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# sunday pioneer

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**CAPSULE**

**CBI SEALS BALASORE STATION IN CRASH PROBE**

**Bhubaneswar:** No train will halt at Bahanaga Bazar station as the CBI investigating the train accident in Odisha's Balasore district has sealed the station after seizing the log book, relay panel and equipment, a railway official said on Saturday.

**2 HELD FOR DEATH THREATS TO RAUT**

**Mumbai:** Two men were arrested from a suburb in Mumbai on Saturday, a day after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut claimed he and his MLA brother Sunil Raut had received death threat calls. **P2**

**Facing pressure to compromise, claims Sakshi**



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik has claimed under immense pressure, the minor wrestler has apparently changed her statement. Sakshi Malik mentioned during an interview with a television channel that individuals closely associated with Brij Bhushan have been contacting and threatening them.

## Supriya, Praful NCP working presidents

Major rejig in NCP: Sule also heads party's poll panel; Ajit Pawar sidelined

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In a major organisational rejig with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly polls, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday appointed his daughter & party MP Supriya Sule and senior party leader Praful Patel as NCP's working presidents.

Pawar sprang a surprise on former Deputy Chief Minister and his nephew Ajit Pawar by not vesting him with any responsibility in the party.

Pawar made a formal announcement about the appointment of Patel and Sule in New Delhi as the party's working presidents on a day when the party entered the 25th year of its formation.

The appointments of Patel and Supriya were in line with the indication that Pawar had given after he resumed his office as the NCP chief on May 5 after an 80-hour-long high-voltage drama witnessed in his party — which saw hundreds of party workers going



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, party's senior leaders Praful Patel and Chhagan Bhujbal during the party's foundation day celebrations in New Delhi on Saturday **PTI**

on a spontaneous agitation, party leaders meeting him to convince him to take his resignation and a search committee appointed by the NCP chief himself rejecting Pawar's decision and asking him to continue in the post.

Pawar had then said he would bring in major organisational changes and develop new leadership within the party. "In the coming days, I will concentrate on bringing about organisational changes, developing new leadership, and taking the party's aims and ideologies to the people in a big way," he had said.

As per Pawar's announcement, Patel has been appointed

as the party's chairman of Economic Affairs and in-charge of States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Goa and also the Rajya Sabha.

Supriya appears to have got a better deal than Patel in terms of responsibility vested with her, as she has been appointed as the chairperson of the party's Central Election authority and she will be in-charge of the crucial State of Maharashtra and also the States of Haryana and Punjab.

Besides heading the NCP's women, youth and student wings, she will also in-charge of party in the Lok Sabha.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Centre forms Governor-led committee for Manipur peace



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre has set up a committee in Manipur, led by the Governor, to initiate a peace-making process among the various ethnic groups in the violence-hit region. The committee's primary objective is to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between conflicting parties, according to a statement by the Union Home Ministry on Saturday.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Canada halts deportation of 'duped' 700 Indian students

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

In a significant development, the Canadian Government has temporarily halted the deportation of nearly 700 Indian students, predominantly from Punjab, who were found to possess fake admission letters to Canadian universities.

The students had been vigorously protesting their imminent return to India, with allegations pointing towards a Jalandhar-based agent orchestrating the fraudulent scheme.

Aam Aadmi Party MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney, who also serves as the International President of the World Punjabi Organisation, announced the temporary relief for the students.



He attributed the reprieve to the collaborative efforts of the Canadian Government and the Indian High Commission in Canada. These Indian students, primarily hailing from Punjab, were facing deportation after Canadian authorities exposed the falsified "admission offer letters" they had presented while applying for

permanent residency in Canada. The deception came to light in March when the students initiated their residency applications.

Sahney emphasised that the Canadian Government had decided to suspend the deportation of the 700 Indian students.

**Continued on Page 2**

## BJP-JJP's future: Khattar passes buck to Biplab

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

As the BJP-Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) coalition in Haryana grapples with a major crisis, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday chose to remain tight-lipped on the matter and shifted the responsibility for addressing the issue to Biplab Deb, the BJP Haryana in-charge.

"It is for the State party affairs in-charge to decide on our future course of action and the party's interest, keeping

the forthcoming polls in mind. As of today, the BJP-JJP alliance exists," Khattar said.

