year-old forward has signed for the Jeddah-based side on a three-year deal starting next season, a source at the Saudi club said on Tuesday.

"It's a bit of a sad day, because I am leaving this club, it hurts me, because I had a dream in my head - to sign for Madrid, and finish at Madrid, but sometimes life gives you other opportunities," said Benzema in a speech during his farewell at Madrid's training ground.

"I will always watch Madrid's games, and thanks to the fans too, who pushed me on to play good games."

The French forward signed for Madrid in 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.

Benzema made 648 appearances for Madrid and is second on Real's all-time goalscoring list with 354 — only Ronaldo has more. He won five Champions Leagues, four La Liga titles and three Copas del Rey and is the current Ballon d'Or holder.

Benzema said he was grateful to Real Madrid president Florentino Perez for signing him.

"When I saw you, I said this is the man who brought Zizou (Zinedine Zidane) and Ronaldo, now he wants me in his team," said Benzema.

"I will never forget Real Madrid, it's the best club in the world, in history, but now is the moment to leave and to see another



Sevilla extend Mendilibar's contract till 2024

AP ■ SEVILLE

Europa League champions Sevilla have extended coach Jose Luis Mendilibar's contract until June 2024, the Spanish side said on Tuesday. Mendilibar arrived in March on a short-term deal until the end of the season, aiming to help the team avoid relegation. Mendilibar dragged Sevilla up the table to a 12th place finish and guided them to a record-extending seventh Europa League trophy. The Spaniard, 62, helped Sevilla beat Manchester United and Juventus before overcoming Jose Mourinho's Roma on penalties in the final in May.

Sevilla vice president Jose

Maria del Nido Carrasco told radio station Deportes Cope Sevilla that Mendilibar had renewed his contract, before it was reported on the club website.

"Jose Maria del Nido Carrasco announced on Tuesday on Deportes Cope Sevilla that Jose Luis Mendilibar will continue as Sevilla FC coach for one season," said Sevilla in a statement. "Not only did he achieve his goal (of La Liga survival) by some margin, but he also managed to get through two UEFA Europa League ties, against Manchester United and Juventus no less, before finally lifting the club's seventh Europa League a few days ago in Budapest."

Millot's brace keep Stuttgart in Bundesliga

AP ■ BERLIN

Stuttgart secured their Bundesliga status with a 3-1 victory at Hamburg (6-1 aggregate) in Monday's relegation playoff return leg, ensuring another season in the second division for the fallen giants.

Two second-half goals from French midfielder Enzo Millot and an injury time strike from DR Congo's Silas overturned a 1-0 halftime deficit, ensuring the 16th-placed Stuttgart remain in the top division next season.

The loss means Hamburg, who once celebrated the longest run in the top division with a clock marking every second the former Champions League winners had not been relegated, will now play a sixth season in the



'Paris on track for 2024 Olympics'

AP ■ PARIS

Paris is on time and on budget for the 2025 Olympics, the city's mayor said on Tuesday, dismissing concern expressed recently by a senior Olympics official.

"Look at all the previous Olympics and Paralympics around the world, one year before the Games, generally it's stressful and people are saying 'we'll never manage this'. Well, we're ready," mayor Anne Hidalgo told the France Inter radio station on Tuesday.

"We're on budget and we're on time."

During a visit to Paris on Monday, International Olympic Committee (IOC) official Pierre-Olivier Beckers, who is responsible for monitoring the Paris Games, voiced concern about the work needed to balance the budget.

Spurs appoint Postecoglou as new manager

AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham have appointed Ange Postecoglou as their new manager on a four-year deal, ending their long search for a new coach.

The 57-year-old Australian, who won the domestic Scottish treble with Celtic this season, will replace Antonio Conte at the Premier League club.

Conte left Spurs by "mutual agreement" in late March, with Cristian Stellini and then Ryan Mason taking temporary charge.

Postecoglou will officially join the London club, who finished a disappointing eighth in the Premier League this season, on July 1.

"Ange brings a positive mentality and a fast, attacking style of play," Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said on Tuesday.

"He has a strong track record of developing players and an understanding of the importance of the link



from the academy — everything that is important to our club."

The Greek-born Postecoglou enjoyed huge success during two years in Glasgow, winning five trophies.

But the lure of the Premier League proved too much to resist as he takes on the challenge of trying to revitalise Spurs after a disastrous 12 months.

The club were still challenging for a top-four place when Conte departed but they ended up missing out on European competition.

Former Bayern Munich coach Julian Nagelsmann and ex-Barcelona, Spain boss Luis Enrique and Feyenoord manager Arne Slot were among the big names touted for the job.

But Levy has finally got his man in Postecoglou, who takes the next step on a nomadic career that has included spells in Australia and Japan.

He also managed the Australia team.

