OPINION 6

TURKEY: WAKE UP FROM

YOUR SLUMBER

WORLD 9

UKRAINE RUSHES DRINKING

WATER TO FLOODED AREAS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Late City Vol.33 Issue 157

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BENZEMA JOINS SAUDI ARABIAN CLUB AL-ITTIHAD

Wrestlers halt protest as Govt promises action, WFI election

Grapplers suspend stir till June 15; Govt assures chargesheet against Brij by June end, quashing of FIR against wrestlers

PNS NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the protesting wrestlers have agreed to temporarily suspend their agitation till June 15, following assurances from the Government. The assurance includes filing a chargesheet against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the outgoing chief of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), and conducting elections for the sports body by the end of this month.

Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik met with Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, who invited them for a meeting aimed at resolving the deadlock. This meeting took place three days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah engaged in discussions with the wrestlers and addressed their demands.

Malik and Punia, speaking to reporters after the marathon five-hour meeting, confirmed that the Government has also assured them of withdrawing the FIRs that were lodged against them. These FIRs were a result of the wrestlers and their supporters being booked for violating law and order on May 28, when they marched



Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer Delhi on Wednesday

towards the new Parliament building without permission.

'While we have been asked to wait and suspend our protest until June 15, as the police investigation against Singh will be completed by then, it is important to note that our agitation is not over," stated Malik. Both she and Punia emphasised that the protest has only been temporarily suspended in response to the Government's request.

The meeting between the wrestlers and the Minister took place amid the Government's ongoing efforts to engage with top wrestlers who have been protesting since April 23, demanding the arrest of Brij

Bhushan Singh. Addressing the press conference following the meeting, Thakur expressed satisfaction with the "good atmosphere and positive manner" in which the discussions transpired. He confirmed that the Government has accepted the demands put forth by the protesting wrestlers.

'The wrestlers proposed that the chargesheet against Singh be filed by June 15, the WFI elections be conducted by June 30, and an Internal Complaints Committee, led by a woman, be established within the WFI," Thakur said. He added these proposals were unanimously agreed upon.

the Government has also agreed to bar Brij Bhushan and his associates from contesting the elections, in accordance with the wrestlers' demand. Singh, having served three terms as president, is already ineligible to participate in the elections under the Sports

Thakur further stated that until the WFI elections take place, two women coaches will be added to the ad-hoc committee of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) overseeing WFI affairs, specifically addressing technical matters He emphasised that players will be consulted in the governance of the federation after the elections

Regarding the wrestlers' demand for the withdrawal of cases against players, academies, coaches, or akharas (traditional wrestling schools), Thakur confirmed that the government has taken note of this request.

Thakur also mentioned that the wrestlers have agreed to call off their protest and will communicate the same to their supporters. When asked about the number of demands accepted by the Government, Thakur replied, "All these suggestions were agreed upon by consensus. The Government approached these issues with open mind."

While Punia, Malik, and two-time Olympian Vinesh Phogat have been leading the agitation since January this year, Phogat did not attend the meeting with Thakur.

Mukhtar gang member shot in Lucknow court

Toddler gets bullet injuries, critical; **Govt sets up SIT**

PNS LUCKNOW

Gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari's associate Sanjeev Maheshwari, alias Jeeva, was shot dead on the premises of a Lucknow court on Wednesday. The gunfire also resulted in injuries to a police officer and a 18-month-old girl. The child's condition is critical while the constable is in a stable state, sources said.

The alleged assailant was swiftly apprehended near the crime scene, just outside the courtroom. Eyewitnesses disclosed that the individual was disguised as a lawyer and fired around six shots.

Jeeva (48), serving life imprisonment in Lucknow jail, is an accused in the murder of BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai and then State minister Brahm Dutta Dwivedi as well as 22 other cases, including that of fraud and criminal conspiracy.

Taking a serious note of the incident and to find lapses in the security provided to a dreaded criminal inside court premises, the Uttar Pradesh Government formed a threemember Special Investigative Team (SIT). The team will submit its report to the Government within seven days. The three-member SIT will

be headed by ADG (Technical Services) Mohit Agarwal, while the other members include IG (Ayodhya Range) Praveen Kumar and JCP (Crime) Nilabja Chaudhary.

In the firing, 18-month-old girl Laxmi and constable Lal



Policemen attempt to apprehend an assailant who opened fire at gangster Sanjeev Jeeva on Lucknow court premises on Wednesday

Mohammed sustained injuries.

Senior police officers rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control even as lawyers staged a massive protest, raising slogans, and highlighting laxity inside court premises and lack of safety gadgets. The protest brought the traffic movement between Kaiserbagh bus depot and Swasthya Bhawan crossing to a standstill.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central, Aparna Rajat Kaushik said the historysheeter, Maheshwari, was shot dead at the door of the ST/SC courtroom (III) while being Police (Crime) Nilabja Chaudhary said they were yet to ascertain the sequence of events while the accused was being interrogated.

Joint Commissioner of

Jeeva was said to be a dreaded gangster in western Uttar Pradesh, and his name spelled terror among businessmen, company owners, contractors, and even government officials overseeing construction projects.

After Munna Bajrangi's murder inside Baghpat jail in 2018, Jeeva had claimed a threat to his life. His wife had also claimed a threat to his life

1 out of every 5 US student visas in 2022 issued in India: US envoy

NEW DELHI

US Ambassador to New Delhi Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday that in 2022, one out of every five US student visas was issued by its mission in India, surpassing the proportion of the Indian population worldwide. Garcetti further revealed that the United States is set to provide more visa appointments for students

During the seventh annual Student Visa Day organised by the US Mission in India, Consular Officers from New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai conducted interviews with nearly 3,500 Indian student visa appli-

this year than ever before.

Garcetti acknowledged that more Indian students choose the United States for higher education than any other country. He highlighted the fact that one out of every five student visas in 2022 was granted in



India, exceeding the proportion of the Indian population worldwide. Indians have consistently demonstrated excellence in education and have been a significant part of the student community in the US. The ambassador also mentioned that the US is on track to process the highest number of student visa applications in its

According to statistics shared by the embassy, the US Mission in India issued a record-breaking number of over 125,000 student visas in 2022. Indians received the highest number of H&L

and F1 student visas (17.5 per cent) globally during the same period.

The United States witnessed over 1.2 million visitors from India last year, making Indians one of the largest groups of international visitors to the country. Indian students constitute more than 21 per cent of the total international student population in the US. In the 2021-22 academic year nearly 200,000 Indian students were pursuing their studies in the US.

The embassy emphasised that they have successfully matched their pre-pandemic wait times for over 20 visa categories in the past year. Their current focus is on reducing the wait time for tourist visa applicants who require an interview. Since the beginning of this year, the wait time for in-person tourist visa appointments has decreased by 60 per cent. Student Visa Day is an annual event held in June

Old G'gram to get Metro

Cabinet nod for HUDA City Centre-Cyber City ₹5,453 crore corridor

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet granted approval on Wednesday for the extension of the Metro network from HUDA City Centre to Cyber City in Gurugram. The extension will cover a distance of 28.5 km, featuring 27 new stations, and is expected to be completed within four years at a cost of approximately ₹5,452.7 crore.

The primary corridor, spanning 26.65 km with 26 stations, will connect HUDA City Centre to Cyber City, while the 1.85 km "spur" or extension will run from Basai Village to Dwarka Expressway and include one station.

This metro line aims to establish connectivity between Old Gurugram and New Gurugram, as well as provide a link to the Indian Railways. Furthermore, future plans

involve connecting the net-

work to the Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport. With an estimated population of 25 lakh, Gurugram is projected to witness a daily rider-ship of 5.34 lakh by 2026, 7.26 lakh by 2031, 8.81 lakh by 2041, and 10.70 lakh by 2051.

The metro trains on this line will operate at a design speed of 80 km per hour, averaging 34 kmph. The entire project will be elevated and completed over the course of four years.

The execution of this project will be undertaken by the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport



(HMRTC), established as a 50:50 special purpose vehicle of the Centre and the Harvana government once the sanction order is issued.

According to a statement from the Ministry, "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved metro connectivity from HUDA City Centre to Cyber City with a spur line (branch line) to Dwarka Expressway, Gurugram, covering a distance of 28.50 km and

having 27 stations on the route." Continued on Page 2

Trishul arrives in Durban to mark Gandhi train incident anniv

Bid to kidnap two students, JNU bans entry of outside vehicles from 10pm to 6am

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

⊓he Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) alleged Wednesday that intoxicated individuals in a car entered the campus and attempted to kidnap two students. Following which, JNU security department has announced restrictions on outside vehicle entry

from 10 pm to 6 am. The incident occurred on Tuesday night, and the police have filed two cases based on

the students' complaints.
The JNU administration has expressed grave concern over the matter and has called for the "strictest punishment' for the perpetrators.

'Two complaints, one regarding physical assault and the other on molestation and attempted kidnapping, have been received from JNU students. Cases have been regis-



tered," stated Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C

He said, "In both cases, the accused and the vehicle are the same and have been identified. Further investigation is ongo-

JNUSU demanded that the Vice-Chancellor also file a police complaint and address the JNU community regarding the repeated security failures on campus. Additionally, one of the attacked students underwent a medical examination and filed a complaint, accord-

ing to the JNUSU. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

INDIA TO FLY US FLIERS STRANDED IN RUSSIA New Delhi: Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on

Wednesday assured safe return of San Francisco-bound passengers stranded in Russia after an Air India flight made an emergency landing there and said a ferry flight has already departed from India

MOTHER, SON KILLED AS AMBULANCE SET ON FIRE

Kolkata: An injured eight-yearold boy was killed along with his mother and another relative when an ambulance with the three on board was waylaid by a mob and set ablaze in West Imphal district. The incident occurred on Sunday evening when the boy was being taker to a hospital by his mother and their relative in Imphal after he sustained a bullet injury in his head during a shoot-out

Paddy MSP raised to **₹2,183**, second highest in decade

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Cabinet Committee on}}_{\text{Economic Affairs (CCEA)}}$ has announced a significant increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy, marking the second steepest

increase in the past decade.

The MSP for paddy has been raised by ₹143 to ₹2,183 per quintal for the current

This decision aligns with the Government's commitment to support farmers and comes as part of a series of measures taken in their interest over the past nine years, according to Prime Minister Narendra

The MSP for other kharif

crops for the 2023-24 crop year has also been increased. The MSP of various crops has seen a rise ranging from 5.3 to 10.35 per cent, with an absolute increase of ₹128 to ₹805 per quintal.

In the kharif cereals category, the MSP for the 'common grade' paddy has been raised by per cent to ₹2,183 per quintal, while the support price for the 'A' grade variety of paddy has been increased to ₹2,203 per quintal.

Among other crops, jowar (hybrid) and jowar (maldandi) have received a 7 per cent and 7.85 per cent increase, with MSPs set at ₹3,180 and ₹3,225 per quintal, respectively.

Continued on Page 2

AGENCIES NEW DELHI/ **JOHANNESBURG** In commemoration of the 130th anniversary of an inci-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/

dent involving Mahatma Gandhi at South Africa's Pietermaritzburg railway station, the Indian Navy warship INS Trishul arrived in South Africa on Wednesday. This visit to Durban is

part of the Indian Navy's celebration of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav" which honours significant moments that shaped India's struggle for independence, according to a statement released by the Navy.

The Navy announced its participation in a commemorative event marking the start of the struggle against apartheid, which took place 130 years ago at the Pietermaritzburg railway sta-



commemorative event from June 6 to June 9, 2023 to mark 130 years of the start of struggle against apartheid, in Durban, South Africa

Durban from June 6 to 9 to of the re-establishment of observe the 130th anniversary diplomatic relations between of the 1893 incident at India and South Africa, as

Pietermaritzburg and also to tion near Durban. INS Trishul will be in recognise the 30th anniversary

Abdulla. On June 7 of that year,

stated in the press release.

In 1893, Mahatma Gandhi arrived in Durban to serve as legal counsel to merchant Dada while traveling to Pretoria in the Transvaal, Gandhi boarded a first-class compartment with a valid ticket but was later forced to leave by a European passenger who believed that "coolies" and non-whites were not allowed in first-class compartments.

This incident is regarded as the catalyst for Gandhi's fight against racial oppression and the birth of Satyagraha, a nonviolent resistance move-

On April 25, 1997, in a poignant ceremony at Pietermaritzburg railway station, Nelson Mandela, the then South African President, posthumously conferred the "Freedom of Pietermaritzburg"

example of personal sacrifice and dedication in the face of oppression. During the visit, INS Trishul will participate in a commemorative event at the

on Gandhi. During the cere-

mony, President Mandela spoke of Gandhi's remarkable

Pietermaritzburg railway station, which includes paying floral tributes at the Gandhi Plinth and a performance by the Indian Navy band. The ship will also engage in other professional and social activities while in Durban. Consul General for India in

Durban, Thelma David, mentioned that the ship's band would play some of Mahatma Gandhi's favorite bhajans during the commemorative event. Floral tributes will be offered at the plinth where Gandhi was

Continued on Page 2

Court raps police for clubbing 27 plaints with 2020 Delhi riots FIR

Acity court on Wednesday came down hard on the Delhi Police for "wrongly and "casually" clubbing as many as 27 complaints of separate incidents of rioting and arson during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots with a pre-existing FIR, and directed a senior police officer to ensure the additional complaints were investigated properly.

Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala's order came while acquitting three people, who were named as accused in the original FIR with which 27 complaints were clubbed, for the offences of rioting and arson.

Akil Ahmed, Raheesh Khan and Irshad were accused of being part of a rampaging mob that had looted and set ablaze the complainant's shop in Chandu Nagar on February 24, 2020 during the riots. The judge said the charges were not proved against them beyond reasonable doubt. While acquitting the three accused in the main case, the court was severely critical of Delhi Police's action of clubbing 27 complaints with the main FIR and improper and inadequate probe into the additional complaints.

"It is also apparent that there was no logical ground with the IO (Investigating officer) to club those complaints in the present FIR and it appears to have been so done in a very casual manner. Hence, I find that all these complaints are wrongly clubbed in the present FIR in a mechanical manner and were not investigated," the court said.

Consequently, it referred the matter back to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast district) to take further steps on the additional complaints for the purpose of "proper and complete exami-

"In order to rule out any misconception, it is also made clear that as per the finding of this court, those complaints were wrongly clubbed in the present FIR and this observation also should be taken into account for the purpose of taking further steps," the judge said. Dealing with the merits of the FIR, the court said the

three accused were not proved beyond reasonable doubt. "It is once again made clear that in

the present case, I have consciously not given any finding in respect of charges qua other incidents based on additional complaints, for the reasons that same was not properly and completely investigated by investigating officer and for such omission of the IO, those complainants should not be prejudiced. Hence, the matter in that respect is being referred to investigating agency again,"

Deprecating the manner of investigation, the court said it was "amply clear" that all the additional complaints clubbed with this case were not completely investigated and the IO was even not aware of the time when such incidents took place. The court said because of a lack of proper investigation, it was not appropriate for it to still deal with the 27 complaints. "The IO had already acknowledged in his testimony that he did not have any evidence against the three accused persons charge sheeted in this

being disclosed in the additional complaints," it said.

In such a situation, deciding the additional complaints in the present FIR would be an "injustice," it said. Regarding the incident of arson at the complainant's shop, the judgement said it was established that the establishment was actually vandalised and torched by a riotous mob.

The judge, however, said, "I find that the evidence produced by the prosecution fails to qualify the test of credibility in respect of the identification of the accused persons being members of the mob, which was responsible for the incident at the premises of Danish (complainant)," An FIR was lodged after the riots at Dayalpur police station against the three accused under various provisions of the IPC.

The riots, which went on for three days, had erupted in northeast Delhi on February 24, 2020 after skirmishes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

'Bidhuri slams Atishi for tweeting 'factually

New Delhi: The leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, has advised Delhi's Minister Atishi Marlena to refrain from spreading lies and she should change her habit. The BJP leader said she is now holding a constitutional post and she

Taking a dig at Atishi, Bidhuri stated that Delhi Education Minister Atishi has given a false statement claiming that Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is demolishing houses in landless camps of Kalkaji. She tweeted a factually incorrect statement. "The truth is that alternative flats have already been allotted to people residing in these landless camps.

Nearly 1,200 out of total 1,862 people in these landless camps have already been shifted to new flats. The DDA is working to clear remaining spaces of those who have been shifted, and Atishi tried to spread illusion slum dwellers are being evicted through her false tweet," he said.

Atishi can travel to Britain: MEA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved city Education Minister Atishi to travel to the United Kingdom for an official visit next week. The counsel for the Centre informed the Delhi High Court on Wednesday that said the proposal has been sent to the economic affairs department for further clearance, which would also be processed and petitioner can

apply for requisite visa permits. While Atishi's lawyer said the clearance was given by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday morning, the counsel for the Centre said it was granted on Tuesday

"It was given yesterday on 6th. Political clearance has been granted. No need for any direction," the lawyer said. Á vacation bench of Justice Chandra Dhari Singh told the Centre to clear the pending approval as well as it was "just a formality" after the MEA's

Agreeing with the judge, the Centre's counsel said, "Once political clearance is done then no department comes in the way". In her petition, the AAP leader informed that she has been invited in her official capacity by Cambridge University to speak at a conference on 'India at 100:Towards Becoming a Global Leader' to be held on June 15. It also claimed that the petitioner has arranged multi-



ple visits to primary schools in the UK to "ensure that Delhi's children gain from best practices in primary school education abroad" and that the trip would be "crucial for a for exchanging ideas on improving urban governance and showcasing Delhi's own progress in urban design".

Advocate Shadan Farasat, the lawyer appearing for the petitioner, said she has to travel to the UK from June 14 to 20 and urged the court to direct the finance ministry to process the pending proposal within a day. Centre's counsel Pavan Narang asked the petitioner not to make "political statements" when clearance has been given in ordinary course and cast "aspersions on department" to show that the same was granted because of the petition.

"MEA requires 10 days' time. They come within 3 days and you start pressurising and filing frivolous applications before court without waiting for any decision. In normal course, within 10 days a decision is made, which is in their favour. Why are they in such a hurry when political clearance has been given," he argued.

HC cancels Navneet's appointment as MD of Ambedkar Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Delhi High Court has The Delni riight Constant Set aside the appointment of Dr Navneet Goel as Medical Director of the state-run Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital, saying the Delhi Government's health department created the post without following the due procedure. It said the power of State, as an employer, cannot be exercised arbitrarily.

A bench headed by Chief

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma observed that public employment in a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic has to be in accordance with the Constitution and laws, and in the present case, the appointment was not in terms of the statutory provisions.

The power of State, which is meant to be a model employer", are "more limited" than a private employer as they are subject to constitutional limitations, the court observed. "Public employment in a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, has to be as set down by the Constitution and the laws made thereunder.

Our Constitutional scheme envisages employment by the government and its instrumentalities on the basis of procedure established," said the bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad, on a PIL by an individual-Suresh Gaur. "In no manner can it be

construed that the appointment of Respondent No. 4 (Dr Navneet Goel) was done keeping in mind the relevant statutory provisions. In light of the aforesaid, this instant Writ Petition is allowed and the Impugned Order of appointment of Respondent No. 4 as the Medical Director, BSA Hospital is set aside," ordered the court on May 24.

The petitioner, represented by lawyer Avadh Bihari Kaushik, had claimed that Goel was appointed as the Medical Director, Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital (BSA Hospital) on March 10, 2021 by the Delhi government in an absolutely anomalous, illegal and arbitrary manner. He also alleged there was utter mismanagement at the BSA Hospital ever since he took charge. T

he court, in its order, stated the post of Medical Director itself was created through and order dated February 19, 2016 by the health department without following the due process, and the authorities did not place anything on record to state that due process was followed for sanctioning the post as per the Allopathy Rules, 2009.

It also said the authorities appointed "Respondent No. 4 to an irregular post, whilst not even keeping in mind the criterion they themselves have stipulated for appointment to the said post.'

Ex-serviceman arrested for killing a travel agent **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

n ex-serviceman was Aarrested for allegedly killing a travel agent over a monetary issue in north Delhi's Mori Gate area in February this year. According to police, the accused, Sanjesh Kumar Chauhan alias Fauji, was apprehended from Awaari village in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district where he had been hiding since February 7, when the incident took place.

After killing travel agent Akhilesh Tiwari, the accused fled the spot and reached his home state from where he was nabbed after four months, they said. Police said Chauhan is also involved in another case of causing hurt and intimidation in Etawah in January this year. The two had a tiff over operating buses on the same route and accused which he was delaying. Chauhan along with his associates hatched the conspiracy to eliminate Tiwari.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Alok Kumar said a team led by Inspector Shiv Kumar under the supervision of ACP Attar Singh arrested Chauhan, an absconding criminal, from his native place in Etawah on

The court had also issued a non-bailable warrant against him in the case, he said. "There was information about movement of absconding the accused in Etawah and its adjoining area. This information was further developed through manual and technical surveillance and after efforts for around one month, our team got a tip off

in addition to this, the victim had to pay Rs 1.5 lakh to the village. Later, our team was sent village. Later, our team was sent there and the accused was apprehended at about 8 pm on Tuesday from his sister's house," the DCP added.

The accused was operating four buses on the Delhi-Etawah-Kanpur route and the victim, Tiwari, was a travel agent who had his office in Mori Gate area. Tiwari would book tickets for the buses which were being operated by Chauhan, the senior police officer said.

Tiwari wanted to run his own bus on the same route which irked Chauhan. Further, he owed Rs 1.5 lakh to the accused. Due to this and on account of non-payment of the amount by the victim, the accused planned to kill Tiwari, he said. According to the plan, the accused along with his two associates — Udayveer alias Baba, a gangster and Vishnu reached the victim's office on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and shot him dead," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that my client Rajeshwar Chandra payal along with wife Ramrati, s/o Amichand R/O Home no. 1733, oppo. Golf course, sector -37, Noida, UP-201301, has

Golf course, sector - 37, Noida, UP-201301, has severed all his family relations with his younger son Anant kumar payal aged 30 and his wife Mrs. Aastha payal (Mishra) aged 25 Forthwith and also disown both of them from inheriting any movable and immovable properties of my client as they both are disloyal, disrespectful and disobedient. Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and cost and my client shall not be responsible for any dealing acts.