Khattar's remarks came after Biplab, former Tripura CM, held a meeting with four Independent MLAs and Haryana Lokhit Party MLA Gopal Kanda in New Delhi.

During a press conference, Khattar emphasised that the BJP and the JJP did not initially form an alliance but joined forces after the 2019 elections.

He explained, "The alliance with the JJP was forged in the interest of the people. There was no party with a majority, so an understanding was made. The JJP came on board, and Independent MLAs also supported us. The Congress only has 30 MLAs. Barring a couple of others, the rest are all with us."

Regarding Biplab's meetings, Khattar said, "What happens now is for our party affairs in-charge to decide, in

the interest of the party. Only he can explain the reasons behind his meeting people..."

In addition to the meetings, Biplab also met with Independent MLA Ranjit Singh, a minister in the Khattar Government, in the presence of Vidhan Sabha Speaker Gian Chand Gupta. Singh clarified that the meeting focused primarily on his potential adjustment with the BJP and that no discussion regarding the BJP-JJP alliance took place.

**Continued on Page 2**

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# Opp needs to present alternative: Sharad

PM face not issue: Pawar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the opposition parties were keen on providing an alternative to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections next year and projecting a prime ministerial face was not an issue.

Pawar, addressing a press conference here, said that he would attend the meeting of opposition leaders convened by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna on June 23 and strive for putting up a joint fight against the BJP.

"A prime ministerial face is not an issue before us. Even in 1977, no one was projected



together, we will be able to provide that alternative. The result of this will decide things in the future," Pawar said.

Pawar said there has been a suggestion to put up joint opposition candidates against the BJP and this issue will be discussed at the meeting in Patna on June 23.

"There has been a suggestion that where BJP is strong, if possible, non-BJP parties can field a single candidate. This will be discussed in Patna.

"The meeting in Patna will give a new direction as people want change. We will make sincere efforts to meet the expectations of the people," he said.

On incidents of communal violence in Maharashtra, Pawar said the people of the state will reject such divisive politics as they did in Karnataka.

# NCB busts Mumbai drug ring, seizes ₹50 crore mephedrone

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai unit of Narcotics Control Bureau on Saturday busted a major drug trafficking ring in south Mumbai by seizing 20 kilograms of Mephedrone (MD) worth Rs 50-crore and arresting three persons, including three persons, including a woman.

Giving details of a major operation that his team carried out at Dongi in south Mumbai, NCB's Mumbai Zonal Director Amit Ghawate said that his department had seized huge amounts of gold ornaments and cash which were amassed as the financial proceeds of the drug sales.

Acting on a specific tip-off that a gang was involved in the smuggling of bulk quantities of Mephedrone and distributing it in various parts of Mumbai and the Mumbai



Metropolitan Region like Navi Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Palghar areas, the NCB sleuths laid a trap for one N. Khan residing at Dongri.

After the trap, the NCB team caught hold of one Ali from whom it seized 3 kilograms of Mephedrone Mephedrone (MD), also known as M-cat, Meow Meow or White Magic, is a synthetic stimulant drug of Amphetamine class psychoactive characteristics and usually used at rave parties. This party drug is a psychotropic substance banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

A subsequent raid on Khan's home led to the seizure of another 2 kg MD.

The questioning of Ali resulted the arrest of one woman A F Shaikh who had supplied the contraband to him.

The NCB also raided Shaikh's home from where they seized of 15 kg MD, 1.10 crore cash and around 187 grams of gold ornaments.

# Two held for issuing death threats to Raut and his MLA brother

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Two men were arrested from a suburb in Mumbai on Saturday, a day after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut claimed he and his MLA brother Sunil Raut had received death threat calls and asked the Maharashtra government to take them seriously.

The accused duo - one of them an autorickshaw driver and another an interior designing worker - were detained on Friday itself from the eastern suburb of Govandi but the police awaited an official complaint in the case before arresting them, an official said.

Preliminary information suggests that they made the threat calls to the Raut brothers under the influence of alcohol, he said, adding that further

investigation is underway.

They were tracked based on the location of their mobile phones and call recordings provided by the Raut brothers, the official said.

Earlier, Sunil Raut had received a call in which the person on the other side threatened to shoot him as well as his brother Sanjay Raut, police said on Friday.

"The government should take it (threat to him and his brother) seriously and not me. The government wants such threats. The matter is with the police and they will have to look into it," Sanjay Raut had told reporters.