DEEPANSH DHAMIJA (ADVOCATE)

Delhi High Court & District Courts Mobile: 7042094666, 8287291455

THE PIONEER (1

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Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)

August 31, 2022

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Vyapam whistleblower ioins KCR's BRS party PNS HYDERABAD

Prominent social activist from Madhya Pradesh, Anand Roy, who brought to light the Vyapam scam that created a sensation in Madhya Pradesh, joined the BRS party in the presence of BRS national President and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao at Pragati Bhavan on Wednesdav.

Party Supremo KCR invited Anand Roy into the party by offering a pink scarf. Anand Roy is a popular RTI and tribal rights activits. Prominent tribal rights organization "Jai Adivasi Yuvashakti Sangathan (JAYS)", which is fighting for the rights of Tribals, also declared its support to BRS party. Anand Roy is a key

Along with them, JAYS president Lal Singh Burman, Pancham Bheel, Ashwin Dube, Gaziram Badole, Kailash Rana and others joined the BRS party, said a BRS statement. JAYS founder Vikram

Achalia said that slew of the welfare and development programs are implemented with a humanitarian aspect for the development of SC, ST, BC and minorities under CM KCR 's leadership in the Telangana Vikram Achalia said that

his Jai Adivasi Yuvashakti Sangathan (JAYS) is extending full support to the BRS Supremo and CM KCR for making efforts to bring qualitative change in country.

Paddy MSP raised...

The MSP for maize has

been raised by 6.5 percent to Rs 2,090 per quintal, and ragi's MSP has increased by 7.49 per cent to Rs 3,846 per quintal. Moong, one of the pulses crops, has seen the highest increase of 10.35 per cent in MSP, reaching Rs 8,558 per quintal. The MSP for tur has been raised by 6.06 per cent to Rs 7,000 per quintal, and urad's MSP has been increased by 5.3 per cent to Rs 6,950 per quintal. In the oilseeds category

sesamum has witnessed a 10.28 percent increase in MSP to Rs 8,635 per quintal, followed by groundnut with a 9 per cent increase to Rs 6,377 per quintal, and soybean (yellow) with a 6.97 per cent increase to Rs 4,600 per quintal. The MSP for niger seed has risen by 6.13 per

cent to Rs 7,734 per quintal, and sunflower seed has seen a 5.6 per cent increase to Rs 6,760 per quintal. For cash crops, cotton (long stable) and cotton (medium stable) have experienced increases of 10.03 per cent and 8.88 per cent, respectively, with MSPs set at Rs 7,020 per quintal and Rs 6,620 per quintal. Briefing media later, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal said, "Farmers will benefit from the increase in the MSP at a time when the retail inflation is in a declining trend."

"In agriculture, we have been fixing MSP from time to time based on the recommendations of CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices). The increase in MSP of the kharif crops for this year is highest compared to the previous years," he added.

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301(U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https:// etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

SL. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount
1	38/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2022-23	P/L Thermoplastic paint on road between Sector-39,51 & 40,50, Noida.	3099471.44
2	47/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2022-23	P/L, Thermoplastic paint in Sector-16 & 16A, Noida.	3115448.64
3	69/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2022-23	P/L Thermoplastic paint work on road from CNG Pump Sector-122 to Amrapali Zodiac Sector-120 and Road between Sector-117 & 118, Noida.	3219570.40
4	70/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2022-23	P/L Thermoplastic paint work on internal road Sector-112,115,116,117, Noida.	4123997.60
5	63/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2022-23	P/F Overhead Cantilever/gantry direction board on 60mtr. Wide road from samsung T-Point to DSC Road T-Point, Noida.	9494339.00

Which can be uploaded by date 14.06.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. Pre qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 15.06.2023 at 11.00 Dy. General Manage

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Description of Property/

Date of Physical Possession

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per

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

1. Matta Dharma Kumari/ Flat No B-9, First And Second Floor, The Kakateeya

Matta Kanikaram Devi Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., Kakateeya Priyanka/ Appartment Plot No 86, Ip Extn., Patparganj Delhi/

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Name of the

Borrower/ Loar

Account Number

Date: June 08, 2023

LBDEL00002875136 June 02, 2023

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

Ram R/o House No. 350 Ward No. 22, Rajeev Nagar, Faridabad have changed my name to Sopati Devi. Noida Traffic Ce

PD(061)A

Old G'gram to get Metro

The metro connectivity will feature a standard gauge line measuring 1,435 mm (5ft and 8.5 inches) and a spur line connecting Basai Village to the depot. The metro connectivity will originate from the existing HÜDA City Centre on Delhi Metro's Yellow Line, and the new stations will include Sector 45, Cyber Park, Sector 47, Subhash Chowk, Sector 48, Sector 72A, Hero Honda Chowk, Udyog Vihar Phase 6, Sector 10, Sector 37, Basai Village, Sector 9, Sector 7, Sector 4, Sector 48, Sector 10, Sector 37, Basai Village, Sector 9, Sector 10, Secto 5, Ashok Vihar, Sector 3, Bajghera Road, Palam Vihar Extension, Palam Vihar, Sector 23A, Sector 22, Udyog Vihar Phase 4, Udyog Vihar Phase 5, and Cyber City. The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry issued a statement indicating that the loan for the project is being secured through the European Investment Board and World Bank. Additionally, the Haryana Government has proposed the construction of a metro link from Palam Vihar to Dwarka Sector 21, facilitating con-

nectivity between the proposed Gurugram Metro and the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro. The first phase, initially constructed by a consortium of DLF and two companies of the IL&FS group, namely IERS (IL&FS Enso Rail system) and ITNL (IL&FS Transport Network Limited), spans a route length of 5.1 km from Sikandarpur to Cyber Hub. It was operated by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called Rapid Metro Gurgaon Limited since November 14, 2013.

The second phase is between Sikandarpur to Sector-56 with route length of 6.5 km, initially constructed by consortium of two companies of IL&FS i.e. ITNL

(IL&FS Transport Network Limited) and IRL (IL&FS Rail Limited). This phase was run by SPV namely Rapid Metro Gurgaon South Limited since 31.03.2017. The operation was taken over by Haryana Mass Rapid Transit Company (HMRTC) since 22.10.2019 in terms of the High Court order when concessionaire backed out to run this system.

The operation of this line has been entrusted to DMRC by HMRTC. Prior to this DMRC continued to run rapid metro line wef 16.09.2019. Average ridership of Rapid Metro Gurugram is about 30,000. In weekdays total daily ridership is about 48,000.

Trishul arrives in Durban to mark Gandhi train incident anniv

Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, an Indian sociologist and social entrepreneur, will also be present to discuss implementing Gandhian principles through the Swacch Bharat campaign, which draws inspiration from Gandhi's movement.

As part of the ship's friendly visit, the crew will engage in donation and community activities at the Phoenix Youth Centre in Durban, where the band will perform for approx-150 youth. imately Additionally, the ship's personnel will participate in a morning yoga session on June 9. The visit aims to foster understanding among schoolchildren and college students about the Indian Navy's capacThey will also be briefed on the Navy's operational capabilities and its role in maritime security, highlighting the friendly relations between the two countries and the significance of the Indian Navy in bilateral ties, explained Thelma David. In collaboration with the

Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, a round table discussion titled the Gandhi-Mandela-King Conference will be hosted on Wednesday.

The conference, named after three globally renowned leaders of the last century, will focus on peace and justice for all. Joint Secretary Puneet Kundal and Deputy High

Commissioner Banu Prakash will be among the speakers. During the visit, the frigate will have professional interactions with the South African Navy, further enhancing the close cooperation between the two India and South Africa

share the Indian Ocean as maritime neighbours with cordial defence and warm political relations. The two Navies regularly interact and operate together with Brazil during Exercise IBSAMAR, which is held every alternate year, the last edition of which was conducted in 2022. The Indian Navy also hosts a number of trainees from the South African Navy in various professional schools.

Bid to kidnap two students, JNU bans entry of outside vehicles from 10pm to 6am

From Page1

The JNU administration condemned the incident and stated, "We have taken serious note of the incident, and a police complaint has been lodged. The JNU administration has been closely coordinating with the police in the investigation process. We recommend the strictest punishment for the perpetrators of the crime."

The statement added that residents should contact the security branch or the police with any information related to the incident. Furthermore, the administration called on all

stakeholders to remain vigilant during the investigation and assured that steps have been taken to enhance campus secu-The university emphasised

its "zero tolerance" policy towards violence and its commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for all individuals. The administration stated,

'The safety and fearless movement of women on the campus is our topmost priority, and we are committed to stringent enforcement of the law dealing with sexual harassment in any form or by anyone."

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LG TO OPEN EAST CAMPUS OF INDRAPRASTHA VARSITY

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

¬he Raj Niwas Wednesday clarified that Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena will inaugurate the east campus of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) on Thursday. This came after Education Minister Atishi Marlena on Tuesday said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the campus. As per the invitation, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be the Guest of Honour.

Sources in Raj Niwas said that Kejriwal himself was aware of the fact that Saxena was scheduled to inaugurate the campus. In fact, they were also aware that they were supposed to be present on the function as Guest of Honour and

CM WILL BE GUEST OF HONOUR



Distinguished Guest, as desired by the LG and had also consented to it. In fact, the Chief Minister had asked for the date to be shifted from May 23 to accommodate his schedule and accordingly, the date was re-scheduled to June 8. Sources said that Atishi made an announcement despite the fact pus, and the Chief Minister was

that she was fully aware that that the same is to be done by the LG. The fact that the Lt. Governor(LG) will be inaugurating the campus was put on file way back in March when the University wrote to the LG Secretariat requesting for his consent to inaugurate the cam-



Lt Governor VK Saxena

also fully aware of this. Moreover, even on the day when Atishi made this claim in a press conference on Tuesday, earlier during the day, the Vice Chancellor of GGSIPU had announced on stage at the convocation of GGSIPU, where Atishi was present as a Guest of Honour, that the East Campus

to be inaugurated by the Lt. Governor on June 8. The Registrar and Vice Chancellor of the GGSIPU wrote to the LG Secretariat on file on March 17 requesting Saxena to inaugurate the East Campus in the third week of April.

The LG Secretariat wrote back to the VC conveying LG's consent on April 27 and scheduled the inauguration on May In the same note, it was

conveyed that the LG had desired that Chief Minister and Minister (Education) may also be invited for the inaugu ration. Subsequently, GGSIPU wrote back to LG Secretariat conveying that the above had been conveyed to the Chief Minister and Minister

Minister had asked for the program to be re-scheduled because of pre-scheduled engagements.

The LG Secretariat accordingly, conceding to CM's request, conveyed LG's consent to inaugurate the East Campus of GGSIPU on June 8. The East Campus of GGSIPU was conceptualized way back in 2013 by late Dr Ashok Kumar Walia, when he was Urban Development Minister of Delhi Government.

The foundation stone of the campus was laid by the then Union Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani on 14.12.2014 and even after the AAP Government came to power in February,

It took the GGSIPU itself to fund the building of the Campus at a cost of ₹387 Crore of which the government share was only ₹41 Cr. Even these ₹41 Cr. were paid in three instalments, the last of which was released just two days back i.e. on 05.06.2023.

The East Delhi Campus will also house the School of Planning and Architecture, which will be shifted to it from July.

The East Delhi campus

will already be housing two schools—School of Automation and Robotics and School of Design and Innovation — on the day the new campus is opened. "From July onwards, the University 2015, no concrete movement School of Planning and

ed to this campus. There is a synergy between the courses run by the three schools. These schools will be sharing faculty members, labs and there are also possibilities that we can run some programmes jointly," said GGSIPU Professor PC

Sharma. The three schools will be located on the sprawling 19-acre campus of the university that has been built at a cost of ₹388 crore. The building will meet its electricity demand on its own through net-zero consumption.

What is interesting is that the university utilises the technology of geothermal cooling for its residential blocks and hostel blocks, Professor Sharma

Ex-babus-judges back DU over Savarkar's inclusion in syllabus

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Agroup of former judges, bureaucrats, diplomats and generals on Wednesday came out in support of the Delhi University's decision to include V D Savarkar in its political science syllabus, contending that it was required for a fair narration of the history of India's national movement.

In a statement, the group also supported the varsity's decision to drop poet Mohammad Iqbal from the syllabus, arguing that his writings were associated with the idea of a separate Muslim nation, which led to the "tragedy of India's par-

"Grave injustice was done to many historical personalities who laid down their lives for free from the clutches of British imperialism," said a statement, issued by 123 prominent personalities that include former

Foreign Secretary Shashank, former High Court judges S N Dhingra, M C Garg and R S Rathore, among others. "It is particularly unfortunate that till the current inclusion of Savarkar's contribution and philosophy in the Delhi University syllabus, universities under Congress-Leftist influence intentionally suppressed his contribution and ideas for our great motherland," the statement

It noted that Savarkar was called "The Father of Hindutva" for his enunciation of 'Hindutva' ideology in his remarkable piece of literature "Hindutva: Who is a Hindu". "He propagated

'Hindutva' as a geopolitical concept, unifying diverse commu-nities under a shared cultural and civilizational identity," the statement said.

It said Savarkar simultaneously championed Dalit rights and worked ardently towards caste eradication and promoting social equality, and his vision of India as one nation was central to the ideology of "Akhand Bharat".

"Savarkar's views on freedom, social reform, and national unity make him an enduring figure in Indian history. By studying Savarkar's political ideologies, students will gain insight into factors that shaped India's nationalist movement and its subsequent trajectory," the statement said.

It described poet Iqbal, who had penned the song "Saare Jahan Se Accha Hindostan Hamara", as a "divisive figure' who sowed the seeds of secession in the country.

Kejriwal misses Sisodia as he opens Excellence School in Bawana

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday broke down as he remembered his former deputy Manish Sisodia while inaugurating a new branch of B R Ambedkar School of Specialised Excellence in Bawana. Kejriwal also emphasised that if it weren't for Manish Sisodia's unwavering commitment to building world-class schools, such targeted actions would not have been taken against him.

Kejriwal's voice quivered with genuine emotion as he addressed the children. "Today, I deeply miss Manish Sisodia. They framed false charges against him and jailed him in an unjust manner," he said, trying to gather himself as he broke down.

"I am sure that Manish Sisodia will come out of the jail very soon. Truth always wins. He has been jailed because he has been building good schools and the Aam Aadmi Party is getting popular," the AAP supremo said.

Tears welled up in Kejriwal's eyes as he voiced his frustration, pointing out that there are individuals with criminal intentions roaming freely while Manish Sisodia remains behind bars. He attributed his arrest to his dedication in building excellent schools in Delhi, which surpassed the achievements of the Central Government.

Taking a dig at Kejriwal, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that AAP converner is trying to portrait that Sisodia has been sent to jail in some case related to the Education Department, but the truth is that he has been jailed in the liquor scam of the Excise Department.

After meeting, Sisodia's wife pens letter praising his resolve to serve India

New Delhi: Jailed AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's wife Seema Sisodia has penned an emotional letter post meeting with her husband after 104 days mentioning how the police were stationed outside their bedroom, to watch the two and listen to every word they uttered during these seven Further, in the message

she talks about the challenges and sacrifices that come with the realm of politics, labelling it as a "dirty game." She mentioned that her husband was in jail due to dirty politics. The meeting, which lasted for seven hours, took place after the Delhi High Court allowed Manish to meet his wife for some time in view of her deteriorating health. "A person who has been sleeping on the floor for the past 103 days,



enduring mosquitoes, ants, and insects, without caring about all of that, he has the same dream in his eyes - to uplift society through education, to demonstrate honest politics alongside Arvind Kejriwal.No matter how many troubles and conspiracies come their way," read her letter.

Recalling the initial warnings received by well-wishers advising them to steer clear of politics, she emphasises how Manish remained resolute in his decision to join forces with Arvind Kejriwal and other like-minded individuals. SR

Delhi BJP HQ to borrow features of South Indian temple architecture

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP's new headquarters at DDU Marg will borrow features of South Indian temple architecture and depend on financial contributions by party leaders and workers. BJP national president J P Nadda will per-form the 'bhoomi poojan' and lay the foundation stone of the four-storeyed green building on a 825 square metre land plot on DDU Marg, on June 9.

"A long awaited dream of having Delhi BJP's own office building is finally being realised under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is a matter of great joy for all party workers," Delhi BJP presdent Virendra Sachdeva said.

The new building will be a ribute to the hard work and dedication of numerous workers and leaders of the Delhi BJP unit who dedicated themselves to the growth of the party, he











A World Class 'Center of Excellence' in East Delhi

Inauguration of

EAST DELHI CAMPUS of GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY

by

Chief Guest

Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena

Chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University & Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Shri Arvind Kejriwal Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi

Distinguished Guest

Ms. Atishi Marlena Hon'ble Education Minister, GNCTD

August Presence

Shri Gautam Gambhir

Hon'ble MP, East Delhi

Shri OP Sharma

Hon'ble MLA, Vishwas Nagar

Thursday, 08th June 2023 | 11:00 AM



- Conceptualized in 2012-13.
- Total cost of project Rs. 387 Cr.
- Foundation stone laid on 14 December 2014, by the then Hon'ble Union HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani.
- The campus was developed by GGSIPU with self-financing of Rs. 346 Cr. and Rs. 41 Cr. from the GNCTD.



Venue: GGSIPU, East Delhi Campus, Surajmal Vihar, Delhi - 110092

Nadda holds tiffin meeting with BJP's UP workers

Mins continue to highlight Modi Govt's achievements in last 9 yrs

s BJP president JP Nadda A "tiffin meeting" with party workers of western Uttar Pradesh as "public out-reach programme" ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the other senior leaders and Union Ministers continued to highlight the 'achievements' of the Modi-Government in last nine-years under the party's moth-long awareness drive.

Commenting on the 'achievements' of the Modi-government, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said it "restored the faith of people in the system". He said In last nine years, the Modi-government has been able to reach out to the poor and "make last mile delivery without any discrimination." A number of Union Ministers have been focusing on the performance of the nineyears under the party's porgramme which is to last for a

A day before Union Minister Amit Shah tweeted as how Mudra scheme "empowered women" in the country and Union Fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying minster



BJP president JP Nadda being welcomed by party workers as he arrives to attend a 'tiffin meeting' of the party, in Noida on

Purushottam Rupala lauded the Modi-government for launching mobile veterinary units and supported states by funding 60 per cent of recurring costs.

On Wednesday Shekhwat while listing 'nine-year milestones', also targeted Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, saying his prime focus was on saving his "kursi" (chair) while the state was hitting the bottom

He said the Congress government in the state has "completely failed" in implementing schemes, including those centrally-sponsored.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government since 2014, Shekhawat claimed that there has been a "visible change" in the lives of the people over the nine years as the benefits of the welfare schemes, launched by the Centre, are reaching the last person.

BJP President who has been meeting prominent and common people in his out-reach programme held a 'tiffin meeting' in Noida. Two days ago Nadda had met Lieutenant General (Retd) AS Lamba in his Gurgaon home.

As about Nadd's 'Tiffin

meeting' where all senior leaders of the western UP took their lunch with him while discussing organizational issues, the BJP's Noida Mahangar president Manoj Gupta said on "The 'tiffin meeting' is part of the BJP's mega public outreach program ahead of the 2024 general elec-

The BJP's state unit chief Bhupendra Chaudhary, vicepresident Pankaj Singh, Gautam Buddh Nagar MP Mahesh Sharma and Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Nagar among others are accompanying Nadda, he

AI sends replacement plane for passengers stranded in Russia

ir India on Wednesday sent Air India on Wednesday sent Aa replacement plane from Mumbai to Magadan, Russia (GDX), to ferry 216 stranded passengers and 16 crew members from a US-bound flight after its plane made an emergency landing on Tuesday. The plane carrying food and other essentials will arrive in Magadan

on Thursday morning.

According to Air India, the ferry flight finally took off from Mumbai for Magadan in far east Russia at around 1520 hours on Wednesday to fly its 216 San Francisco-bound passengers stranded in the port city since Tuesday. "Our ferry flight AI195 from Mumbai (BOM) to Magadan, Russia (GDX) is now airborne, and is expected to arrive at GDX at 0630 Hours (local time) on 08 June 2023," Air India said in a statement. It said that a team from the airline is also on board the flight to provide any support that the passengers and staff at GDX may require. The ferry flight is carrying essentials in addition to a sufficient amount of food to cater to all passengers on the onward flight scheduled from Magadan (GDX) to San Francisco (SFO), Air India said.

Magadan is located on the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk in northeastern Russia and falls under the administrative centre



of Magadan Oblast. The port town is about 10,167 km from Moscow. It takes around 7 hours and 37 minutes to reach Magadan from Moscow by air.

Meanwhile, the diversion of the Boeing BA.N 777 widebody aircraft comes amid a global debate over the use of Russian airspace by some carriers, with the chief of United Airlines UAL.O warning on Monday of the dangers of a plane being forced to land in Russia with American citizens on board. Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday assured safe return of San Francisco-bound passengers stranded in Russia after an Air India flight made an emergency landing there and said a ferry flight has already departed from India.

The US State Department said it was keeping an eye on the situation, with the Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel saying that it was likely that there

were U.S. citizens on board the flight. "We are aware of a USbound flight that had to make an emergency landing in Russia and are continuing to monitor that situation closely. I'm not able to confirm how many US citizens were aboard the flight at this time," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant

Patel told reporters at his daily

news conference.

"It was a flight that was bound for the United States. So, it is, of course, likely that there are American citizens on board. There's public reporting from Air India that they are sending — what my understanding is a replacement aircraft to the destination to have the passengers carry on for their route, but I would defer to the air carrier to speak to anything further on this," Patel said in response to a question.

Meanwhile, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson defended the airline's use of Russian airspace

on Monday, noting the critical role the industry plays in connecting economies, people, and cultures. Air India flight AI173 with 216 passengers and 16 crew was diverted to Magadan, Russia on Tuesday due to an engine glitch in the Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft.

Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday assured safe return of San Francisco-bound passengers stranded in Russia after an Air India flight made an emergency landing there and said a ferry flight has already departed from India. "We have a Boeing 777-200 that took off at I pm...The flying time is around six-and-a-half hours, it will land there and take on board all passengers and fly to San Francisco safely," Scindia told reporters.

Air India in its earlier statement had said that all the passengers and crew were provided "hotel accommodation".

On Wednesday it said that infrastructure constraints" have forced it to lodge them in makeshift accommodations despite "making sincere attempts to accommodate passengers in hotels locally with the help of local government authorities".

It also said that Air India does not have a staff based in the remote town of Magadan or in Russia, and the support that is being provided to the passengers "is the best possible in this unusual circumstance'

Dhaka seeks explanation from India over mural in new Parl

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ **AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI/ KATHMANDU

 $B_{\text{explanation from India}}^{\text{angladesh has sought an}}$ regarding a mural installed in the new Parliament building here. Bangladesh and Pakistan also raised the issue a few days back. India has maintained that the mural only depicts the spread of the prehistoric Ashokan empire.

As regards Bangladesh, its minister of state for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam asked the Bangladeshi mission in New Delhi to seek an explanation on

During an interaction with the media at the foreign ministry in Dhaka on Monday, Alam said the mural has "nothing to do with politics" and there is no reaaccording to reports in the Bangladeshi media.

Alam added that the Bangladesh high commission in New Delhi has been asked to talk to the external affairs ministry to get an "official explana-

tion".

"There is no reason to about it. express doubts about it. However, for further clarification, we have asked the mission in Delhi to speak to the Indian ministry of external affairs to find out what their official explanation is," Alam was quoted as saying by Dhaka Tribune.

Alam was also cited by Bangladesh's The Business Standard as saying that the external affairs ministry's spokesperson had described the mural as a "map of the Ashoka



Empire and it was three hundred years before the birth of Christ". He added it was a "map of the area that existed at the time" and the mural depicts the journey of

The mural...depicts the spread of the Ashokan empire and the idea of responsible and people-oriented governance that propagated," external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said during a weekly media briefing last week.

The mural depicts ancient sites such as Lumbini and Kapilvastu in Nepal and historic locations in present day Pakistan.

Ahead of Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's visit to India last week, the country's political leaders urged him to raise the matter with Indian interlocutors. Bagchi said the matter was not formally raised by Dahal during talks in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Prachanda on Wednesday said in Kathmandu he raised the issue relating to the mural during his visit to New Delhi and the Indian side clarified that it

was a cultural map and not a political one.

Prachanda made the remarks in Parliament when the opposition lawmakers slammed nim for not raising the issue of 'Akhanda Bharat' map, which, they claimed, also consists of Nepal's territory.
"While talking about the

Indian side said it was a cultural map, not a political one Further study should be carried out on the issue," he said while responding to the questions raised by the lawmakers.

Prachanda said he mentioned the map during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said it was a cultural map not a political

India has downplayed the issue of a mural in the new Parliament building, describing it as an artwork that depicted the spread of the prehistoric Ashokan empire.

The mural triggered a controversy in Nepal as it is being interpreted as a map of 'Akhand Bharat' comprising parts of several neighbouring countries.

9-pronged approach for building self-reliant India deliberated

As envisioned under Nav-mantra — a nine-pronged approach for building a selfreliant India by rejuvenating the productivity movement, a battery of experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders under the umbrella of National Productivity Council (NPC) deliberated threadbare recently at a national conference as they explored strategies for achieving higher productivity across various sectors in the

The event themed "Navmantra: Innovations for Higher Productivity", which was supported by the Asian Productivity had Indian Potash Limited as the industry partner majorly focused on youth and productivity, women and productivity, innovations, agriculture and cooperatives, and industry partner-

Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Director General of the NPC in his keynote address emphasised the significance of higher productivity in driving economic growth and shared insights on the NPC's initiatives while KD Bharadwaj, Director and Group Head (Energy, Environment & Climate Action) from the NPC deliberated on "Amrit Kaal and NPC in 2047" focusing on inclusive and innovation-led productivity growth, envisioning the role of NPC in the coming

years. It was pointed out that



'Navmantra" aims a nine pronged approach for building a self-reliant India, covering five thematic areas and four geographic focal regions. "The areas included youth and productivity, women and productivity," innovations, agriculture and cooperatives, and industry partnerships." The conference was held in Puri, Odisha on June 5. The NPC is an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Sarang General Manager (SDF), and AB Panigrahi Advisor (SDF) Odisha Mining Corporation stressed on the importance of adopting sustainable mining practices to ensure the extraction of minerals and resources while minimizing negative environmental and social impacts. The conference also hosted panel discussions on social, economic, and industrial growth, as well as on drivers and barriers to green productivity. For instance, Rajeev Ranjan, Director of IPL Centre for Rural Outreach focuses on the importance of innovation and productivity in rural areas while Bharat Lal, DG of the National Centre for Good Governance touched upon the role of productivity and good governance in achieving sustainable development.

Higher risk of cancer in men born

during Bhopal gas disaster: Study



1st India-Lanka Defence seminar, exhibition organised in Colombo

PNS/ AGENCIES NEW DELHI/ COLOMBO

In an effort to further strengthen defence ties between the two countries, the High Commission of India in Colombo organised the first India-Sri Lanka Defence Seminar and Exhibition on Wednesday.

promote and identify newer areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the defence sector.

The exhibition was inaugurated by State Minister of Defence of Sri Lanka Premitha Bandara Tennakoon. A large number of industries from both the countries participated in the exhibition and showcased their products.

Addressing the gathering through a video message, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane described Sri Lanka as India's priority partner, stating that as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, New Delhi stands committed to ensuring capacity and capability building of the Armed Forces of the neighboring country.

He termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) as the underlying theme of India's maritime policy. This vision is rooted in

advancing cooperation within the region through inclusivity and using India's capability to benefit its friendly countries in Aramane highlighted the

common security challenges faced in the Indian Ocean Region such as terrorism, piracy, drugs and arms trafficking and illegal migration.

He called for enhanced and active collaboration to deal with these challenges with the aim to create a safer environment.

The Defence Secretary emphasised that the Indian defence sector stands at the cusp of a major revolution and the focus is to establish a robust research and development and indigenous manufacturing ecosystem, while fostering innovation and entrepreneurship under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.



trained in 3 yrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ountry's top food regulator, Food Safety and Standard Association of India (FSSAI) will soon embark on a mega drive to train over 25 lakh food business ensure that food quality standards are met across the States.

The FSSAI also plans to set up 100 food streets in the country which meet the quality benchmark for food safety, hygiene, and nutrition. This was stated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday after unveiling the 5th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) on World Food Safety Day. The event was also attended by the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prof

SP Singh Baghel among others. The SFSI evaluates the performance of states and union territories across six different aspects of food safety.

At the event, Mandaviva also felicitated the winners based on their rankings with Kerala topping the list followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Among the smaller states, Goa emerged as the leader, followed by Manipur and Sikkim. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second, and third ranks respectively among the union territories.

In setting food safety standards for the country, the Minister said that we should look at our own traditions, and heritage in terms of diet, lifestyle, seasonality of food products, so we can set our own food standards in the world.

ED attaches ₹100 crore assets in bank fraud case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate 1 (ED) on Wednesday said it has carried out search operations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at seven locations of Bengaluru/ Davangere (Karnataka) belonging to Bharath Infra Exports and Imports Ltd and its related entities in a bank fraud case and attached assets worth over Rs 100 crore.

Bharath Infra Exports and Imports Ltd. availed loan facilities in the form of cash credit, EPC/FBD, Non-fund based working capital and letters of credit (Inland and regular) from the State Bank of India, Bengaluru City branch. The account of the said entity was classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on January 17, 2017 due to non-repayments of the bank's dues and the outstanding

was 113.38 crore. "The investigations done by ED revealed that the promoters/directors of Bharath Infra



appropriated the credit facility availed from the State Bank of India by wrongful diversion of funds/loans to related parties, submitted forged/fabricated invoices/documents to the bank and also written off sales booked without complying with contractual obligations," the agency said in a statement.

The investigation further revealed that Rs 101.18 crore was siphoned off by the accused with respect to 10 Letters of Credit issued to Aradhya Wire Ropes Pvt. Ltd, which got devolved and credited into the bank account of Aradhya Wire Ropes Pvt. Ltd. Subsequently, these 'proceeds of crime' were routed through the bank accounts of various other



A first of its kind star, said that the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, one of the worst industrial 'disasters in India, may have led to men born during and after the mishap having a higher risk of developing disabilities and cancer later in life. The research, published in

the journal BMJ Open, suggests that industrial accidents may have a much longer-term and serious impact on people's health than just the immediate after-"Our paper finds evidence

that one of the worst industrial disasters in India, the Bhopal gas disaster in December 1984, may have led to men who were inutero at the time of the accident having a higher risk of developing disabilities and cancer later in life," said study corresponding author Gordon McCord, associate teaching professor at the University of California San The results also suggest that the Bhopal gas disaster

affected people across a substantially more widespread area than has previously been demonstrated," McCord said in a statement. In the Bhopal incident, there was a methyl isocyanate gas leak at a pesticide plant and the leak of toxic gas which spread for a 7 kilometre radius, exposing more than half a million people in the city of Bhopal to the gas and led to over 20,000 deaths in the region.

"There were serious longterm and chronic health consequences for hundreds of thousands of survivors, including respiratory, neurological, musculoskeletal, ophthalmic and endocrine impacts," said study co-author Prashant Bharadwaj, professor in UC San Diego's Department of Economics.

The leak's toxins also affected groundwater and the repro-



outcomes of exposed women, suggesting that generations not exposed to the toxic gas directly may nevertheless have suffered adverse health and social impacts of the event. The study also cites previous

literature that found, for example, that there was a fourfold increase in the rate of miscarriage following the gas leak, as well as increased risk of stillbirth and neonatal mortality. However, the study is the

first to extensively research the multi-generational impacts of such an event and recognise the

in 1984.

sions by investigating these impacts on children born to female survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster. The researchers looked at official health and education data, such as NFHS, to estimate the long-term health effects — specifically adult cancer rates and disability - and the educational attainments of people who were exposed to the leaked gas in utero or as children

"Our analysis of the results showed there were long-term, intergenerational impacts of the gas leak, showing that men who

mothers lived close to Bhopal were more likely to have a disability that affected their employment 15 years later," said study co-author, Anita Raj, a professor in the UC San Diego Departments of Medicine and Education Studies. "They also had an eightfold higher cancer risk and lower educational attainment more

than 30 years later, when compared to adults who were born before or after the disaster and who lived further away from Bhopal," Rai said. The researchers also found changes in the sex ratio among

children born in 1985, suggesting an effect of the event up to 100 km from the accident. The researchers said the study had some limitations in that the people included would have had a range of actual exposure to the dangerous gas and

the calculations could be affect-

ed by migration and mortality.

Mandaviya also unveiled several innovative initiatives by FSSAI, including the Rapid Food Testing Kit (ŘAFT) portal. This portal aims to streamline the operations of the RAFT Scheme, ensuring transparency and accountability. Baghel said, 'Awards not just limited to certificates, but it has a larger impact. It also places greater responsibility on you as you go forward to do something even bigger." On the importance of food safety, he said, "No matter how remote a place is, it boasts of fast food stalls, hence guaranteeing food safety standards becomes even more important in ensuring the health of our cit-

Kolhapur erupts over Tipu Sultan

Protest against use of Tipu's image, message as social media status; net shut, cops baton-charge stone pelters

PTI ■ KOLHAPUR

ielding lathis, police in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on Wednesday dispersed hundreds of protesters after they pelted stones during a demonstration against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image along with an audio message as social media "status" by a few locals, an official said. In view of the protest, internet services have been suspended till Thursday in Kolhapur, a senior police official said. While personnel from the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) have been deployed in the city in western Maĥarashtra,

police have sought more cops

from Satara, he said. Prohibitory orders have been issued till June 19 banning the assembly of five or more persons, he said.

As there was a possibility that a few groups of protesters may go to the neighbouring Sangli district, police are put on alert and prohibitory orders may be issued.

may be issued.

Tension rose in Kolhapur city on Tuesday after two men allegedly put 18th-century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan's image along with an audio message as their social media "status".

A group of Right-wing activists demanded action against both men following which a case was registered, said

which a case was registered, said another official. Police registered



Security personnel disperse people protesting against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image in social media posts, in Kolhapur district on, Wednesday

PTI ■ IMPHAL

another FIR on Tuesday evening and arrested seven persons after more protests were held, the offi-

ricial said. The protesters again hit the streets on Wednesday. "Some organisations had called for a Kolhapur bandh and their members gathered at Shivaji Chowk today. After their demonstration ended, the crowd began to disperse but some miscreants started throwing stones, forcing police to use force against these people to disperse them," said Kolhapur Superintendent of Police Mahendra Pandit.

He said force and teargas were used only after stones were hurled at houses and vehicles

Kolhapur district collector Rahul Rekhawar said the situation is under control and additional police forces have been brought in.

Dipak Kesarkar, the district guardian minister, said that action has been taken against those who had used Tipu Sultan's image along with an objectionable audio message. Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde has appealed for peace and said nobody should law into their hands.

Against the background of the incidents in Ahmednagar and Kolhapur, NCP chief Sharad Pawar has claimed "religious colour" was being given to some small issues and the ruling parties are encouraging such things, which he said is a cause of con-

"Recently we heard about Ahmednagar. Today, I saw news from Kolhapur. People came out on roads, and giving religious colour to a small incident of sending a message over the phone is not a good sign. The

phone is not a good sign. The ruling parties are encouraging such things," he alleged.

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole has demanded the resignation of Fadnavis alleging he has failed to handle the law and order situation and also cited the alleged rape and murder of a collegian in a Mumbai hostel Mumbai hostel.

Rly Min seeks status report of safety audit

Cong demands FIR against Vaishnaw for 'Himalayan-level dereliction of duty'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BHUBANESHWAR

 $M_{\mbox{Wednesday}}^{\mbox{inistry of Railways on}}$ on Wednesday sought the status report of the safety audit it directed to be completed with-in a week's time following similar kind of lapses being specu-lated over the Balasore Train accident that has claimed 288 lives and left scores of passengers with injures.

On its part, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is inquiring into the triple train tragedy in Odisha, collected evidence from the accident site and Bahanga station, where the accident took place on June 2 evening.

Sources said the CBI sleuths, along with the forensic and technical team, examined the main line, loop line, accident site, signalling room and station master's office. They have examined all employees and seized mobile phones of some of the Railway employees, who were on duty when the accident took place, the source said.

The team is likely to examine the call records, WhatsApp calls, messages and social media usage of the staff during its investigation.

The Railway Board on last Sunday recommended a CBI which the death toll has touched 288. A 10-member CBI team had reached Balasore on Monday evening and started investigation into the case from Tuesday

In addition to the CBI, the Railway Safety Commissioner is also investigating the accident. "Both CBI and Railway Safety Commissioner are conducting their investigations separately and the central agency is collecting required evidence," said Aditya Kumar Chaudhary, CPRO, South

Eastern Railway. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continued to attack the BIP-ruled Centre alleging that there were attempts to suppress the cause of the train accident in Odisha. The CBI was engaged to probe into the



The Railways is using an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered website and SIM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

card triangulation to identify the unclaimed bodies of the Odisha three train crash victims. Of the 288 people killed in the accident on June 2, as many as 83 bodies remained unclaimed as of Wednesday, officials said. The Railways initially called a team from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to the site to take thumbprints of the dead to ascertain their

"That did not work out the thumbs were damaged and prints were difficult to take. Then we thought of identifying the bodies using Sanchar Saathi which is an AIbased portal," an official said.

The recently launched Sanchar Saathi web portal was put to use to identify 64 bodies and it was successful in 45 cases, officials said.

Sanchar Saathi allows customers to know the mobile

June 2 triple train crash but pieces of evidence have already been removed, Banerjee

The Congress demanded FIR against the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for "Himalayan level of dereliction of duty" and negligence, that led connections issued in their name and also track and block their lost smartphones. To identify the bodies of the train accident victims, the portal traced the victims' phone numbers and Aadhaar details using their photographs. Following this, their family members were contacted, officials said. However, it was an uphill task as many of these bodies were beyond recognition.

Some have no identifiable features left. It is difficult to identify them even from their clothes since they are caked with blood," an officer

hoping to identify some bodies by using cellphone impressions around the accident

By tracing calls made through nearby towers just before the accident and linking them to those which shut down immediately at the time of the crash, the Railways is trying to figure out if they belonged to the unidentified victims.

to Balasore train tragedy.

Addressing a Press conference at the AICC headquarters, oarty spokesperson Dr Ajoy Kumar said, the Government was busy in headline management and saving the Minister who is responsible for the train

Live TV interview helps Nepali couple reunite with their son

PTI ■ CUTTACK (ODISHA)

A live television interview of a Nepali couple aired from one hospital helped it find out its minor son who was injured in the June 2 Odisha train accident and under treatment in another hospital. The 15-year-old boy, Ramananda Paswan, who was recuperating in the ICU of a hospital here, saw his parents on a news chan-nel on a television set which was in the room and alerted the authorities. The hospital then facilitated the reunion of the boy, who was travel-ling in the ill-fated Coromandel Express, with his parents who came from Nepal in search of him after knowing about the accident that claimed 288 lives, an official said.

"I am happy to find my son. He was travelling with three of our relatives. All of them were killed in the accident. He, however, miraculously escaped with injuries,"

Asserting that the Government's decision to refer the rail accident inquiry to the CBI and weave the conspiracy theories was to divert the public attention, Kumar questioned the logic of the Government to rush to the conclusion that the accident was caused by sabotage without examining other things. "It is like starting chemotherapy of the patient who merely complained of cough", Dr Ajoy, a doctor himself remarked.

The Congress leader pointed out, even the CBI FIR did not mention the "sabotage" and "conspiracy" words anywhere, thus making it obvious that the government wanted to divert the attention by resorting to conspiracy and sabotage theories.

No clue of bodies of mother, son, relative killed in ambulance arson

57 arms, 5 bombs recovered in Manipur

As many as 57 arms, 318 ammunition and five bombs have been recovered in Manipur, taking the total number of recovered arms and ammunition to 868 and 11,518, respectively, Security Advisor to

respectively, security Advisor to Manipur Government Kuldiep Singh said on Wednesday.
Curfew relaxation has been made for 12 hours in five valley districts and for 10 to eight hours in neighbouring hill districts. There is no curfew in six other hill districts. hill districts.

"In Manipur, during the last 24 hours, 57 arms, 318 ammunition and five bombs have been recovered from Porompat police station in Imphal East and Sugnu police station in Kakching districts. A total of 868 arms and 11,518 ammunition have been recovered till date," Singh said in a

statement. Movement of essential items along NH-37 is ensured. A total of 244 empty vehicles left Imphal for Jiribam on Wednesday besides 212 loaded vehicles left Noney and 212 loaded tankers and trucks left Jiribam.

Meanwhile, in a horrific incident, an injured eight-year-old boy was killed along with his mother and another relative when an ambulance with the three on board was waylaid by a mob and set ablaze in Manipur's West Imphal district, officials said. The incident occurred at Iroisemba when the boy was being taken to a hospital by his mother and their relative in Imphal after he sustained a bullet injury in his head



during a shoot-out, they said. Three have been identified as Tonsing Hangsing (8), his 45year-old mother Meena Hangsing, and Lydia Lourembam, aged 37, the officials said.

A senior Assam Rifles officer confirmed the incident and said security has been beefed up in and around the camp where it happened. Sources said Tonsing, the son of a tribal man, and his Meitei mother, were staying at an Assam Rifles relief

camp at an Assam Killes relief camp at Kangchup.

On June 4 evening, a gunfight started in the area, and despite being in the camp, he was hit by a bullet. "A senior Assam Rifles officer immediate." Assam Rifles officer immediately spoke to police in Imphal and arranged for an ambulance. Since the mother was from the majority community, a decision was taken to take the kid to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal by road," sources said.

The ambulance was under Assam Rifles escort for a few kilometres, after which the local police took over. "Around 6:30 pm, the ambulance was waylaid by civilians at Isoisemba and set ablaze. All three in the vehicle were killed. We still do not know where the bodies are," one of the sources added.

'Govt trying to suppress truth behind triple train mishap'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

new municipal service Arecruitment scam — and fresh round of CBI raids at multiple Government locations on Wednesday led Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to lash out at the BJP Government for beginning a "new gimmick" of raids in order to "turn the mishap and "suppress facts" related to its reasons.

A furious Chief Minister slammed the BJP Government for trying to suppress the truth behind the triple train accident at Balasore.

"Today they have sent CBI in Bengal to conduct raids in municipalities and Government places ... tomorrow they will conduct raids in bathrooms also ... all this is a gimmick to divert the attention from the train mishap ... but we will not relent ... we will want the truth to come out," Banerjee said.

Questioning the need to bring CBI to investigate a train accident Banerjee said, "What was the need of ordering CBI investigation in Balasore ... it was a train accident and the Commissioner of Railway

Didi blasts Centre for CBI raids in

Safety was enough to investigate it because they have the expertise to do so ... the CBI the facts?

The Chief Minister also said that her Government had directed the Bengal administration to be by the side of the accident victims and their kin. 'We will provide help to

them for six months," Banerjee said, adding the government would offer temporary jobs in the police force to the next of kin who had died in the mishap. She said that

She said that out of the 288 people dead about 103 were from Bengal. Out of them only 86 had been identified, the Chief Minister said adding 172 people from Bengal had suffered major injuries while about 635 had received minor injuries.