Sunil Raut received a threat. I didn't lodge any complaint. We are not worried about it, claimed Raut, who has received threats in the past as well.

# Youth converted in Ranbasera run by Delhi Govt: Sachdeva

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva alleged that a youth was converted in the Turkman Gate Nightshelter (Ranbasera) run by the Delhi government and many others are being pressured to convert. Sachdeva said that a case has been registered by the Delhi Police in which a care taker named Sandeep Sagar, working in Delhi government's Ranbasera at Turkman Gate. He has told that recently in that night shelter a domineering person named Mohammad Kaleem, a regular visitor, converted a habitant of Ranbasera Sanjeev Kumar to Islam and he is now known as Abbas.

"Care taker Sandeep Sagar has told the police that the said



Mohammad Kalim is constantly threatening him to get converted to Islam by giving him financial allotment. Mohammed Kalim has also put pressure on two other youths living in Ranbasera, Sujit Kumar and Vicky Sharma, to convert," Sachdeva said at a press statement. Delhi BJP president further said that the Delhi government is to blame for this incident as its ministers and officials do not monitor the Ranbaseras.

# 85-year-old man killed in Dwarka apartment blaze

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An 85-year-old man was killed in a fire in his apartment in a residential building in southwest Delhi's Dwarka area.

A senior police official said a call alerting the fire department about the blaze on the seventh floor of Mass Apartments in Dwarka Sector-10 was received at 8.26 pm Friday, following which nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Around 11.10 pm, it was reported that household items in Sadan Chandra's flat caught fire and it spread to the eighth floor, burning curtains and an air-conditioner unit of a flat there, the fire department official said.

Chandra suffered burn injuries and was taken to the



Indira Gandhi Hospital by police before the arrival of fire tenders.

He was declared dead at the hospital, the officials said. The building comprises ground plus nine floors, they said.

Police said they found that fire broke out suddenly on the seventh floor. After the fire was controlled, fire staff checked the flat and found Chander inside. He was immediately taken to IGI Hospital, Dwarka Sector-9 where doctor declared him brought dead, the police said.

The deceased was retired from a PSU and was living with his daughter and son-in-law, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) M HarshaVardhan said. At the time of the fire, other occupants of the house had gone to market.

The place of incident has been inspected by crime team and forensic science laboratory to try and determine cause of fire. Inquest proceedings are underway, the DCP added.

# Shivraj launches Ladli Bahna Yojana

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that by taking advantage of Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana, sisters will become strong, they will no longer be helpless. By amending the provision of giving an amount of Rs 1000 per month in the scheme, the increased amount will be paid to the sisters respectively.

As a result of the necessary financial arrangement, in place of Rs.1000, the scheme will increase to Rs.1250, then Rs.1500, then Rs.1750, then Rs.2000 and after that Rs.2250, Rs.2500 and Rs.2750 respectively. Similarly, the age of married eligible sister for the scheme will be 21 years instead of minimum 23 years. Similarly, the sisters will be included in the Lakhpatis Club, making them Lakhpatis in the



coming 5 years. Presently married sisters of 23 to 60 years are eligible in the scheme. The income of the sisters should be at least 10 thousand rupees per month. While benefiting from the schemes of self-help groups and economic prosperity, work will be done to bring happiness and joy in the lives of the sisters. The Chief Minister said that he considers dear sisters as his family.

# Modi is leader of commitment, says Naqvi



Former Union Cabinet Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that Modi has proved that a leader becomes great not by his power but by his commitment and conviction to empower the people.

While inaugurating Skill Centre of Excellence, established by Rotary Delhiites Foundation at Wazirpur in New Delhi, Naqvi said that change comes not by chance, but by determination and dedication.

# Candlelight vigil by Kuki women for those killed in Manipur violence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A group of women from Manipur's Kuki community staged a candlelight vigil here on Saturday to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in Manipur violence.

Scores of women from the Kuki community gathered at Jantar Mantar with candles.

In a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they have sought his intervention to bring back normalcy in the state.

The demands include immediate imposition of President's rule in Manipur, permanent solution through separate administration, force deployment of central forces and neutral officers at conflict zones, security at mortuary and hospitals.

It also includes provision of security, food and medical aid.

"Since May 3, there's unrest



in Manipur. It's been more than a month. In spite of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the state and his appeal to maintain normalcy, violence is still continuing.