Demanding the real facts behind the tragedy she said, "we want to know the truth. Why did

this accident take place? Why did so many people die? What will the CBI do? Is it a criminal case? Do you remember Pulwama? The CBI investigation is a gimmick, and is a tool to cover up everything. It is not an investigation to find out the truth behind the accident. All the paperwork and evidence are missing," she said adding "there they have sent the CBI in . here (in Bengal municipali ties) too they have CBI to conduct raids and disturb the gov ernment ... today they are raid ing the municipalities ... tomorrow they will raid the bathrooms.

The Chief Minister's outburst came hours after 16 teams of CBI officials following a Calcutta High Court order conducted raids in more than 20 places including municipalities and the Urban Development Ministry offices all over the

The raid conducted by the CBI officials with the help of central forces at Barangar, South Dum Dum, Halisahar Shantipur, Titagarh Panihati and other municipalities were still continuing when reports last

Panel to probe rape & murder of college student at S Mumbai hostel

PTI MUMBAI

A one-member committee will conduct an inquiry into the rape and murder of an 18-year-old student inside her room at a government hostel in Mumbai, the Maharashtra Government said on Wednesday.

Education Minister Chandrakant Patil made the announcement a day after the gruesome crime case to light. The woman, student of a polytechnic, was allegedly raped and murdered by a security guard at Savitribai Phule Working Women's Hostel in Charni Road area in the early hours of Tuesday. The accused subsequently committed suicide by jumping in front of a train, police said. "Dr Nipun Vinayak, state project director, will head the one-member committee. State director of Higher Education and Divisional Joint Director from the Higher Education department will assist him. The inquiry report has to be filed at the earliest," said the Government order.

SIA, cops attach 124 properties across J&K

77 of these assets belong to terror group Jamat-e-Islami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P^{ursuing\ its\ policy\ of\ zero\ tol-}_{erance\ towards\ anti-State}$ activities, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) and the executive wing of J&K Police has widened the legal framework against terror funding by attaching 124 properties, land and buildings, situated across J&K at 86 loca-

According to a statement issued by the UT administration, "nearly, 77 of these properties belong to proscribed organisation Jamat-e-Islami, which have been notified under Section 08 of UAPA in Case FIR number 17/2019 U/S 10, 11 and 13 UA (P) Act of Police Station Batamaloo being investigated by SIA".

These properties, during the course of investigation in terrorism related cases, have been established prima facie to be either proceeds of terrorism or used in such activities which are aimed at furtherance of terrorism and secessionism, the statement said. Invoking provisions of

Section 8 and Section 25 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), SIA and executive wing of police, after orders from competent authorities designated under UAPA, have set into motion legal process for forfeiture of these tainted properties, by courts having relevant legal and territorial jurisdiction.

Exhibiting strong resolve against terrorism, the action, therefore, has been taken following due process of law, to deracinate the terror support system, as per requirements of international charters and conventions against terrorism".

The statement further said,

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 allows the Centre's fact checking unit

Bombay HC to hear three petitions challenging revised IT rules on July 7

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Editors Guild of India and Association of Indian Magazines have filed two separate petitions in the Bombay High Court, challenging the recent amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021).

Within days after stand-up comedian Kunal Ksmrra challenged IT Rules 2021, Editors Guild of India and another by Association of Indian Magazines moved the High Court to challenge the revised Rule 3(1)(b)(v) and Rule 3(i)(II)(A), (C) to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023. The Rule 3(i)(II)(C) of the to identify "fake or misleading news" about Government policies, etc. On Wednesday, the three petitions came up for hearing before a division bench of Justices GS Patel and Neela Gokhale which directed the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) to file its reply to the three petitions by June 20.

The HC bench also asked

the Centre to serve a copy of its June 28, 2023. While adjourning the hear-

reply to the three petitioners by June 20 and permitted the petitioners to file their rejoinders by

ing on three petitions, Justice

Patel said: "Since there are three petitions, we will not permit repeated arguments" The HČ bench scheduled

the next hearing of the case on July 6. On its part, the HC bench expressed its prima opinion that as opposed to the affidavit, the rules did not seem to offer protection to fair criticism of the government like parody and

Earlier, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh told the court that the Central government to defer its decision till July 10 to form a fact checking body empowered under the IT Rules to identify and tag what it conwith respect to any activity of the government.

In their separate pleas, the petitioners have urged the court to hold amendments ultra vires Section 79 of the Information Technology Act and Article 14 (right to equality) and 19(1)(a)(g) [freedom to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business] of the Constitution.

Among other things, the amendment provides for setting up of a Fact Checking Unit (FCU) that will flag objectionable content. Without the FCU the Rules cannot operate.

The petitioners have contended that under the amended law, the telecom service providers and social media intermediaries will be under obligation to take action against content flagged by the fact checking unit. Failing this, they would lose the safe harbour protection under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act.

BNHS ornithologists to collate data on seabirds

Society to document movement patterns, threats

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is compiling data on North Indian ocean seabirds to document the major movement patterns to complement the existing Marine Important bird and Biodiversity (IBA) network and to discuss current and future threats, and research needs.

At the ongoing BNHS workshop in Mumbai, scientists will come out with policy and management interventions on Ocean seabirds.

The workshop will also formulate the strategy relating to seabirds and marine conservation through highlighting important areas and connectivity, as well as identifying major threats to guide future management and research needs," the BNHS

On the first day of the workshop, the ornithologists from several countries discussed seabirds, their important habitats, and movement patterns in the north Indian ocean (Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal). They presented the outcome of their interesting The BNHS has organised

Birdlife International organised a three-day workshop on North Indian Ocean Seabirds, from the 7-9 th June 2023 at the BNHS, Mumbai. 34 delegates physically and 17 delegates online participated in the workshop.

Kishor Rithe, Interim

Director and Honorary Secretary, spoke about the 140 years of journey of BNHS and its work on Central Asian Flyway (CAF)., while Dr. Tammy Davis from Birdlife International UK explained the objectives of the www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Breaking ice

After the government assurance, the wrestlers have agreed to suspend their protest, now government must walk the talk

ollowing a crucial six-hour meeting between top wrestlers and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Bajrang Punia, an Olympic medalist, announced that the government has provided assurance regarding the completion of the police investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against Brij Bhushan Singh, the former chief of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), before June 15. Thakur affirmed that Singh and his associates would not be involved in the general election of the WFI, scheduled to take place by June 30. Now that the government has given assurance the deadlock between the government and the wrestlers is all but over though the wrestlers have said that if the promised action is not taken they would resume their protest. Thakur has also assured them all FIRs against wrestlers would be taken back. The government has also conceded another of the wrestler's demands to conduct the WFI election with their representation and without involving Brij Bhushan and his associ-



ates. Also, an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) headed by a woman will be established within the WFI. Moreover, until the WFI general elections take place by June 30, a two-member committee will be present, as suggested. Anurag Thakur also assured that security would be provided to women wrestlers.

The wrestlers had earlier met Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday. These top athletes have been protesting against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for months now. Singh faces accusations of sexually harassing woman wrestlers, including a minor. Delhi Police has filed two FIRs against Singh, including a POCSO case and another related to outraging modesty. Notably, Vinesh Phogat, a prominent figure in

the protest, was unable to attend the meeting. Rakesh Tikait, the leader of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), who has been supporting the wrestlers in their protest, did not attend the meeting. If the government had taken the decision earlier, it took now, the situation wouldn't have been so ugly. Had it been handled with more sensitivity, the wrestlers would not have suffered the way they did during the protest. All kudos to them for keeping up the fight, braving all odds - police brutality, media indifference and above all losing their practice sessions which are so crucial for their performance. They showed that they are fighters on and off the ring. Now that ice has been broken the government would also feel a sigh of relief as it drew a lot of flak for supporting the WFI chief Brij Bhushan. For the government it is good riddance. By conceding to almost all the demands of the wrestlers which were genuine, to say the least, the government has also come up clean and would restore the confidence of young sportspersons who might have felt that the government was insensitive to the plight of sportspersons and dissuaded them from taking up sports as a career. However, the government must fulfill its promises to restore the confidence of the sportsper-



A Coppersmith Barbet feeds its chick, in Nadia

Turkey: Wake up from your slumber



BHOPINDER SINGH

Erdogan's juggernaut rolls on as 'Kemal Gandhi' and his secular approach and relatively non-divisive rhetoric does not sway the masses

oral template Mahatma Gandhi is not just undergoing a crisis of relevance in the land of his birth, but also in the distant land with which India had relations since the Vedic ages (Pre 1500 BC), i.e., ancient Anatolia or modern Turkey. Much later, Gandhi supported the Khilafat movement as a measure of anti-colonialism and expression of India's Hindu-Muslim unity, and not as a religious matter. However, Gandhi subsequently insisted on realism for Indian Muslims when Mustapha Kemal Pasha (sobriquet of 'Ataturk' or Father of all Turks, came later) abolished the Caliphate. However, for a generation of Turks, Gandhi had become an inspirational and moral reference with principles of nonviolence (Ahimsa) and passive insistence (Satyagraha).

Ataturk refashioned and emancipated the staid religiouscentric moorings towards a secularist brand of nationalism. He refused the title of Caliph and instead made a mission to secularise Turkey and reform its creaky education system by promoting science and mathematics, instead of religious texts. The progressive statesman advanced women's rights by giving women the right to vote (20 years before France!). Ataturk's Turkey soon became stable, progressive, and booming. Years later, Bill Clinton put it succinctly, "Shakespeare wrote, Einstein thought, Ataturk built". Ataturk's decision to re-open

Hagia Sophia as a museum in 1935, reinforced Turkey's urge to 'open' to visitors from all nations and religions. The secularist and reformist caught Nehru's eye as he noted in an article, "Those stones and walls had seen a lot of Juma Mamaz and Sunday Services. On their worn-out faces is an apparent smirk and mellow voice: how ignorant and foolish is this human creature who does not learn by his thousands of years of experience". Ataturk's Turkey survived till an Ottoman revivalist, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, took over as me Minister in 2002.

Erdogan is an unabashed strongman, with antithetical sensibilities and preferences to that of mocked and bundled out of Ataturk, and has dismantled the contention. While Ataturk



The vicelike grip on virtually all levers of society, politics and governance has ensured that there was virtually no opposition to Erdogan - anyone who did was vilified,

our history and from our

ancestors. They tried to get us

to disown our claim". Erdogan's

spiel works brilliantly with the

uneducated masses, especially

in the heartland with religious

preponderance. Overall, there

is a freefall of economy, free-

dom of expression, media, and

U-turns on issues like gender

rights, minority rights etc.



ATATURK

REFASHIONED AND **EMANCIPATED** THE STAID **RELIGIOUS-CENTRIC MOORINGS** TOWARDS A **SECULARIST BRAND OF** NATIONALISM ruled for a little over 15 years, the Erdogan era has already clocked in 21 years and will pump in another 5 dark years, as just re-elected.

Erdogan's mad rush to take Turkey down the slippery slope was given a possibility of checkmate, with the advent of the soft-spoken, moderate, and seemingly reconciliatory person who not only seemed 'Gandhian' in approach but even had an uncanny resemblance to the Mahatma i.e., Kemal Kilicdaroglu, also called, 'Kemal Gandhi'!

Erdogan had pulled all stops to ridicule and defame (with lies, exaggerations, and hyperbole) his opponent. Dictatorial instinct disallowed a fair play of media space to the two contesting candidates. Erdogan pandered to blatant majoritarianism, 'othering' and divisive sectarianism when he jabbed at 'Kemal Gandhi' to be an Alevi Muslim (technically akin to the Shia denomination). Manufactured hatred and fear-mongering helped Erdogan's cadres forget that the national currency, Lira, has fallen 80% in value since 2018! Erdogan's economic profligacy, populism and even imprudent economic promises are designed to crush whatever is left of the beleaguered Turkish economy, but with winning as the sole motive, everything

and anything can be put on

'Kemal Gandhi' as the proverbial underdog with his educated appeal, secular approach and relatively nondivisive rhetoric fell short of Erdogan juggernaut and only time and consequences will inform Turk citizens of the poorer choice made. Noises about Erdogan's tactics and majoritarian populism fell on deaf ears and even those concerns were spun into 'anti-Turkey' attributions of the 'West', even though Turkey remains a NATO power. Importantly while Erdogan flirted with Russia, it was the US-led 'West' that had offered maximum support to the earthquake-hit Turkey.

Erdogan's anti-India agenda is also part of his calculus and therefore the loss of 'Kemal Gandhi' is not just a loss for Turkey but to Indian values of moderation, democracy, and secularism. The loss of 'Kemal Gandhi' is a stark warning about the era of strongmen who recklessly destroy the past and attempt to rewrite history and the future, albeit, unsuccessfully, always.

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

Unlocking the youth power in Amritkaal



The government is taking several steps to give exposure to the youth outside the classroom by providing hands-on training

o one can deny that 'Youth Power' is the answer to some of the biggest problems of the world including India. What is needed here is harnessing and unlocking the youth power through skilling, training and education, so that they could reach their full creative potential. The first budget of Amrit Kaal has given special attention to the youth, strengthening the very foundations of the education system and making it more practical and industry orient-

Indian education system lacks the required flexibility over the years, which is very much required to take it to the next level and make it truly global in approach and practicality. In Budget 23, the government has focused on the reorientation of education and skills according to the aptitude of the youth and the demands of the future.

It is for the first time that an equal emphasis is being given to both education and skilling as part of the new educational policy, which unburdens the students from the obsolete regulations and

processes of the past. The new technological revolution in recent years is helping a lot in the process by creating new types of classrooms with unrestricted access to all, blurring the considerations like region and distance. For

example, SWAYAM- an elearning platform with 3 crore members, is doing a lot of good to the students who otherwise were not able to access quality education. Moreover, the possibility

of 'Virtual Labs' and 'National Digital Library' will be a robust medium of taking the knowledge system to a maximum number of people in the country, which the Centre has proposed in its budget. Similarly, the opportunity to study in local languages through DTH channels along with many other digital and technology-based initiatives, is going to give a big boost to the education and skilling process and the National Digital University will provide this process with much more strength.

Without a doubt, such futuristic steps are going to change the entire space of our education, skills and knowledge-science. The variety of teaching materials going to be available for our educational institutions will open new doors of opportunities for the teachers also. Now, the role of our teachers will not be limited only to the classroom, rather they will be a strong element to be involved in filling the gap between village and city schools.

Considering the international trend of emphasizing 'on-the-job learning', the Centre is also taking several steps for internships and apprenticeships to give exposure to the youth outside the classroom.

The encouraging results are for all to see. Today, there are about 75,000 employers on the National Internship Portal, where requirements for 25 lakh internships have been posted so far. The industry and educational

institutions can make maximum use of this portal, and can further expand the culture of internship, which will make our youth future-ready. In the process, a provision of a stipend made available for about 50 lakh youth under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, is immensely helping create a skilled workforce. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 is also focused on skilling, reskilling and upskilling lakhs of youth. A special focus has been made in the budget to create a skilled workforce for Industry 4.0 sectors like AI, Robotics, IoT, and Drones. PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana emphasizes skilling traditional artisans, handicraftsmen and artists to prepare them for a new market and earn better prices. Finally, it is encouraging that both academia and industry are coming closer to collaborate to accelerate the skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling and on-job-training processes, however, they need to be hastened to bear desired results (The writer is a senior

journalist and a political analyst)

WORLD'S OCEAN DAY

Sir — Every year on June 8, there is a celebration of the World's Ocean Day. The purpose of the day is to increase public awareness of the value of and necessity for ocean conservation. The seas, which make up more than 70% of the surface of the planet, are home to a wide variety of marine species. However, there are other dangers to the seas, such as pollution, overfishing, and adverse climate change. It is a chance to learn more about these problems and take steps to save the seas and the wildlife they sustain on the occasion of World's Ocean Day. Additionally, there are a variety of activities are also held to commemorate the day, including educational sessions, community outreach projects, and beach clean-ups. The ultimate purpose of this day is to motivate individuals to save the seas and understand the importance of

Sambhav Jain | Ujjain

RATIONALE OF DEMONETISATION

Sir — When Ruling Party took the decision about the demonetisation of two thousand notes, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) immediately announced on May 19, 2023, that, ?2,000 notes will demonetize after September 30, 2023. The same demonetisation of ?500 and ?1,000 also was announced on November 8,

2016, by RBI. At that time general people had to suffer a lot. The ruling Party thinks that they will win next year's (2024) Lok Sabha election easily because opposition parties Will automatically become weak after demonetizing and exchanging ?2000 notes and Ruling Party can spend huge amounts to get public votes. I think this system is not useful for them, this idea may be against them like Karnataka election. Many things can't gain to spend money. that's why instead of note demonetisation, they should do other useful

works for Indian citizens. Afazuddin Kazi Qasmi | Mumbai

Timely reminder

THE EDITOR



our editorial is indeed a timely reminder for the Karnataka Govt not to fall into the trap of communal forces. The Congress party is given a clear mandate by people of various faiths. Every group will have a list of demands. In the process of satisfying every supporting group, the new government should not cross its limits and provide de scope for communal forces waiting anxiously for an opportune time to change the wave in their favour. The nation is to face a wave of elections and every move of the new Government in Karnataka is being watched by one and all. Caution is needed.

A G. Rajmohan | Anantapur

Sir — JAs per police report people from Manipur's Kuki community held a protest outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence here on Wednesday against the ongoing violence in the northeastern state. The protesters were holding placards with messages such as Save Kuki Lives' and raising slogans. Police said four of the protesters were allowed to enter the home minister's residence for a meeting and the rest were shifted to Jantar Mantar. At least 98 people have lost their lives and 310 more were injured in ethnic violence in Manipur that broke out a month ago. A total of 37,450 people are currently sheltered in 272 relief camps in the state. Clashes first broke out in Manipur on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. With this, all is still not well in Manipur and putting the Centre under pressure.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

SHODDY INFRASTRUCTURE

Sir — The bridge collapse in Bihar rais-

es questions about the shoddy infrastruc-

dent happened in the Bhagalpur district over the holy Ganga river. Fortunately, no one died during the collapse but the dream of 30000 Biharis was washed away with the collapse.

ture of our country. This shocking inci-

Bihar is no stranger to such collapses. They have been taking place at an alarming regularity. 7 bridges collapsed in Bihar this year. Our Union Minister Mr Nitin Gadkari blamed low-quality construction materials for the collapse. The ministers didn't stop playing the dirty game of politics on this sensitive issue. The opposition has been blaming the ruling party for the corruption that happened during its construction. The studies say that apart from poor construction materials, poor maintenance and faulty bidding process are the main reasons behind the bridge collapses in Bihar.

A bridge collapse does not only cause harm to the infrastructure but it also pollutes. The government should pay heed to these collapses and do something to prevent them in the future.

Krishna Kararia | Patna

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FIRST COLUMN

RBI'S CAUTION ON 'UNSECURED ADVANCES'

'Unsecured advances' are not the reason for banks failure



S KALYANASUNDARAM

t is reported that as part of increasing caution amidst growing macroeconomic uncertainties and bank collapses in the US and Europe, the RBI is asking banks in India to be watchful over their retail portfolios, particularly the unsecured loans. The direction seems to be a panic reaction for the reasons discussed hereunder.

RBI's regulation until 2004

Until June 17, 2004, banks were required to limit their commitments by way of unsecured loans and guarantees in such a manner that 20 per cent of a bank's outstanding unsecured guarantees plus the total of its outstanding unsecured advances should not exceed 15 per cent of its total outstanding advances. But after this, to provide further flexibility to banks on their loan policies, the above limit on unsecured exposure of banks was withdrawn. As per RBI direction "Unsecured exposure" is defined as an exposure where the realisable value of the security, as assessed by the bank/ approved valuers / Reserve Bank's inspecting officers, is not more than 10 per cent, ab-initio, of the outstanding



Bank failures not on account of unsecured loans

Hence for the past 18 years, banks decided their policies about unsecured advances and there was no occasion that such freedom provided to the banks was considered harmful. When there are many reasons for the bank failures we have seen in recent years, like that of Lakshmi Vilas Bank or Yes Bank, we could not attribute 'unsecured advances'

Secured does not mean assured recovery

If the lending is based on tangible security, it does not automatically translate into a safe and recoverable advance. Even in secured advances, the charge is created by different methods and in all types, the bank may not be able to lay its hand on the security at its will. For example, when the stock in trade is hypothecated to the banks, though the advance is secured against the stocks, the stocks are with the borrower only. He may appropriate the stock at his will. When landed properties and buildings are mortgaged to the bank, still, the properties are under the possession of the owners and there are cumbersome procedures to take over and sell such properties to realize the amount due to the banks. When machinery etc. are taken as security, these may depreciate in value and sometimes, they may be worthless though as per records, such loans are secured.

Ensuring recovery of unsecured loan

When personal loans are granted without any security, generally banks extend such loans to salaried class employees and in most cases, there is a tie-up with the employer to recover from salary and deposit to the bank for adjustment of loan. Banks insist on maintaining a salary account with them so that they can monitor the account and recover the loan amount due in time.

Moreover, these loans are small ticket loans for banks but provide higher interest income to the banks. Banks do extend unsecured loans to persons who have availed of other secured loans like home loans or Loans against government securities/Insurance policies etc.

Required for growth

Banks extending unsecured loans fulfil a major boost to the economy. While banks extend loans for manufacturing activities, the economy needs sufficient consumption for such manufactured goods and unsecured personal loans fulfil that gap. This is vital for the growth of the economy.

Unsecured advances not alarming

Finally, being a performing loan does not mean that it should be a secured one. When the borrower has debt-servicing capability and willingness to clear the loan, it is immaterial whether the loan is secured or not. (The writer is a retired banker)

The grammar of Naxal violence



Recent threat of terrorists and Naxals have posed new challenges about the changing nature of problems and the quagmire that still lurks

he recent merciless attack by the Naxals killing 10 security personnel of the District Reserve Guards in the Dantewada district of Bastar in Chhattisgarh should roundly be condemned. The naxals have resurfaced with gusto after a period of brief lull. A few years ago 22 Security Personnel were massacred by Naxals in the Sukma-Bijapur border in Chhattisgarh raising serious issues of security and safety of the region. There appears to be a long saga of such attacks of guerrilla attacks by Naxalites. Not long ago in one such attack, 8 CRPF personnel were killed in a landmine ambush at Sukma in Chhattisgarh.

In Consecutive attacks a couple of years ago 300 Naxals attacked the 74th battalion of the largest paramilitary of the country. In 2014 more than 26 Para military security officials and in 2010 more than 70 CRPF personnel were killed in the same area by the Naxals. These killings have once again confirmed that Naxals were down for a while but certainly not wiped out. Chhattisgarh appears to have become the epicenter of such attacks recently. The coming days are going to provide defining moments for state government. Haunted by the Naxalite onslaught on CRPF personnel, the Government is concerned above all about how to nib in the bud these evil genius, which are leading the entire security apparatus down the road of disaster. The manner of naxal recent attacks with the help of improvised devices and modus operandi reveals unprecedented ruthlessness. The current state of affairs does not offer any hope of reconciliation and negotiation from Naxalites.

Gunning down of coal mine officials, blowing up rail lines, torching trucks, beheading police officials, attacking police pickets, and rampant murdering of inno-cent civilians used to be dramatic scenes in movies of the '70s that are haunting post-modern India. The repeated ruthless attacks despite the recent warning of the Prime Minister show the level of audacity among the present breed of Naxalites. The present naxal attack has reminded us of the the cold-blooded murder of Inspector Francis Induwar by the Maoist Guerrillas a few years ago which sent the message loud and clear that it is difficult to persuade the Naxals to change their mina by reason, nonour or by threat.

During the last few years or so, the simmering rural unrest has continued to find its outlet in the form of violence in states like Chhattisgarh, West Bengal Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. The recent incidents of naxal violence suggest that most of the targets are selected in the hope that the people would change their opinion about the potency of the government's authority. The Naxalites also plan their attack in such a way that people see in them the justification and fulfilment of a cause leading to a just order according to their perception of justice. This, they hope, will ultimately lead to overthrowing of a particular order. Thus, they are attempting to inspire and manipulate fear to achieve a variety of purposes.

Attacks on important government buildings, telephone exchanges, railway stations, villages and police pickets have become quite common. In some areas where there was a lull for a long, a recurrence of Naxalite activity has disturbed the



DESPITE THE REPEATED ATTEMPTS OF STATE AND CENTRAL **GOVERNMENT** TO CONTROL THE MENACE THE PROBLEM OF NAXALISM IS STILL GROWING extremist organisations were operoperations are on the rise. The naxals raise funds using extortion into caste- war-like situations. in Central Bihar districts such as and Navada. In Jehanabad areas, by the IPF and the MKSS has been cern for equitable distribution of land and payment of minimum wages, among other things. The MCC has been responsible for the Darmiam, Dalelchak Baghora, Bakridh and Bara incidents. After the Dalelchak Baghora (Aurangabad) massacre, the state government declared a ban on the

activities of the MCC. Over the years, the government of Andhra Pradesh has suffered a heavy loss of public and pri-

upsurge in Naxalite activities. In the last two decades, the People's War Group has made several attempts to emphasise its rights. Dissatisfied with government policies, it has lashed out violently and continues its activities which include bank robberies, murder of policemen, kidnapping of businessmen and officials and political assassination attempts.

Despite the repeated attempts of state and central government to control the menace the problem of naxalism is still growing. They are a misled lot who have been manipulated for political gain by some powerful syndicates. The general masses have been caught in a dilemma of the highest order in such affected areas neither they can go against the bands of distraught people nor can they be a support-er of security forces. They would have to face the wrath and dagger of one group or another if sides are taken. There is a strong need for political will to break down the the psychological state of fear created by the Naxals and create confidence among them that the state

is there by their side. The formation of COBRA specially designed to fight naxalism is a proactive step by the government of India. But this alone can not yield prompt results unless we bring about coordination between intelligence and local police. Therefore, it is high time we modified our information-gathering exercise and involve a multidimensional mechanism including the support of the media to dilute the sympathetic attitude of people towards the Naxals. The meek nature of people at large has frusvate property because of the trated efforts by security forces to

identify a Naxalite immediately. In this regard, there is an urgent need to re-establish faith among the masses in the capability of the Government to protect them. For a permanent solution, it is not sufficient to think about some policy changes in the attitude of the government towards the rural poor: the entire society should make substantial efforts at removing the disadvantages of the poor and maintaining social equilibrium. Police accountability in a democratic society has been debated many times. Recent developments particularly the threat of terrorists and naxals have posed new challenges about the changing nature of problems and quagmire that still lurks. The new tentacles of globalization have created a new basis for the relationship between global, national, local and identity and politics in democratic societies. Čertain groups are always ready to use these social cleavages to their advantage by creating a fake image of identity building. This notion has made naxalism also a sort of business venture. People are misled and have been driven into the game of power nemesis. The recent Naxal attack has displayed how potent a trick of Dodging can be by spreading wrong information. At this juncture, the insidious planning and new tentacles of naxalism can be fought back by generating confidence among local masses and through accurate human intelligence and a layer of counterintelligence. Intelligence sharing and contiguity between various branches of police appear to be the only solution to tackle the problem



the Bharat Gauray Award, is a Professor and an expert on

(Author, a recipient of

Food can turn poison if its safety is not ensured

On this World Food Safety Day, let us delve more into the various types of hazards that can affect food safety

ontaminated foods can cause a fatal outcome. From posing a risk to life and causing severe permanent damage to the body, it is of paramount importance to identify food hazards and ensure 360degree food safety. Such measures not only protect individual health but also contribute to the overall well-being of communities. By being proactive in food safety practices, one can significantly reduce the incidence of foodborne illnesses and their associated economic and social burdens. However, it can be achieved only when it is considered a shared responsibility between consumers, food producers, and regulatory authorities like FSSAI. What



DR AMIT **DESHPANDE**

consumers can do is, they can practice proper hygiene, store food at safe temperatures, cook thoroughly, and avoid consuming expired or damaged products. On the other hand, manufacturers of food products must ensure the implementation of robust quality control measures, adhere to good manufacturing practices, and maintain proper storage and transportation condi-

On this World Food Safety Day, let us delve more into understanding what are the various types of hazards that can affect food safety.

To define, food safety hazards are generally of four types, biological, chemical, physical or allergens having the potential to degrade the



food quality, which can further cause evident harm to the consumers. From food production and processing to handling and storage, these risks can arise at these various stages.

■ Biological Hazards: These hazards include

bacteria, viruses, para sites, and fungi that can contaminate food and cause illnesses such as food poisoning or infections. Common examples include Salmonella,

E. coli, and Norovirus. Chemical Hazards:

Chemicals such as pesticides, additives, allergens, and naturally occurring toxins can pose a risk to food safety. Consumption of contaminated food may lead to acute or chronic health issues. Proper labelling and handling of food products are crucial in mitigating chemical hazards. Hazards: Physical

Physical hazards refer to foreign objects that unintentionally enter food, such as glass, metal, plastic fragments, or stones. Ingesting these objects can cause choking or injuries. Stringent quality control measures are necessary to detect and eliminate physical haz■ Allergenic Hazards: Allergenic hazards trigger allergic reactions in individuals with specific food allergies. These can include ingredients such as nuts, dairy, eggs, or gluten. Clear labelling and proper handling procedures are vital to avoid accidental exposure to allergens.

What can be done to ensure

food safety? Besides a vigilant approach like being mindful of unusual odours, discolouration, or changes in food texture, cutting-edge technology can play a pivotal role in ensuring food safety. Innovative solutions such as blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT)

In addition, providing QR codes for product information which on access can give consumers information about the origin, handling, and safety of food products. These digital advancements empower individuals to make informed decisions and promote a safer food ecosystem. Moreover, keeping a check on expiration dates, giving a read to ingredient labels for allergens and ensuring segregation of raw and cooked foods can boost food safety practices preventing any untoward

ensure food safety in a way

that enables traceability

throughout the food supply

chain, thereby, enhancing

transparency and account-

(The writer is Founder & Director, Activist)

Pence: Different times call for different leadership

 $F^{\text{ormer Vice President Mike}}_{\text{Pence promised "the best}}$ days of the greatest nation on earth are yet to come" in a video released on Wednesday formally launching his campaign for the Republican nomination

for president. "Different times call for different leadership," Pence, who served four years alongside then-President Donald Trump, says in the video, released via Fox News and Twitter hours ahead of a kickoff event in Des Moines

"Today our party and our country need a leader that'll appeal, as Lincoln said, to the better angels of our nature."

While it would be "easy to stay on the sidelines," he adds, "that's not how I was raised. That's why today, before God and my family, I'm announcing I'm running for president of the

With Pence's entry into the race, the GOP field is largely set. It includes Trump, who's leading in early polls, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who remains in second, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Arkansas Gov. Asa

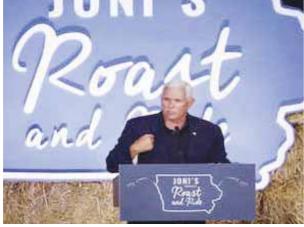
Pence is staking his presidential hopes on Iowa as he launches a campaign that will make him the first vice president in modern history to take on his former running mate.

Pence's campaign will also test the party's appetite for a socially conservative, mildmannered and deeply religious candidate who has denounced the populist tide that has swept through his party under Trump.

And it will show whether Pence still has a political future after January 6, 2021, when a large portion of GOP voters still believe Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen and that Pence had the power to reject the results of the election, n by Democrat Joe Biden.

Pence and his advisers see Iowa — the state that will cast the first votes of the GOP nominating calendar — as key to his potential pathway to the nom-

Its caucus-goers include a large portion of evangelical Christian voters, whom they see as a natural constituency for Pence, a social conservative who supports a national ban on abortion and often talks about his faith. They also think Pence, who represented Indiana in



Ex-US vice president Mike Pence during the roast and ride event in Iowa. Agencies

Congress and as governor, is a good personality fit with the

"We believe the path to victory runs through Iowa and all of its 99 counties," said Scott Reed, co-chair of a super PAC that launched last month to support Pence's candidacy.

Iowa has typically been seen as a launching pad for presidential candidates, delivering momentum, money and attention to hopefuls who win or defy expectations. But recent past winners including Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee have failed to ultimately win the nomination.

among the best-known Republican candidates in the crowded GOP field. But Pence seen by Trump critics as complicit with his most indefensible actions and maligned by Trump loyalists as a traitor — is also saddled with high unfavorable ratings. A CNN poll conducted last month found 45 per cent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they would not support Pence under any circum-

And Pence faces steep chal-

lenges. He enters the race as

Burgum launches long-shot bid for presidential nomination

Dakota Governor Doug Burgum has announced his candidacy for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, adding his name to the long list of contenders hoping to dent former President Donald Trump's early lead in

Burgum, 66, made the announcement in The Wall Street Journal and was expected to kick off his campaign Wednesday in the city of Fargo, where he lives and which is near the tiny farm town of Arthur, where he grew up.

"We need a change in the White House. We need a new leader for a changing economy. That's why I'm announcing my run for president," he said in a commentary posted late Tuesday on the newspaper's website. Known to few outside

North Dakota, Burgum faces an immense challenge in a field dominated by Trump and the better-known governor in the race, Ron DeSantis of Florida. As evidence of Burgum's long odds, he isn't even the most notable candidate to announce a presidential campaign on Wednesday. Four hundred miles to the south, former Vice President Mike Pence was launching his White House bid in Iowa, taking on the president he served loyal-

Burgum, a former computer software entrepreneur, plans to visit early voting states right away. He will campaign Thursday and Friday in Iowa, home of the first-in-the-nation Republican caucuses, and Saturday and Sunday in New Hampshire, which hosts the first GOP primary.

ly for four years.

In a video previewing his announcement, Burgum portrayed himself as a commonsense, rural state conservative, distinctly experienced in energy policy and far removed from the bitter war of words

between Trump and DeSantis as the 2024 GOP campaign heats up.

"Anger, yelling, infighting, that's not going to cut it anymore," Burgum said in the video, which features breath taking vistas from across North Dakota. "Let's get things done. In North Dakota, we listen with respect, and we talk things out. That's how we can get America back on track." As governor of the state's

fourth-least populous state, he signed measures this year advancing conservative policies on culture war issues. They include prohibiting schools and government from requiring teachers and employees from referring to transgender people by their preferred pronouns, barring transgender girls and women from competing in women's sports, and banning abortion with few exceptions up to six weeks' gestation, before most women know they are pregnant.

Israeli Cabinet minister chides Harris for judicial overhaul criticism

Jerusalem (AP): Israel's foreign minister chided US Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday for speaking out against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned overhaul

of the country's judiciary.

The exchange underscored tensions between the Biden administration and Netanyahu's new government — the most right-wing and religious in Israel's history — over the planned judicial overhaul.

Speaking at an Israeli embassy event in Washington on Tuesday, Harris had said that shared values are "the bedrock of the US-Israel relationship" and that democracies are "built on strong institutions, checks and balances, and, I'll add, an independent judiciary."

Eli Cohen, Israel's foreign minister, told Kan public radio "I can tell you that if you ask her what bothers her about the reform, she won't be able to tell you". He said he believes Harris has not read the bills in question. Biden has publicly

expressed concern over the Netanyahu government's plan to reshape the legal system, which sparked mass protests that continue weekly even after the proposal was put on hold. Amid the tensions, Biden has

not granted Netanyahu a typically customary invitation to the White House since his election in

US Ambassador Tom Nides responded to Cohen saying that Harris only restated the government's long-held position, accordng to Kan.

Critics say the proposed bills would concentrate power in the hands of the Israeli government by giving politicians control over appointments to the Supreme Court, providing the parliament with the authority to overturn high court decisions, and passing laws impervious to judicial review. Cohen Îater wrote on Twitter that he has "great respect for our ally the United States and for Vice President Harris, a great friend of Israel," adding that the judicial overhaul was "an internal Israeli matter" and that the country

would remain "democratic and

liberal as it has always been.

BBC, British Airways among MOVEit software hack victims

AP ■ LONDON

 $B^{\text{ritain's cybersecurity agency}} \\ \text{on Wednesday urged com-} \\$ panies to be vigilant after the BBC, British Airways and other firms said their employees' personal details may have been compromised in a software The companies were the

first major victims after hackers successfully breached a popular file transfer software called MOVEit. The Clop ransomware group, thought to be based in Russia, has threatened on its dark web site that stolen data, including personal details such as names and home addresses, could be published. "We are

working to fully understand the UK impact following reports of a critical vulnerability affecting MOVEit Transfer software being exploited," Britain's National Cyber Security Center said in a statement. "The NCSC strongly encourages organizations to take immediate action by following vendor best practice advice and applying the recommended security updates," it

It is a program widely used businesses to securely share files online. Zellis, a leading payroll services provider in the UK that works with British Airways and hundreds of others, was one of its users. Zellis said Monday a "small number" of its cus-

"The stay at the health

facility will last several days to

allow for the normal post-

operative course and full func-

tional recovery," the statement

ed until after the procedure. Francis remains in charge

of the Vatican and the 1.3-bil-

lion strong Catholic Church,

even while unconscious and in

10 days at Gemelli to remove 33

centimetres (13 inches) of his

large intestine. He had suffered

what the Vatican said was a

In an interview with The

severe inflammation and nar-

Associated Press in January,

Francis said the diverticulosis

or bulges in his intestinal wall,

that had prompted the 2021

rowing of the colon.

surgery, had returned.

In July 2021, Francis spent

the hospital.

An update was not expect

tomers have been affected by the

Thought that hackers broke into the software and used that to get into the databases of potentially hundreds of other

This incident happened ecause of a new and previously unknown vulnerability in a widely used MOVEit file transfer tool," British Airways said in statement. "We have notified those colleagues whose personal information has been compromised to provide sup-port and advice." Drugstore chain Boots, which employs more than 50,000 people, also said it has made staff aware of

Sunak goes to Washington with Ukraine, Al on agenda for US President meeting

The war in Ukraine was top of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's agenda on Wednesday as he started a two-day trip to Washington carrying the message that post-Brexit Britain remains an essential American ally in a world of emboldened authoritarian states. The US and UK are the

two biggest military donors to Ukraine, and the war will be the focus of Sunak's meeting on Thursday at the White House with President Joe Biden.

The breaching of a major dam in southern Ukraine, which sent floodwaters gushing through towns and over farmland, has given the subject added urgency. Neither Washington nor London has



officially accused Russia of blowing up the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, but Sunak told reporters during his flight to Washington that it would "demonstrate the new lows

that we would have seen from Russian aggression."

Britain and the US are lead players in an international effort to give Ukraine F-16 fighter jets, and talks are also likely to include extra air defense measures against Russian bombardment as Ukraine launches a counteroffensive to retake occupied territory. The trip is Sunak's first to the US capital since he took office in October, but his fourth meeting with Biden in as many months. The two leaders have crossed paths at a Group of Seven summit in Japan, in Northern Ireland and at a three-way defence meeting with Australia in San Diego. Sunak, 43, and 80-year-old Biden are very different politi-

Inflation Reduction Act, a huge package of tax breaks and subsidies aimed at boosting green industries. But he's also pragmatic, and has restored stability to Britain's government after the turbulent terms of predecessors Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. Johnson championed the populist Brexit movement and led Britain out of the European Union, a decision Biden has made clear he thinks has hurt the UK. Truss was in office for less

cians. Sunak is an heir of free marketeer Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher, and wary of

big government interventions

in the economy such as Biden's

than two months, resigning after her rash tax-cutting plans sparked a financial crisis.

Pope Francis to have intestinal surgery

Dope Francis went to the hosundergo abdominal surgery to treat an intestinal blockage, two years after he had 33 centimetres (13 inches) of his colon removed because of a narrowing of the large intestine.

The Vatican said Francis, 86, would be put under general anaesthesia for the procedure Wednesday afternoon and would be hospitalised at Rome's Gemelli hospital for several days.Francis' Fiat 500 car pulled out of the Vatican shortly after 11 am with an escort, and arrived at the Gemelli some 20 minutes later.

The pope is undergoing what the Vatican said was a "laparotomy and abdominal wall plastic surgery with prosthesis" to treat a "recurrent, painful and worsening" constriction of the intestine.

A laparotomy is open abdominal surgery. It can help a surgeon both diagnose and treat issues. The statement said Francis was suffering from a blocked laparocele, which is a hernia that formed over a pre-

Escobar calls for deescalation of tensions between Kosovo, Serbia

Belgrade (Serbia) (AP): A US envoy for the Balkans urged Kosovo and Serbia on Wednesday to deescalate simmering ethnic tensions in the former Serbian province, or both states could jeopardise their proclaimed goal of one day joining the European

Gabriel Escobar and EU mediator Miroslav Lajcak have been holding talks with the Serbian and Kosovo leaders on how to resume negotiations between the two former wartime foes.

Tensions flared anew late last month in Kosovo, including violent clashes between Kosovo police and NATO-led peacekeepers on one side and local Serbs on the other, leaving dozens injured on both

sides.
"The European Union, with full support of the United States, has made it very clear that this is a European process. The dialogue and mediation is a European process," Escobar told reporters in Belgrade.

Prince Harry grilled over phone hacking claims

Britain's Prince Harry on cross-examination at the high court here from the barrister representing the Mirror Group Newspapers over the royal's claims that its publications obtained stories related to his private life by unlawful means, including phone hacking.

On the second day of his witness statement, the 38-yearold Duke of Sussex was taken through the articles narrowed down for the purpose of the legal case and questioned at length over why he believes they were obtained unlawfully.

It included articles referring to his relationship with his ex-girlfriend Chelsy Davy and his military career serving in Afghanistan.

Harry told the court that he an injustice if it wasn't accept-

was convinced that "phone hacking was on an industrial scale" and that he "would feel

The newspaper group's barrister, Andrew Green, suggested the royal is in the "realms of speculation" and challenged him on claims that



his ex-girlfriend's phone was being hacked at the time.

Taking him through the various articles published in the group's 'Daily Mirror', 'Sunday Mirror', and 'Sunday People' titles, Green cast doubts over Harry's claims and also raised the issue of some stories being in the public interest.

Harry countered to suggest that stories about injuries he has suffered could only be of public interest if it was "lifethreatening".

Global leaders assemble in Paris to enhance fuel efficiency

As 30 energy environment and trade ministers plus 50 8th international conference on efficiency, the International Energy Agency is urgently calling for greater investment in energy efficiency for factories, cars and appliances to meet international climate

The agency touted recent global progress: A report released Wednesday says that demand for energy is growing, yet emissions are not growing as fast. Efficiency is increasing every year as technology improves, and last year that increase was twice the average of the previous five years.

We're at a real juncture where more efficient, more clean, more affordable technology is starting to dominate," said Brian Motherway, chief of energy efficiency at the IEA, during press conference on Tuesday.

Eliminating wasted energy is the most affordable way to bring goods and services to the people who need them — while slowing greenhouse gas emissions — the main driver of global warming, energy experts say.



Government policies that encourage energy efficiency are driving the trend. Japan has strengthened laws that favour energy efficient buildings. The European Union agreed this year to reduce its total energy consumption by some 12 per cent compared to its 2020 forecast, by improving buildings, heavy industry and private transportation. The US allocated a record USD 95 billion over 10 years through the Inflation Reduction Act to increase energy efficiency in power generation, buildings and cars. And India passed important legislation to decrease the amount of energy used by homes. "Government initiatives are

critical because they get big buildings, they get big housing projects, they get industry (and) they have to take it seriously, said Daniel Kammen, a profes-

sor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley who was not involved in the IÉA report.

total public and private investment in energy efficiency increased by 15 per cent in 2022 to USD 600 billion from the pre-This year, investment is

expected to grow by only 4 per cent, which Motherway called concerning.

To limit global warming to

just 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) and avoid severe climate disruption, the world needs to double energy efficiency for the rest of the decade. Annual investment of USD 1.8 trillion is needed to make that happen, the report says. The technology exists, we just need to prioritising spending, Philippe Delorme, executive vice president of Europe operations for Schneider Electric said in a press conference. Experts not involved in the report agreed. "Governments should be doing more, whether that relates to appliance efficiency, cars or buildings," said Steven Nadel, executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

UK PM unveils anti-obesity drug

PTI ■ LONDON

 $B^{\mathsf{ritish}\,\mathsf{Prime}\,\mathsf{Minister}\,\mathsf{Rishi}}_{\mathsf{Sunak}\ \mathsf{on}\ \mathsf{Wednesday}}$ unveiled a two-year pilot scheme to reduce pressures on the state-funded National Health Service (NHS) which will see general practitioners (GPs) prescribe "game-changer" anti-obesity drugs to patients with at least one weight-related health condi-

The British Indian leader, whose father Yashvir is a retired GP, said obesity puts additional pressure on the NHS and helping people lose weight would help cut waiting lists for access to procedures in the health service.

Under the GBP 40-million two-year pilot scheme, the

NHS will explore how approved drugs can be made safely available to more people by expanding specialist weight management services outside of hospital settings.

"Obesity puts huge pressure on the NHS," said Sunak. "Using the latest drugs to

support people to lose weight will be a game-changer by helping to tackle dangerous obesity-related health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer reducing pressure on hospitals, supporting people to live healthier and longer lives, and helping to deliver on my priority to cut NHS waiting lists," he

According to NHS data, obesity is one of the leading causes of severe health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer and costs the health service GBP 6.5 billion a year. Earlier this year, the UK's

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommended the use of Semaglutide (Wegovy) for adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of at least 35 and one weight-related health condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

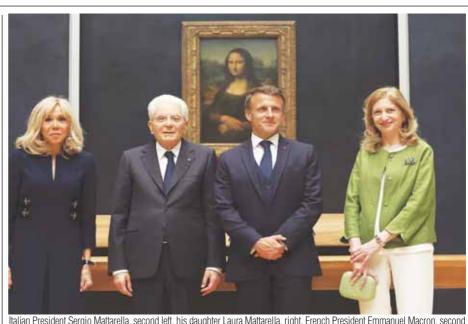
Other drugs are also under consideration in clinical trials, which had indicated that when prescribed alongside diet, physical activity and behavioural support, people taking a weight-loss drug can lose up to 15 per cent of their body weight

Taking them alongside

diet, physical activity and behavioural support can help people lose weight within the first month of treatment, experts said. "This next generation of

obesity drugs has the potential to help people lose significant amounts of weight when prescribed with exercise, diet and behavioural support. Tackling obesity will help to reduce pressure on the NHS and cut waiting times, one of the government's five priorities, and this pilot will help people live longer, healthier lives," said UK Health Secretary Steve Barclay His department claims

there were more than one million admissions to NHS hospitals in 2019-2020 where obesity was a factor.



Italian President Sergio Mattarella, second left, his daughter Laura Mattarella, right, French President Emmanuel Macron, second right, and Brigitte Macron, left, pose in front of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa as they visit the exhibition "Naples in Paris", on Wednesday at the Louvre museum in Paris.

Seven injured in shooting near Virginia University

Richmond (AP): Seven people were shot, three of them with life-threatening injuries, after gunfire rang out near Virginia Commonwealth University in downtown Richmond following a high school graduation ceremony Tuesday, according to police and school district officials. Two suspects were taken

into custody after the incident, Interim Richmond Police Chief Rick Edwards said at a news conference. Edwards said officers inside a theater where the

graduation was taking place heard the gunfire, went outside and saw multiple victims with gunshot wounds.

Economic recovery

post Covid slowing

down in China

China's exports fell 7.5 per cent from a year earlier in

May and imports were down 4.5per cent, adding to signs an economic rebound following

the end of anti-virus controls is

slowing as global demand

weakens under pressure from

Ukraine rushes drinking water to flooded areas

Officials wrestle with impact of dam breach

AP KHERSON

Authorities on Wednesday rushed supplies of drinking water to flooded areas from a collapsed dam in southern Ukraine as officials weighed where they might resettle residents who relied on the breached reservoir on the Dnieper River that forms part of the front line in the 15month war.

More than 2,700 people have fled flooded areas on both the Russian and Ukrainian-controlled sides of the river, according to official tallies, but it was not clear whether the true scale of the disaster had yet emerged in an area that was home to more than 60,000 people.

The Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and reservoir, essential for supplying drinking water and irrigation to a huge

in a part of the Kherson region occupied by Moscow's forces for the past year.

It is also critical for water supplies to the Crimean Peninsula, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

Ukraine holds the western bank of the Dnieper, while Russia controls the eastern side, which is lower and more vulnerable to flooding. Scenes of flooded

communities, rescues - and even people reportedly waiting for help on their roofs in some Russian-occupied areas called to mind a natural disaster, rather than one caused by war. In some Russian-occupied areas along the river, people reportedly waited on roofs for help — scenes that called to mind a natural disaster, rather than one caused by war. A day after the dam's col-

lapse, it remained unclear what caused it, with both sides blaming each other for the destruction. Some experts said the collapse may have been due to wartime damage and neglect, although others argued that Russia might have had tactical



A woman is evacuated from a flooded neighborhood in Kherson, Ukraine, on Wednesday after the Kakhovka dam was blown up.

military reasons to destroy the dam. Many residents have fled the region due to the fighting, but others have stayed despite shelling and drone attacks, making it hard to determine how many people remain at risk in an area where hundreds of thousands lived before Russia's February 2022 inva-

sion. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he met with officials on the "urgent provision of drinking water and long-term solutions for settlements that were dependent on the reservoir", as well as assessing damage to property and the environment in the region.

this season's crops, while the depleted Kakhovka reservoir would deny adequate irrigation in the years ahead.

Zelenskyy accused Moscow-installed officials in accused occupied areas of failing to respond adequately to the emergency. Russian-controlled authorities said they evacuated fewer than 1,300 people in an area where as many as 40,000 people were said to be affected. That compared with about 1.700 evacuated on the Ukrainian side where the population was reportedly around

Residents of the Moscow-controlled village of Oleshky were reported to be stranded, according to the independent Russian news outlet Vyorstka. It quoted one woman as saying that her mother, who couldn't make it to the roof, was in the water clutching a ladder. A volunteer said those awaiting evacuation included children and disabled people, it added.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine will appeal to international organizations for help.
Civilians in Kherson

they waded through knee-deep water in the streets and rode rubber rafts. Video on social media showed rescuers carrying people to safety, and what looked like the triangular roof of a building floating downstream.

Aerial footage showed flooded streets in the Russiancontrolled city of Nova Kakhovska on the eastern side of the Dnieper, where Mayor Vladimir Leontvev said seven people were missing, although believed to be alive. It was unclear how the

dam disaster would affect the war just as Ukraine appeared to be preparing for a counteroffensive against Russian troops. Amid the disaster response, artillery boomed as people scrambled to leave the danger

Addressing who might be to blame, the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said Russia has "a greater and clearer interest in flooding the lower Dnieper despite the damage to their own prepared defensive posi-

higher interest rates. Exports slid to USD 283.5 billion, reversing from April's unexpectedly strong 8.5per cent growth, customs data showed Wednesday. Imports fell to USD 217.7 billion, moderating from the provious volatile trade surplus with the per cent to USD 28.1 billion. erating from the previous China's economic growth month's 7.9 per cent contracaccelerated to 4.5 per cent over tion. China's global trade sura year earlier in the three plus narrowed by 16.1 per cent months ending in March from the previous quarter's 2.9 per

to USD 65.8 billion. Trade weakness adds to downward pressure on the world's second-largest economy following lackluster factory and consumer activity and a surge in unemployment among

young people.
"China's exports will remain subdued, as we anticipate the US economy to enter recession," Lloyd Chan of Oxford Economics said in a report. Factory output and consumer spending revived after controls that cut off access to major cities for weeks at a time and blocked most international travel were lifted in December.

But forecasters say the peak of that rebound probably has passed. Retail spending is recovering more slowly than expected because jittery consumers worry about the economic outlook and possible job losses. A government survey in April found a record 1 in 5 young workers in cities were unemployed.

Factory activity is contracting and employers are cutting jobs after interest rate

hikes to cool inflation in the United States and Europe depressed demand for Chinese exports. Exports to the United States tumbled 18.2 per cent from a year earlier to USD 42.5 billion after the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark lending rate to a 16-year high to curb surging inflation by slowing business and consumer activity. Imports of American goods sank 9.9per cent to USD 14.3 billion. China's politically United States narrowed by 21.9

cent. It would need to accelerate further to reach the ruling Communist Party's official growth target of "around 5per cent," for the year.

April's "disappointing activity data" suggest "suggests China's domestic demand recovery has lost steam following the reopening-induced bounce," Chan said.

For the year to date, imports fell 6.7 per cent from the same five-month period of 2022 to just over USD 1 trillion, while export growth fell close to zero. Exports edged up 0.3 per cent to USD 1.4 trillion.

Imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, rose 10 per cent over a year ago to USD 11.3 billion. Exports to Russia surged 114 per cent to USD 9.3 billion. China is buying more Russian energy to take advantage of price cuts, helping to shore up the Kremlin's cash flow after the United States, Europe and Japan cut off most purchases to punish Moscow for President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Pak Army to tighten noose around attackers in Rawalpindi, the Inter- al obligations of safeguarding nary and mirage human rights

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's powerful army Wednesday vowed to tighten the "noose of law" around "planners and masterminds" who mounted a "hate-ripened and politically-driven rebellion" against the state, nearly a month after former prime minister Imran Khan's supporters vandalised military installations to protests his arrest in a graft case.

The decision was taken during the 81st Formation Commanders Conference chaired by Army chief General Syed Asim Munir - at the General Headquarters (GHQ) (ISPR), the media wing of the sovereignty" of the country.

army said in a statement.
"Hostile forces and their abettors have been trying hard to create societal division and confusion through fake news and propaganda but all such designs will continue to be defeated with the full support of the nation, InshaAllah," Gen Munir told the meeting which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of the Pakistan Army. He reiterated that the Pakistan Army would remain committed towards the nation-

Services Public Relations the "territorial integrity and

The forum condemned the incidents of "May 9 Black Day" and in the strictest sense reiterated their "first resolve that desecrators Shuhada Monuments, Jinnah House and attackers of military installations would certainly be brought to justice speedily under the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act which are the derivatives of the Constitution of Pakistan," the ISPR said.

It said that the efforts to create distortions and attempts to take refuge behind imagi-

violations to create a smoke screen for hiding the ugly faces of all involved, are absolutely futile and do not stand the abundantly collected irrefutable evidence

"It has been further stressed that, while the legal trials of perpetrators and instigators have commenced, it is time that noose of law is also tightened around the planners and masterminds who mounted the hate-ripened and politically driven rebellion against the state and state institutions to achieve their nefarious design of creating chaos in the country," the statement said.

Lira declines to record lows after Erdogan's new term

Ankara (AP): The Turkish lira tumbled to a fresh record low on Wednesday, extending its slide against the US dollar since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan started his third term.

The lira weakened by more than 6 per cent on Wednesday hitting 23.15 against the dollar. The decline took the currency's loss since the appointment of Erdogan's new government to 8 per cent. The currency has weakened by around 20 per cent since the start of the year.

The Turkish currency has declined in value since 2021 due to what economists say is Erdogan's insistence on keeping contrary to conventional economic approaches that call for higher interest rates to tame inflation. Analysts say Erdogan's government propped up the lira in the run-up to Turkiye's presidential and parliamentary elections last month, using foreign currency reserves to keep the exchange rate under control. On Saturday, Erdogan reappointed Mehmet Simsek, an internationally respected former banker, as treasury and finance minister in his new Cabinet.

borrowing costs low to stimu-

late growth despite skyrocket-

ing inflation. The policy runs

Imran Khan booked for terror after murder of SC lawyer

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has been}}$ booked under the anti-terrorism law in the murder case of a supreme court lawyer, his party said on Wednesday.

Advocate Abdul Razzaq Shar was killed on Tuesday in a drive-by shooting in Quetta, province, while on his way to the provincial high court when targeted by the unknown assailants.

Shar's son Siraj Ahmad registered a case on Tuesday, accusing in his FIR that his father was killed at the behest of Khan, the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party chairman.

The PTI party, in a WhatsApp message, confirmed that Khan, 70, was named in the FIR lodged at the Shaheed Jamil Kakar police station of the city. According to the copy of the FIR shared by the party, the complainant told police that his father had registered a case against Khan and he was

Japan supports

Sweden's NATO

Tapan's defence minister

expressed his country's sup-

port for Sweden's NATO mem-

bership during talks on

Wednesday with his Swedish

counterpart, as the two sides called for stronger military ties

amid shared concern over

threats from Russia and China.

tary cooperation between

China and Russia and their

joint exercises around

membership

AP ■ TOKYO



receiving threats. "I name Imran Khan in the FIR because threats were being given to my father at his behest," he said.

Shar had filed a constitutional petition against Khan and former deputy speaker Qasim Suri in the Balochistan High Court for proceedings under Article 6 that pertained to high treason for illegally dissolving the National Assembly in April 2022 after the joint opposition had moved a notrust motion against the PTI government.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's aide Attaullah Tarar had alleged that Shar was

killed at the behest of Khan to evade accountability in a treason case. PTI spokesperson Raoof Hassan rejected the claim and instead accused Prime Minister Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah of planning the murder. Separately, a case of fraud was filed against Khan at Islamabad's Kohsar Police ing fake receipts to buy Toshakhana gifts.

Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and his former aides Shahzad Akbar and Zulfi Bukhari, and a friend of Bibi, Farah Gogi, have been named in the case.

The complainant, a local watch dealer, stated that Khan used fake receipts from his shop to buy and sell the Toshakhana watch.

Khan has already been disqualified in the Toshakhana case by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) which also filed a criminal case against him in a district court where the PTI leader had already been indicted.

Pak PM Sharif tells finance ministry to follow IMF parameters in budget Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan missed speculation that the

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the finance ministry to ensure that the budget is in line with the parameters set by the IMF, amid ongoing negotiations with the global lender for a bailout package for the cash-strapped country, Wednesday. The country's budget is likely to be present-

A week back, Sharif held a telephone conversation with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and urged her to revive the USD 6.5 billion deal that was initially signed in 2019 and is set to expire by the end of this month. Geo News, citing an informed source, said Sharif, during a meeting with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday, expressed optimism that the government would reach an agreement with the IMF. The source also disgovernment would present a populist election-year budget and said, "Pakistan can't afford any budget that violates the set basics of the IMF."

The prime minister was quite optimistic about the revival of the IMF programme Georgieva, the source said. In the same meeting, it was agreed that Pakistan would share details of the budget with the Washington-based bank. The discussion between Sharif and Georgieva took place after the finance ministry could not break the deadlock over loan talks during the past four months. Officials on either side have accused each other of the holdup with Pakistan struggling to enact necessary reforms and the IMF not showing any leniency. Sharif on Monday told Turkish media that Pakistan is hopeful of finalising a deal with the IMF this month.

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that initially Built-up property bearing no. X/33377, (Old no X/3337), land area measuring 71.69 sq. Mtrs., out of Khasra no. 840/218, bearing Ahata no 8, situated in the area of Villago Scolempur, in the abadi of Raginuhar Pura no. 2, Candhi Nagar, Illaga Shahdara Delhi-110031, was owned by Subhash Chand Jain & Sons HUF. Karta Subhash Chand Jain keyired, and his legal heirs Smt. Neha Jan relinquish her share in the said property to Smt. Memata Gargy diver enquishment deed 0.0.60.2014 who sold: the said property to Mr. Rajiv Anand vide sale deed 20.50.2014. Smt Kusum Jain sold the said property to Mrs. Racha Bansal vide Sa e Deeds dated 30.11.2021, Doc no. 10328 and Now, Mrs. Rachna Bansal is mortgaging the above said property with Ind.-slnd Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan' Mr. Suchiri Jain (Advocates), Law Verlias North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TIT. Tower, (B-08), Nezig Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact et 9066707 172/981 8228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE Shri Ram Dev Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. House No.125, 1s Floor, Phase-4, Bharat Nagar, Ashok

Vihar, New Delhi-52 In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rule 2007, applications are invited from genera public of Delhi who fulfill the conditions laid down in rule-19 & 20 of DCS Rules, 2007 fo filling up seven vacancies in Shri Ram De CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 727-GH) for propose three bedroom flat.(having Apprx. 1500 Sq feet area), which has arisen due to resignation of members, Interested persons ca collect the application form (free of cost) in person from society office i.e.House No.125 1st Floor, Phase-4, Bharat Nagar, Ashol Vihar, New Delhi-52 within 15 days from the date of publication of public notice between 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the same ha to deposited along with the amount o Rs. 7,00,110/- towards Share money admission fee and Land money) through Pa order/ Demand Draft within 15 days of issu of this notice in favour of Shri Ram De Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd This is a CBI scanner society. (Equalization will be charged as per DCS Act & Rules President-Shri Ram Dev CGHS Ltd.

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

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 Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("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 10.07.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 44,52,452/-(Rupees Forty Four Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00342772, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 29.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 30.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ANIL J and SHUCHI KANSAL

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. F-1 (H.I.G) HAVING SUPER COVERED AREA OF 60 SQUARE METERS ON FIRST FLOOR, FRONT SIDE (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), PLOT NO.-5/1147, SECTOR-5, VASUNDHARA, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD-201005, UTTAR PRADESH TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE & IMPARTIBLE RIGHTS OF FREEHOLD LAND UNDERNEATH AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-

EAST : ROAD 9 METER WIDE WEST : COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NO. 2

NORTH: ROAD 7.5 METER WIDE

SOUTH: PLOT NO. 5/1148

website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Admission Branch)

Admission Notice for PPBNET (Post Basic Nursing) Courses, session 2023

Prospectus for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be available on university website from 09-06-2023. Online applications are invited for admission in all the Govt./ University/ Private colleges of Punjab through website upto 26-06-2023. The PPBNET for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be conducted on dated 02-07-2023 Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For all schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at: www.bfuhs.ac.in.

Nil/12/110/2023/24789

PUBLIC NOTICE

Deed dated 02.01.2008 Doc. No. 137.Said Satinder Mohan Pall has misplaced OTO. Conveyance Deed dated 30.04.2001 Doc. No. 10162 & Org. Relinquishment Deed dated 26.12.2007 Doc. No. 7048 in respect of the said property & an online NCR is issued by Crime Branch on 02.05.2022 in respect of loss of documents. Said Satinder Mohan Pall has agreed to sell the said Property to Deepak Gupta & Said Deepak Gupta has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, Standard Chartered Bank, Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar

Bank, Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafa Marg, New Delhi, person/s in possession o two original misplaced documents or having any daim against in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale

exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered of otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien of

otherwise howsoever, are hereby requester on ontify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence and submit the misplaced document at the

address mentioned below within 14 days

rom the date hereof, failing which the clai

or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan

against the said property and subsequer

creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate

H. No.2 (LGF). NRI Complex New Delhi-19

For Diwan and Company LLF

Advocates and Solicitors

Mobile No. 9818399999

Dated CHD :- 6/7/2023

It is hereby brought to the notice of public at large

Kasba Chandpur, Distt. Bijnour, UP (also knowr

NOTICE is hereby given that **Satinder Mohan Pall** claims to be owner & in
possession of **Prop No. 104**, **Block C**, that the following original sale deeds of Shakiti Nagar Extn., Delhi 52 (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed dated 02.01.2008 Doc. No. 137.Said

as Al-lobal Hospital) have been lost and not ssession of Present owner (1) Original Sale eed executed by Pramod Kumar in favour of Solendra Chowdhary, duly registered as document no. 4739 on 08.08.2000. (2) Original ale deed executed by Naveneet Tyagi in favour of Solendra Chowdhary which is duly registered as document no. 4987 on 21.08.2000

The owner has lodged online police complain vide G.D. No.-38 dated 21.05.2023 as well as publishing this notice in this regard. Any person other than owner), who comes in knowledge or ossession of aforementioned Original Registered sale deeds no.4739 & 4987, may lease return the same to above mentioned operty address or at below mentioned address ny person or authority dealing with the deed and or the aforesaid Property and/or deriving any enefit by impersonation or claiming any interes n the aforesaid land situated at Mohalla Sarairafi. Kasba Chandpur, Distt. Bijnour, UP, on the basis of said Original registered sale deeds dated 08.08.2000 and 21.08.2000 or in any manner hatsoever, he/she/it shall do so at his/her/its/ own cost, expense, liability and risk or may also end his/her/their claims in writing to the indersigned along with documentary evidence in

upport of the claim within 15 days from date of publication of this Notice. Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate) -10, LGF, Jangpura Ext., New Delhi-110014

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 Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("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 10.07.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 21,65,263/-(Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLRHN00287931, by way of outstanding principal. arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 29.05.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 30.05.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from RITURAJ SINGH and SUMAN GOEL.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. B-23/14 ADMEASURING 86.04 SQUARE METERS ON 1ST FLOOR, SAPNA-TYPE-02 SITUATED IN MANDOLA VIHAR YOJANA, SECTOR-05.

website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to

AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD

Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson said that Sweden sees the need for European countries to reach out to Asian partners because of the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine. Japan is especially concerned about increasing mili-

"Sweden and Japan are meeting many of the similar security challenges. Europe is at war once again, and it is obvious to me that the dialogue between the countries in the Euro-Atlantic community and the Indo-Pacific community has to be intensified," Jonson

Indian-origin prof awarded 'Dutch Nobel Prize' for her research

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian-origin professor **⊥**Joyeeta Gupta is among the two scientists who have been named for the prestigious Spinoza Prize, also known as the Dutch Nobel Prize, it was announced on Wednesday.

Gupta, the faculty professor of Sustainability and professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam, received the prize for her outstanding, pioneering, and inspiring scientific work in which she focuses on a just and sustainable world, the Dutch Research Council said.

Gupta will be officially presented with the highest distinction in Dutch science on October 4 alongside Toby Kiers, another scientist chosen for the award, the council said in a statement. Toby Kiers is a professor of Mutualistic Interactions at the University of Amsterdam.

Gupta will receive 1.5 million euros to spend on scientific research and activities relat-



statement said. Sometimes called the

'Dutch Nobel Prize', the Spinoza prize is the highest award in Dutch academia and is awarded each year to researchers working in the Netherlands who "according to international standards belong to the absolutely best researchers worldwide". "The scientists who have

received this award in the past

represent the absolute best of

Dutch academia, so I'm hon-

oured to be considered along-

Gupta, who is also cochair of the Earth Commission founded by Future Earth and supported by the Global Challenges Foundation, said she would work towards implementing her ideas on sharing 'ecospace' (environmental utilisation space) globally that aims to protect environmental conditions in an equitable manner worldwide and would be a fitting way to bring global environmental and developmental issues together.

side them," Gupta said.

Gupta's research focused on how to solve issues arising from climate change through good governance, the statement "At the core of her research

is an attempt to unravel the connections between the climate crisis, global water challenges, possible solutions and justice. To this end, her work brings together various scientific disciplines, from international law and economics to political science, development studies and environmental studies," the statement said.

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 43,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 4,30,000/-(Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

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

Date: 02.06.2023 Place: GHAZIABAD

SAHARANPUR ROAD, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the

Date: 02.06.2023

TOP GAINERS

7429 Tata Steel

Tata Motors

Blue, space economy to add value in India's growth, says Min

PTI MAINPURI (UP)

nion Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said lesser explored areas like ocean resources and space will do value addition in the future economy of the country.

Addressing a meeting here, he said one of the hallmarks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach towards the economy has been that he has reinforced and strengthened the existing pillars of the economy by imposing a check on pilferage or malpractice and reduced a load of avoidable restrictions and regulations for ease of business.

The prime minister also introduced new dimensions to the Indian economy, which hardly received any attention

from previous governments even though these were important, the Minister of State for Personnel said.

economy are among some of the new concepts introduced in last nine years by the prime minister," he said.

If India has to compete globally, it will have to stand up to global parameters and the value addition to the future economy of the country will also come from lesser explored areas like ocean resources and space, the minister was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

"It is also a matter of pride that even though our space journey started several years after countries like USA and

"Blue economy and space

Soviet Union, but today, these countries are using our technology provided by Isro (Indian pace Research Organisation) for launching their satellites," he

Singh said, 353 out of the total 385 foreign satellites have been launched during the last 9 years and USD 174 million have been earned.

He said that while India as the fastest-growing economy, overtook the United Kingdom, it has also generated revenue by

is concerned, Prime Minister Modi spoke about the Deep Sea Mission in his Independence Day address because he wants to make people aware of the Blue wealth that lies hidden under the seabed," Singh said while addressing "Vyapar Sammelan" (Industry and traders' meet) as à part of the month-long campaign to commemorate the nine years of the Modi government. He urged the business com-

munity to adapt to the new culture of business and make maximum use of technology.

The minister said, there is no such technology which is not available in India, but sometimes "we were not able to utilise it because we are not fully aware

"The government today is not only providing ease of business but also offering assistance in developing new entrepre-neur products and marketing the same," he said.

The minister particularly called upon the business community to identify potential He said it goes to the cred-

it of Prime Minister Modi that India stands at number-3 in the world in the startup ecosystem. "But in order to sustain

this, we have to continuously work hard," Singh added. The minister also hailed the prime minister for the revival

of the Khadi business, which has yielded more than Rs 10 lakh crore of turnover, according to

63,142.96 1.66 - LAT TOP LOSERS Kotak Bank 024 ICICI Bank 12 Manuti Suzuki TOP GAINERS Change +127.40 TATA Cons. Prod 3.36 BPCL 18,726.40 Nestle India HDFC Life TOP LOSERS Kotak Bank Bajaj Finance

Change (+350.08

BSE Sensex

62,792.88

SAT sets aside Sebi order cancelling Brickwork Ratings' licence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to Brickwork Ratings India, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has set aside a Sebi order cancelling the licence of the credit rating agency. However, the appellate tribunal partly affirmed some of the violations and referred the matter back to Sebi to issue a fresh order on the quantum of the penalty.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in October 2022 cancelled the registration of Brickwork and directed it to wind up operations within six months for violations of regulatory norms. Following this, the rating agency approached SAT.
In its order passed on

Tuesday, SAT said the alleged violations by Brickwork were "not deliberate or fraught with malafides or fraud and therefore cannot result in the cancellation of the licence".

Terming the cancellation "unjustified", SAT said the violations found were trivial and routine operational errors, which had unnecessarily been escalated to regulatory proceedings.

"Isolated instances by not meeting the rating criteria, not reviewing the rating criteria for

a shorter period than 3 years / 5 years, not signing the minutes of the meeting, not recording the names of the attendees of the meeting of the rating committee, failure to comply with the timelines specified in the appellant's manual are such violations which do not warrant cancellation of

with RBI inspected the period October- November, 2019 to ascertain whether Brickwork had been complying with the provisions of the Sebi Act and the CRA (Credit Rating Agency)

tion by markets regulator Sebi against Brickwork. In its October 2022 order, Sebi highlighted several violations by Brickwork, including that it failed to follow a proper rating process and exercise due diligence while providing ratings.

to ensure proper maintenance of records to support its ratings and make correct disclosures in its press releases concerning some

Brickwork did not conclude

Shriram Life Insurance rolls out unit-linked plan with flexible options

Shriram Life Insurance Company, a part of the Shriram Group, on Wednesday said it has unveiled a new unitlinked policy that offers financial control with multiple fund options and investment strate-

cover either whole life or a specific period of time enabling them to fulfil their financial aspirations with full flexibility,

The scheme, which has been

The rupee gained 5 paise to

settle at 82.55 against the US

dollar on foreign fund inflows

and risk-on sentiments ahead of

the Reserve Bank of India's

monetary policy decision on

opened at 82.56 against the US dollar and settled at 82.55 (pro-

visional), up 5 paise over its pre-

tic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.46 and a low of 82.57.

During the day, the domes-

Thursday

vious close



golden jubilee year of the Shriram Group, has two options -- Life Goal and Legacy -- providing customers options to alter policy term, premium payment term, sum assured and pre-

Insurance MD and CEO Casparus Kromhout said: "We are delighted to announce this plan on our Group's momentous milestone. The plan gives various flexibilities and options to choose from, provides financial protection and encourages longterm participation in the mar-

"We hope this product will

give our customers another reason to plan decisively and reap the benefits of accumulated wealth so that they can celebrate their milestones in the best way possible," he said.

The scheme aims to empower individuals to achieve their financial goals and create a secure future for the family. With its flexible features, investment options and comprehensive coverage, the plan offers a holistic solution for individuals seeking life insurance and wealth creation opportunities, the com-

On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank, $E_{\text{climbed over 350 points}}$ Maruti, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra and to reclaim the 63,000 mark ICICI Bank were the lagon Wednesday, propelled by robust buying in metal, energy and FMCG stocks gards.

al equities. Fresh foreign capital inflows and a strengthening rupee also supported the domestic equity markets,

amid a mixed trend in glob-

Sensex rallies

63,000-mark

350 pts to reclaim

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 350.08 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 63,142.96. During the day, it jumped 403.55 points or 0.64 per cent to

The advanced 127.40 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,726.40. "Investors are becoming

more optimistic due to the anticipation of a positive revision in the RBI's inflation forecast during the ongoing MPC meeting. It is expected that the RBI will maintain its pause on rate hikes, considering the significant improvement in inflation, which has now come within the RBI's comfort zone. "Furthermore, the participation of FIIs as net buytributed to today's market rally, particularly driven by mid-and small-cap stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Nestle was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising nearly 3 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, NTPC, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Axis Bank.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.15 per cent and the midcap index climbed 1.09 per cent. Markets rallied sharply and witnessed broad-based

buying support ahead of the credit policy with the Sensex ending past the crucial 63000-mark. Upbeat moves prevailed throughout the session as investors are hoping for a rate hike pause amid an improving domestic macroeconomic situation. "All eyes will be on the RBI's growth outlook and inflation projection for the year, and in case there is any downgrade in inflation expectations, optimism is likely to persist," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

All indices ended in the green, where telecommunication jumped 2.99 per cent, metal jumped 1.70 per cent, realty (1.52 per cent), oil & gas (1.34 per cent), power (1.25 per cent), energy (1.06 per cent), FMCG (1.06 per cent), commodities (0.95 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.81 per cent) and IT (0.83 per cent).

were mixed on Wednesday as weak Chinese trade data had investors fretting about softening global demand, while at the same time expecting Chinese Govt to undertake measures to stimulate its economy," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"Global stock markets

the licence," SAT observed. In January 2020, Sebi along

This was the third inspec-

Also, the rating agency failed

the rating exercise within the timelines prescribed as per its internal manual, Sebi had said.

Life Goal offers cover for a specified period while Legacy offers cover till the age of 100. Commenting on the launch of the product, Shriram Life

Policy holders can opt to the company said.

Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 82.55 against US dollar

gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.10 per cent to 104.02. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.51

On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 82.60 against the US

The dollar index, which

At the interbank foreign per cent to USD 76.68 per barexchange market, the local unit According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the Indian rupee strengthened for the second day in a row following dollar

inflows and risk-on sentiments

ahead of the RBI monetary pol-



icy decision. RBI is scheduled to announce its bi-monthly mon-

which might support growth as inflation could cool further in the months ahead on an expectation of better monsoons and lower commodity prices," Parmar said. Parmar further added that

etary policy meeting's outcome on Thursday. RBI is largely

expected to leave the repo rate

pause for a second straight

meeting as inflation eases. All

eyes will be on a policy stance

"The market is pricing in

unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

Spot USDINR is expected to remain calm within the range of

Generative AI transforming businesses at rapid pace: Survey Also, close to 88 per cent of

PTI MUMBAI

 $F^{\text{rom ChatGPT to Dall-E}}_{\text{and all the technologies in}}$ between, the new wave of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is transforming businesses at a rapid pace, and 60 per cent of Indian executives are optimistic about its impact on workplace, as per a survey.

However, opinions vary by seniority and by country, according to the survey by Boston Consulting Group.

The survey is based on inputs from 12,800 employees from the executive suites to the frontline employees across

As per the survey, Brazil (71 per cent) is the most optimistic country about the impact of GenAI on workplace followed by India (60 per cent) and the Middle East (58 per The least optimistic are the

industries in 18 countries.

US (46 per cent), the Netherlands (44 per cent) and

Japan (40 per cent).

Geographies most concerned about AI are the Netherlands (42 per cent), France (41 per cent), and Japan (38 per cent), while the least concerned are the Middle East (25 per cent), Brazil (19 per cent), and India (14 per cent),

As much as 61 per cent of the 1,000 respondents in India are optimistic about the tool while 72.8 per cent of them believe the rewards of GenAI outweigh risks.

respondents believe their job is likely to be transformed by AI and 80 per cent feel AI-specific regulations are necessary.

ĞenAI is a rapidly evolving space, and its transformative impact is already being felt in workplaces around the world, says Nicolas De Bellefonds, the global leader of AI and software at BCG X, BCG's tech build and design unit.

As per the survey, 52 per cent of respondents are optimistic about AI's impact on work, which was 35 per cent in 2018. According to Nipun Kalra, managing director & partner, and head of BCG X in Îndia, among the 18 countries surveyed, Indian executives are the most optimistic about the transformative impact of AI.

The survey also showed that senior leaders are more frequent users of generative AI, and thus are more optimistic and less concerned about it than frontline employees. While 62 per cent of leaders are optimistic about AI, only 42 per cent of frontline employees share that view. Also, 62 per cent of regular

users of GenAI are optimistic about it, compared to 36 per cent of non-users. A majority of leaders (80 per cent) report that they use GenAI tools regularly, compared with just 20 per cent of frontline employees.

Further, frontline employees made up the largest percentage of non-users (60 per cent).

Odisha train accident: KIIT to provide job,



NON-SURGICAL PROCEDURES TO CORRECT HEART AILMENTS PERFORMED FREE OF COST

NEW DELHI: The Cardiology Department of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCH & RC) has successfully completed non-surgical closure of holes in the heart for three children free of cost, on a single day. A similar non-surgical procedure to correct a link between the Aorta and Pulmonary Artery was also performed successfully on a 12-year-old boy, also free of cost. Dr. P.Sathyanarayanan, Pro-Chancellor (Academics), SRM Institute of Science and Technology, said only a handful of hospitals in Tamil Nadu had the capabilities to perform this procedure that had several benefits compared to open heart surgeries.

The procedure — ASD (Atrial Septal Defect) Device Closure was performed on Priyadarshini (4 years old), Kavin (5) and 13-year-old Vannamathi. Normally, such defects are closed only by surgical methods (open heart surgery) which has some limitations such as prolonged hospital stay, a permanent scar in the chest, and postsurgical arrhythmias. These limitations are eliminated by this nonsurgical closure by a device.

holes will never close in the individual's lifetime on its own and must side of the heart. Sometimes, holes between the two ventricles (VSD - Ventricular Septal Defect) can close on its own till the child

Non-surgical procedures:

Doctors at SRMMCH&RC said the three children were born with holes in the heart between the two upper chambers — atria. The holes develop while the babies are still in the foetus of their mother. These

be closed to avoid repeated chest infections and failure of the right reaches 13 years of age.

Gold prices gain ₹25; silver declines ₹150

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices gained Rs 25 to Rs 60,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous

had ended at Rs 60,775 Silver, however, declined Rs 150 to Rs 72,800

trade, the yellow metal

per kg.
"Spot gold prices in the traded at Rs Delhi markets traded at Rs 60,800/10 gram, up Rs 25 per 10 gram," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.



In the international markets, both gold and silver were trading flat at USD 1,957 per ounce and USD 23.42 per ounce, respectively.

Gold prices traded firm for a second consecutive day amid an uptick in the US dollar,

education to victims' families of Odisha The KIIT Deemed-to-be-University will provide

employment to one of the family members of the deceased of Odisha in the Balasore rail tragedy and free education to the children.

Announcing this to the media in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday, the Founder of KIIT & KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said, "We can't reduce the sorrow of the family members of those who died in the train accident, but we will try our level best to support them. We will try to support the vic-

tims' families by offering a job to one member from each family at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility, and provide free education to their kids at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility from standard one up to higher level. We will inform them how to apply for the job as well as free education".

KIIT has always come forward and extended humanitarian services during any stressful events. During COVID-19 well, KIIT came forward to support hundreds of students who had lost their parents in the pandemic, giving free education, jobs to the family mem-



bers of the Covid diseased, and helped common people through various means. Continuing with this humanitarian gesture, KIIT has come forward to help and support the victims of the train acci-

Meanwhile, KIIT Deemed to be University has achieved a remarkable milestone in 2023 by securing the 16th position

teachers. I have been enabled

in the prestigious NIRF India Rankings 2023, which was released on 5th June 2023. This annual ranking exercise, conducted by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, evaluates various universities and

institutions.

This impressive jump in KIIT's parameter from last year's 20th rank at the national level showcases the institution's dedication to academic excellence and compassionate outreach. KIIT has also earned a place among the top 50 research universities in the country, securing the 44th

BYJU'S inducts generative AI for guiding students, says won't replace teachers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{Wednesday said it has}}^{\text{dtech major BYJU's on}}$ introduced generative artificial intelligence in its learning modules with an avowal that the technology will not replace teachers.

The company has introduced a new suite of three AI models under BYJU's WIZ suite -- BADRI, Math GPT, and TeacherGPT -- to understand students' learning patterns and

own that will help them learn BYJU's co-founder Divya

develop methodology on its

Gokulnath told PTI that implementation of AI is not meant to replace teachers but to generate efficiency in the organisation and help teachers focus on better placed tasks. She said that videos have

been used in the learning system but they have not replaced "No AI could replace what

we did as teachers do in that video. No AI can replace what we as teachers do in live classes and BYIU's tuition centres but AI can enable us as teachers to have clearer feedback on our students' performance so that we can help them become better learners," Gokulnath She said the efficiency that

will come into the system due to the AI module will have a positive impact on the company's revenue and margins and



be fruitful for the entire organ-

"It's never tech versus teachers. It is always tech and

by technology. I've been empowered by technology. Teachers can use this to make themselves a better teacher. There is nothing that can replace the role of a teacher in the classroom. There is nothing which can replace the humaneness which they bring to the classroom which is critical for a child to become better," Gokulnath said.

BYJU's chief innovation and learning officer Dev Roy

in-house BADRI will be able to assess students' learning patterns and develop prompts accordingly. "It will make two students

predictive AI model developed

learn the same topic in a different manner based on their learning behaviour. It will find out whether there is a problem in understanding of the concept or the student is making silly mistakes and come out with prompts accordingly," Roy

ONE STEP CLOSER

Reigning champion Swiatek reaches French Open semi-finals Haddad creates history

op-ranked Iga Swiatek kept her French Open title defense on track with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Coco Gauff to reach the semifinals on Wednesday. In a rematch of last year's final, Swiatek recorded another straight-set victory over the American and will next face Beatriz Haddad Maia as she chases her third trophy at the clay-court

The 19-year-old Gauff fell to 0-7 against Swiatek, and the Floridian has yet to take a set against her. Swiatek, a 22-year-old Pole, won 6-1, 6-3 in last year's final.

Earlier on Court Philippe Chatrier, Haddad Maia scored another comeback win, upsetting Ons Jabeur 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 to become the first Brazilian woman since 1968 to reach a Grand Slam

The 14th-seeded Haddad Maia, who served a 10-month suspension for failing a doping test in 2019, shook off a slow start against the seventh-seeded Jabeur.

After playing nearly four hours to beat Sara Sorribes Tormo in the fourth round, Haddad Maia won only one of her service games in the first set. But she saved the only two break points she faced in the second set — both in the 11th game to go up 6-5 — and won the tiebreaker.

The 27-year-old Brazilian started the deciding set with a double break and a 3-0 lead. A frustrated Jabeur flipped her racket in the air



after sending an easy backhand wide on a break-point opportunity while down 4-1. Haddad Maia won the game and served out the match, putting her hand on her cap almost in disbelief after Jabeur sailed a forehand long on the sec-

ond match point.
"I had to be patient. She's one of the best players in the world," Haddad Maia said on court. "Not easy to play against her. She's tricky

Jabeur, a Tunisian who was the runner-up at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, used drop shots effectively early in the match but in the end had more unforced errors (42) than winners (38).

"I always believed that the match (would be) long," Haddad Maia said. "That was the key. I was trying to keep my game."

Haddad Maia is the first Brazilian woman to reach the semifinals at Roland Garros in the Open era. Maria Bueno reached the last four at the 1966 French Open and made the 1968 U.S. Open semifinals. Haddad Maia's fourthround win over Sorribes Tormo, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-5, was the longest WTA match of the year — clocking in a 3 hours, 51 minutes.

After failing her doping test in 2019, the Brazilian player had argued that she had merely been taking supplements. The International Tennis Federation accepted Haddad Maia's explanation and said she "bore no significant fault or negligence for her violation," but that a suspension was nonetheless mandatory.

Beatriz Haddad Maia became the first Brazilian woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final since 1968 on Wednesday when she came back from a set down to defeat Ons Jabeur at the French Open.

World number 14 Haddad Maia came through 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 and will face either top-ranked defending champion Iga Swiatek or Coco Gauff for a place in Saturday's championship match.

The 27-year-old left-hander follows in the footsteps of seven-time major winner Maria Bueno who was the last Brazilian woman in the semifinals of a major at the US Open 55 years ago. Bueno, who passed away in 2018, made the last four in Paris in 1966 before the advent of the Open era.

"Ons is not easy to play against, you have to be patient but I believed in my body and tried to keep my rhythm," said Haddad Maia.

Jabeur, the runner-up at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2022, was playing in her first quarter-final at Roland Garros.

The Tunisian hit 15 winners as she claimed an opening set which featured five breaks of serve in nine games.

Haddad Maia had never got past the second round of a Grand Slam before this French Open. She had saved a match

point in the third round against saved four break points to Ekaterina Alexandrova and stretch to a 5-1 advantage and then defeated Sara Sorribes

minute marathon, the third fourth round match. My amazing team worked hard on my longest women's match ever played at the tournament. She summoned all that fighting spirit in the second set

against Jabeur, holding her nerve on a fourth set point. Haddad Maia then swept into a 3-0 lead in the decider, ond set.'

Tormo in a three-hour 51-

took the match after two and a half hours when Jabeur hit long. "I had a day off after my

body," said the Brazilian.
"We work hard all year to be in these moments so I remembered this when we were in the middle of the sec-

Alcaraz sets up Djokovic 'Sindhu's form not a concern, she remains one of India's best' showdown in semis

Carlos Alcaraz will play Novak Djokovic in a blockbuster French Open semi-final after the Spanish world number one beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old Alcaraz becomes the youngest French Open men's semi-finalist since Diokovic in 2007 after defeating former Roland Garros runnerup Tsitsipas for the fifth time in as many attempts.
Alcaraz will face Djokovic

for only the second time in his career. He beat the 22-time Grand Slam champion in three sets in Madrid last year. "This match everyone wants

going to be a good match to play and watch as well," Alcaraz said of his pending showdown with Djokovic. "I really wanted to play this

match. If you want to be the best you have to beat the best, and Novak Djokovic is one of the best in the world at the moment

Tsitsipas started the night session quarter-final with a confident hold but Alcaraz soon grabbed control with two breaks to bag the opening set.

Alcaraz's mix of delicate drop shots and blistering groundstrokes were too much for an overmatched Tsitsipas, who tamely surrendered the second set with a double fault.

The top seed broke early in the third set but failed to serve it out at 5-3 as Tsitsipas offered some belated resistance, saving



five match points before ultimately going down in the tie-

"I lost my focus a little bit at the end of the third set," said Alcaraz.

"He started to play better and of course, I lost my focus a little bit, I was in trouble. I am happy to recover from that problem and still focus and play a great level.'

Earlier Friday, two-time Paris champion Djokovic defeated Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (7/0), 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semi-finals for the 12th time and 45th at the majors

 $T^{\text{wo-time Olympic medallist PV}}_{\text{Sindhu's lack of consistency after}}$ coming back from an injury should not be a cause of "concern", feels chief national badminton coach Pullela Sindhu suffered yet another first

round exit on Tuesday when she lost to world number 1 Akane Yamaguchi in the Singapore Open.

"She's very young in saying that she's just 26-27. It's a good age, there is no reason for concern," Gopichand A silver medallist at the 2016 Rio

Olympics and bronze winner in the Tokyo Games, Sindhu suffered an ankle injury in August last year to be slipped out of top-10 in the BWF

remained out of action for four months because of that injury.

Sindhu's final and semi-final finish at Madrid Spain Masters and Malaysia Masters respectively were her best results this season. She reached a low with a first round exit at the Thailand Open when she lost to Cananda's Michell Li.

But Gopichand, a former All England champion who guided Sindhu since she was 10 till she became an Olympic medallist, firmly believed she would bounce back stronger.

"She has come out on top in the sixeight months. She is starting to play well. I do expect her to play well in future. She is definitely one of India's bets for the future," Gopichand said.

Terming it a mixed season for Sindhu, Gopichand said: "It's the beginwomen's singles rankings. She ning of the season and beginning of



Olympic qualification. The results have been mixed so far.

"We have a lot of pressure on players to perform. We have to just back them up and hope that they are playing the big tournaments." The high point of the season for

Indian badminton was HS Prannoy's title win at the Malaysia Masters last month, the 30-year-old's first men's singles triumph since 2017 US Open. "From our perspective in general,

Prannoy winning in Malaysia was a good one that's something I'm really happy about. It's the beginning of the season, it's early. "We have not done well at the

Sudirman Cup, it was kind of a negative note. Lakshya Sen did well to get to the semifinals in Thailand, and I do believe that the next few weeks will be very critical and we have big tourna-

ments coming up," said the 49-year-old The top shuttlers of the country are

currently training with personal coaches. Sindhu is training with Vidhi Chuadhary, while the struggling Kidambi Śrikkanth has roped in Wiempie Mahardi of Indonesia with an eye on Paris Olympics next year. "In general, the rigours of having

to play back-to-back, players have started to feel that they need personal coaches," said Gopichand. "If one has won then everybody

starts to believe that they do need one. This is something that has been happening. "In the Olympic year, it's every

body's need to have that personal attention. I think it's a trend that has started, many also follow it in other sports. I'm okay with that."

Moeen out of Test retirement to join England Ashes squad

AP LONDON

ll-rounder Moeen Ali came All-rounder Mocen All-rounder Mout of Test retirement on Wednesday to bolster the England squad for the first two Tests of the Moeen replaces first-choice

spinner Jack Leach, who was ruled out of the series after suffering a stress fracture in his back.

Moeen, who turns 36 during next week's first Test at his home ground of Edgbaston, has agreed to return to red-ball cricket for the first time in almost two years.

England did have other options. including 18-year-old Rehan Ahmed, who became England's youngest men's Test cricketer when he made his debut in Karachi in December, and Surrey's Will Jacks, but none with the experience and



"We reached out to Mo early this week about returning to Test cricket," said Rob Key, managing director for England men's cricket.

'Having had a couple of days to

reflect, Mo is excited to join the squad and play Test cricket again. "His vast experience, along with his all-round ability, will ben-

efit our Ashes campaign.' Moeen, a powerful batsman and off-spinner, has played 64 Tests for England, taking 195 wickets and

scoring 2,914 runs. But Australia have proved tough opponents for Moeen, with

his career bowling average climbing from 36.66 to 64.65 in Ashes crick-The first match of the five-Test

series gets under way on June 16 at

West Indies wrap up ODI series win over UAE

The West Indies produced a I fine team display to secure a series victory over the United Arab Emirates with a 78-run win in the second ODI on Tuesday.

Openers Brandon King and Johnson Charles both plundered half-centuries as the tourists made 306 all out batting first.

The bowlers then shared the wickets around as the UAE slipped to 95-5 before eventually finishing on 228-7 in their 50

The West Indies are prepar-

ing for the World Cup qualifying event in Zimbabwe which starts on June 18 and also features the

The two-time world champions have never failed to reach the global showpiece, but only two of the 10 teams in the qualifier will reach the World Cup in India later this year.

"The game was always about getting wickets and putting pressure on the opposition," said West Indies captain Shai Hope.

"Unfortunately, didn't get wickets to see the game out ear-lier. But still happy with the win."

SL thrash Afghanistan to win ODI series 2-1 Benzema signs for Al-Ittihad

 $R^{\text{eal} \ \text{Madrid's Ballon d'Or}}_{\text{winner Karim Benzema will}}$ join Cristiano Ronaldo in Saudi Arabia after signing a three-year deal with Al-Ittihad, the Jeddahbased club confirmed on

"Benzema is here. A new tiger will roar. Welcome to Ittihad!," the club wrote on

Benzema will join his former Real Madrid teammate Ronaldo in the Gulf kingdom after the five-time world player of the year moved to Al Nassr from Manchester United following last year's World Cup.

The announcement regarding Benzema comes days after Real Madrid said that the 35 year-old Benzema was leaving the club after 14 seasons, the day after coach Carlo Ancelotti had insisted there was "no doubt" Benzema's future was in the Spanish capital.

Benzema joined Madrid in 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.



for Madrid and is second on Real's all-time goalscoring list with 354 — only Ronaldo has

He has lifted five Champions Leagues, four La Liga titles and three Copas del Rey with Madrid.



Di Maria quits Juventus

targeted by a club in Saudi Arabia. The 35-yearold World Cup winner touched down in Turin after seven seasons for Paris Saint-Germain, going on to score

eight goals in 40 games for Juve

But after a stellar 2021-22

season when he led Real to

Champions League glory and

was rewarded with the Ballon

d'Or, he was troubled by injuries

in the just-completed season and

season, becoming

a free agent amid

claims he could be

in a trophy-less "I leave with

the peace of mind of having given all to help the club to continue winning titles, but it was not possible," Di Maria said on Instagram. "I leave with

the bitter taste of not having achieved that, but also with the happiness of taking with me many friends from a fantastic dressing room of which I was part.'

had to miss France's World Cup campaign in Qatar last year with a thigh problem.

Benzema held a goodbye told reporters. ceremony at Real's training ground on Tuesday. to bat first but we lost too many

 $H^{ ext{alf-centuries}}$ by Sri Lanka openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Pathum Nissanka made short work of Afghanistan in a nine-wicket drubbing that clinched a 2-1 ODI series win for the hosts on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka eased to 120 with 34 overs to spare in Hambantota, after a fast-bowling attack led by man-of-the-match Dushmantha Chameera had demolished the hapless Afghan top order. It was just the boost Sri

Lanka needed before heading off for a qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe, with two remaining slots up for grabs for the World Cup.

Afghanistan are already through to the World Cup, to be held in India from October, but skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi was left to rue "a bad day for our batters" "We lost too many wickets

> He departed on 51 after "I still feel it was a good call being trapped leg before by Gulbadin Naib to end an 84-run



wickets earlier on and that took the momentum away from us.

Nissanka did not waste time when the chase began, racing to his seventh ODI half-century in 32 balls with eight fours and two and it put us under pressure," he

seven boundaries, making his eighth half-century in the for-

stand for the opening wicket. Fellow opener Karunaratne, featuring in his first ODI series in more than two years, made 56

not out to ensure that Sri Lanka reached the target without another wicket falling. His 56 came off 45 balls with

en on 11 as Sri Lanka reached the target in just 16 overs to end the game early. Afghanistan won the first

Kusal Mendis was unbeat-

game comprehensively by six wickets, but Sri Lanka bounced back to take the second game by

HEAD'S 146* TAKES AUS TO 327-3

ravis Head struck like a tornado with a counterattacking hundred that left an out-of-sorts Indian attack bereft of ideas as Australia made hey under bright sunshine by reaching 327 for 3 on the opening day of the World Test Championship final.

The ploy of leaving out Ravichandran Ashwin backfired once there was bright sunshine as neither Umesh Yadav nor Shardul Thakur looked under-cooked as India were completely outplayed in the second and third session with Rohit Sharma's captaincy leaving a lot to be desired.

India picked an extra fast bowler at the expense of Ravichandran Ashwin but that did not help their cause as Head (146 batting) and Smith (95 batting) amassed an unbeaten 251 run partnership off 370 balls for the fourth wicket, lifting Australia from a uncomfortable

The third wicket of Marnus Labuschagne (26) came in the 25th over before overcast skies made way for bright sunshine as Smith and Head made the most of batting friendly conditions through the afternoon and evening sessions. In all there were 44 boundaries hit along with a maximum, depicting the plight of Indian pace attack.

It was Head's first century away from home and sixth overall. Mohammed Siraj was the pick of the bowlers for India, who have a lot of work to do going into day two.

India's pacers tried the short ball tactic to upset the rhythm of both Smith and Head but were unsuccessful. However the short-ball tactic to unsettle Head



Siraj bowled his heart out but the likes of Umesh Yadav and Shardul Thalur lacked con-

Ashwin's non-selection will be debated for the remainder of the game but at least on the opening day, there was not much turn on offer for Ravindra Jadeja who bowled 14 overs without a wicket.

"Ravichandran Ashwin's absence is baffling," Sunil Gavaskar said on Star Sports and his assessment couldn't have

been more apt. Head, who has built a reputation of playing impactful innings in 36 Test old career, single-handedly change the course of the game with his aggressive approach. The fuller deliveries didn't trouble him even one bit.

When the Indian pacers targeted his pads, the southpaw used his quick wrists to flick them away and anything short and wide on the off side was also duly dispatched.

Head brought up his fifty with a crisp back-foot punch off Shardul Thakur. He got more audacious in the second half of his innings and entered into the 90s with a six over third man off

Smith, on the other hand, was happy to bide his time while Head went about his business. India tried the leg slip tactic against him before testing him around the off-stump. Both to no avail

Smith, who averages close to 100 at The Oval, is on course to enhance his enviable record at the venue. Australia's batting mainstay played some gorgeous straight drives off the pacers before using his feet against the left-arm spin of Jadeja.

and Siraj were unable to provide the breakthrough. Indian fans who thronged to the venue in huge numbers went back disap-

Only the morning session went India's way as Siraj breathed fire in his opening spell before Thakur got rid of a wellset David Warner (43 off 60) to reduce Australia to 73 for two at

Having survived challenging conditions in the first hour at The Oval, Warner and Labuschagne were on course to see off the session until Thakur dismissed the left-handed opener with a short ball targeting his rib cage. Wicketkeeper KS Bharat took a well-judged catch down the leg-side.

Both Siraj and Shami kept Australia in check in the first hour, sharing six overs six each and conceding only 29 runs.

Siraj got more out of the surface than Shami by bowling with a scrambled seam. Usman Khawaja (0 off 10), who has an ordinary record in England, began the tour on a disappointing note as he got a faint edge off a ball that pitched outside the off stump and seamed away.

There was minimal feet movement and he paid the price for playing away from the body and the nick was taken easily by Bharat behind the stumps.

Warner, who has a point to prove in this game and cement his spot in the playing XI for the upcoming Ashes, battled with grit and took his chances every time he was offered width.

After an engrossing opening hour, India took the foot off the pedal with Umesh Yadav offering plenty of scoring opportunities to Warner, who collected India took the new ball four boundaries off the pacer in Odisha train tragedy: India, Oz

teams observe one-minute silence, wear black armbands

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian and Australian L cricket teams on Wednesday observed a minute's silence and wore black armbands on the opening day of their World Test Championship final in memory of the victims of the tragic train accident in Odisha last week which led to the loss of 288 lives.

Before the start of play, a minute's silence was observed and in a noble gesture, even the Australian team sported black armbands in solidarity with the opposition in this hour of

"The Indian Cricket Team will observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Odisha train tragedy ahead of the start of play on Day 1 of the ICC World Test Championship final at The Oval," BCCI said in a media statement.

"The team mourns the deaths and offers its deepest condolences to the families and friends of all those who tragically lost their lives. To express solidarity with those affected, Team India will wear black armbands," it further stated.

the 15th over.

The going was much tougher for Labuschagne, who copped a nasty blow on his left thumb from a sharp delivery by Siraj. Later in the session, he was able to survive two close DRS lbw calls off Thakur's bowling.

As it often happens in England, the sun came out in the second hour and made batting Australia were looking to close the session strongly until Warner went for a pull off a delivery angled into him by Thakur who went wide off the crease while coming round the wicket and the batter, cramped for room, couldn't keep the pull

Bharat justified his selection over Ishan Kishan with a sharp diving catch.

USA Cricket pin hopes on successful hosting of MLC to keep T20 WC in country



PTI BENGALURU

The USA Cricket (USAC) on ■ Wednesday asserted that the T20 World Cup 2024 will not be taken away from them due to concerns around lack of proper cricketing infrastructure in the nation, saying a successful conduct of the Major League Cricket (MLC) will remove all the doubts.

It has been reported that the International Cricket Council (ICC) might shift the premier tournament, scheduled to be hosted jointly by the USA and the West Indies, to England next

However, a USAC official said they have not heard anything from the global governing

body about the shifting of venue. "We haven't had any discussions with the ICC in this regard. We are putting our best foot forward in preparing necessary infrastructure for the T20 World Cup, which is an year away," a USA Cricket administrator said.

"Concerns about makeshift venues etc are natural because the US does not host cricketing events regularly but we have the

Major League Cricket coming up and a successful hosting of the T20 tournament will ward off a lot of concerns," the official added. The inaugural Major League Cricket T20 will begin on July 13 and conclude on July 30. There will be six teams in the fray and the matches will be played at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Texas.

In fact, several leading cricket stars such as England's Jason Matthew Wade, Marcus Stoinis and Moises Henriques have signed for the MLC T20.

"We are ready for staging the MLC T20, and some frontline cricketers from across the world are participating in the tournament and that will go a long way in establishing our credentials as a big-ticket event host.

We also have a taste of hosting high-profile cricketing events at Lauderhill (Florida) involving India and West Indies, and now we know what to expect when top teams are competing in terms of infrastructure and other facilities," the administrator added.

In fact, the ICC too played down the possibility of any such move to shift the T20 World Cup venue from the West Indies and the USA.

"There has been no discussion on any ICC forum on shifting the T20 World Cup 2024 from the West Indies and the USA," an ICC Board member said in response to recent

"It (the tournament) will go ahead and an announcement on the venues will be made shortsaid the official.

'Test format can't be sacrificed for franchise league cricket'

 $T^{\text{he IPL being the "envy of the }}_{\text{world" delights former India}}$ wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer but he also wants the stakeholders to pull Test cricket out of "danger" zone, saying the tradi-tional format can't be sacrificed for the sake of prospering slam-bang version of the sport.

While financially strong nations like India, England and Australia remain committed to Test cricket, players from smaller countries are preferring to ply their trade in franchise leagues around the world as they offer better money.

"Test cricket being in danot a good thing. It is go that the game is prospering all over the world through T20 leagues but Test cricket should never be sacrificed," Engineer

"That is why the World Test Championship is a showcase to the world that Test cricket can be just as interesting as limited

"It is a game of chess

depending on the conditions. It is the ultimate test for batters. There should be room for both Test and limited overs cricket," said the 85-year-old, who has travelled to London from his Manchester base to watch the WTC final between India and Australia.

The final is being played at The Oval, where India won their first ever Test in England back in 1971. Engineer had played a big part in that momentous win with a 59-run knock in the first innings. It is remarkable that even at

this age, Engineer continues to watch the game closely, including the T20 leagues around the to keep up with the times. He played the game when

cricketers earned Rs 50 a day, but he could not be more happy that the current generation is making millions in the IPL.

"India have taken a lead in Test cricket and in limited overs cricket we have IPL which is the envy of the world. Indian cricket holds the strings and that



makes me hugely delighted," said of one the few Parsi cricketers to have played for India.

He is also of the view that the game was hugely popular even in his heyday and now leagues have taken the game to

"I watch cricket all the time. It is in my blood. Cricket is an Indian game accidentally invented by the British. I feel the game was just as popular back then but with T20 it has mushroomed to different places.

"IPL is huge money. We got

Rs 50 per day for a five-day Test match," he said, recollecting a funny incident.

"İ remember batting with Sunil Gavaskar, we had to get 15-20 runs on day four and half hour left, we were getting messages from the dressing room

for day five. We didn't play for money, we played for pride," he recollected fondly. TOO EARLY Engineer is a fan of Virat

we will lose out on the allowance

Kohli and feels he is back to his best after a prolific IPL season. He has also tracked young Shubhman Gill's rapid rise in international cricket over the last 12 months. He feels the two batters have shown that the shortest format is not just about a slam bang approach.

"It is too early to talk about Gill being heir apparent as Virat has got a few good years left in him. He has got prove anymore as he has been a superb player and captain for India. He remains the best in the

"Gill is a very good batter and is in the form of his life and I am sure he will do well in Tests as well. Gill has proved that T20 cricket is not all about slogging and you can play in conventional style as well."

Bellingham to join Real from Dortmund

English teenager Jude Bellingham will move from Borussia Dortmund to Real Madrid for a fee in excess of 100 million euros (\$107 million), the German side announced on Wednesday.

Dortmund confirmed the two teams had reached a "mutual agreement" over the transfer of the 19-year-old in the summer.

The publicly listed club said it would receive a fee of 103 million euros in addition to a variable amount "up to a maximum total amount of around

30 percent" of the fixed transfer fee, depending on team and player bonuses.

One of the most promising talents in world football, Bellingham joined Dortmund from Birmingham City in 2020 for a fee of 25 million euros.

He has played 132 games for the club, scoring 24 goals and winning the 2021 German Bellingham was named

Bundesliga player of the season after the 2022-23 campaign, when he helped Dortmund to within an inch of their first Bundesliga title in over a



Dortmund finished second, behind Bayern Munich, on goal difference after dropping points on the final matchday against Mainz, where the injured Bellingham watched

from the bench. Making his debut for England at just 17, Bellingham played a starring role in the Three Lions' 2022 World Cup

Bellingham started each of scoring once and assisting

England's five matches in Qatar, another as his side made it through to the quarter finals, where they lost against eventual runners up France.

to Australia and England," the

and England regularly get to play

bilateral series with India and

their players also take part in the

Indian Premier League which

means extra revenues for the two

boards from the IPL manage-

who are presently in London for

the World Test Championship

The BCCI and ICC officials

"Sethi argued that Australia

source said.

ment," he added.



Sheikh Jassim makes final bid to buy Man Utd: Reports

AP MANCHESTER

Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani has submitted an improved fifth and final bid for Manchester United and wants an answer by Friday, according to reports.

Sheikh Jassim is in a bidding war with British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe after the pair emerged as the main contenders to buy the Premier League club.

United announced in November that the board was exploring "strategic alternatives to enhance the club's growth", with a full sale one of the options. Current owners, the Glazer family, are understood to value United at £6 billion (\$7.5 billion) and the Raine Group was brought in to oversee the

100 percent of the club and Sheikh Jassim's bid team have set Friday as a deadline to make headway in discussions, reports said on Wednesday. While the offer is understood to remain after that point,

the end of the week would

mark the end of their ongoing engagement in the process. INEOS chemical company founder Ratcliffe appeared to be the front runner after a third round of bidding closed in late

Ratcliffe, a boyhood United fan who failed in his attempt to buy Chelsea last year, reportedly wants to purchase a controlling stake of more than 50 per

That would allow the Glazers to remain involved — a move that would be deeply

Cup final to Manchester City but they won the League Cup and finished third in the Premier League in Erik ten Hag's first season in charge.

Pakistan don't want to play in Ahmedabad: Sethi neutral venue since ACC is all ty of its players if they have to a lesser share of the ICC revplay India in Ahmedabad, it enues in the new cycle compared

PTI KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Najam Sethi has intimated his ICC counterpart Greg Barclay about his apprehensions about playing the World Cup match against archrivals India at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, according to sources.

As it was reported by PTI initially, PCB wants its matches to be scheduled in Kolkata,

Chennai and Bengaluru. Barclay and ICC General Manager Geoff Allardice were recently in Karachi to seek assurance from PCB boss that they won't demand to play their ODI World Cup matches at a

set to reject its demand of playing Asia Cup on basis of 'Hybrid Model'.

According to a senior PCB source: "Sethi has conveyed to Barclay and Allardice that Pakistan doesn't want it matches to be scheduled in Ahmedabad unless it is a knockout game like final.

He requested ICC to schedule their games in Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata if national team gets clearance from Pakistan government to travel to India for the global event scheduled in October and November," source added.

While Pakistan board is apprehensive about the securi-



must be mentioned that Inzamam ul Haq led side had played at the Motera during its 2005 tour to India. The PCB official also

informed that Sethi has asked ICC officials to convince BCCI to accept Pakistan's Hybrid Model for Asia Cup, which is unlikely to see the light of the

He also confirmed that Sethi had also insisted that it would not accept the new revenue sharing model unless its share was increased in the new five

unfair that Pakistan should get

"Sethi pointed out that it was

Final are expected to finalize the schedule and venues for the World Cup in the next few days before it is circulated to the member/participating coun-

process.

The fifth offer remains for

unpopular with supporters.
United lost Saturday's FA