A mother and her son were burnt alive a few days ago. We don't know whom to trust now," one of the members of Kuki Women's Forum told PTI.

"Our appeal to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister is to ensure the

# BJP-JJP's future: Khattar passes...

From Page 1

JJP chief Dushyant Chautala, when asked about their ties with the BJP, said, "The alliance was forged at the residence of then BJP national president and now Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Nobody did anybody a favor. I believe the alliance is going well in the interest of providing a stable government in the state.

Tomorrow, if there is a change of heart, what can I say on that? As far as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls are concerned, we have started our preparations and shall launch a full-fledged campaign for all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana from July 1."

Chief Minister Khattar, during the press conference, expressed his frustration with individuals who he claimed were needlessly playing politics. He mentioned an announcement of resignation from JJP MLA Ramkaran Kala from Shahbad, who protested against the lathicharge on

farmers seeking MSP for sunflower seeds on June 6, but the resignation letter had not reached him yet.

Reliable sources have revealed that several JJP MLAs, including prominent figures like Ramniwas Surjkhara from Narwana, Rarnkumar Gautam from Narnaud, Ishwar Singh from Guhna, and Minister Devender Babli from Tohana, are experiencing strained relations with their party leadership. Consequently, they have chosen to pursue their own interests independently.

This internal rift poses a significant challenge for the JJP, especially if the BJP decides to pursue an independent political path. Furthermore, influential leaders within the BJP in Haryana have openly advocated for severing the alliance, resulting in a war of words between the two parties on multiple contentious issues.

# Centre...

From Page 1

The newly formed peace committee includes key members such as the Chief Minister, several Ministers, Members of Parliament (MPs), MLAs, as well as leaders from various political parties and civil society groups.

This diverse composition aims to foster inclusivity and representation in the peace-building efforts. The committee has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote social cohesion, mutual understanding, and cordial communication among the different ethnic groups in Manipur. It will facilitate peaceful negotiations and dialogue, fostering an atmosphere of reconciliation and harmony, as stated in the Union Home Ministry's statement.

In addition to political figures, the peace committee comprises former civil servants, educationists, litterateurs, artists, social workers, and representatives of different ethnic groups.

# Canada halts deportation of...

From Page 1

He stated, "We have corresponded with them, explaining that these students are innocent victims of fraud perpetrated by unauthorised agents who issued fake admission letters and payment receipts. Visa applications were processed without due diligence and even the immigration department were actively working to address the issue and provide a resolution for the affected students.

Earlier, Kuldip Singh Dhaliwal, Minister of Punjab NRI Affairs, sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the matter.

In a letter to Jaishankar, Dhaliwal requested a personal meeting to discuss the issue further, asserting that the 700 students were deceived by a group of fraudsters. He urged Jaishankar to raise the matter with the High Commission of Canada and the Canadian Government, seeking their assistance in preventing the students' deportation.

Dhaliwal also called upon the people of Punjab to verify the details of colleges and travel agents before embarking on study abroad programs or sending their children overseas.

Responding to the situation, Jaishankar had stated that his Ministry and the Indian High Commission were actively working to address the issue and provide a resolution for the affected students.

The matter has also received attention in the Canadian parliament, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau commented, "Our focus is on identifying the culprits, not penalising the victims." He assured that the victims of this fraud would have an opportunity to present evidence and demonstrate their case. Trudeau acknowledged the significant contributions made by international students to Canada.

# Supriya Sule, Praful Patel appointed NCP working presidents

From Page 1

However, Pawar sought to play down his decision of not giving any organisational post or responsibility to his nephew Ajit Pawar by saying the latter already had the responsibility of being the leader of the

Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly. He also said Ajit *dada* — as Ajit Pawar is known in the State political circles — was not unhappy as was being speculated. However, Ajit chose not to comment on being sidelined by Sr Pawar.

Talking to media persons in the national Capital, the NCP chief justified his decision to appoint his MP-daughter Supriya as one of the NCP's two working presidents saying, "Many people had been requesting me to vest Supriya with some responsibility at the national level. After appointing her as the party's working president, I have made her in charge of Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab so that the party's strength increases in these

states... People want change".

When asked as to why he had appointed two working presidents instead one, Pawar said, "Keeping in view the need for the NCP enlarging its base across the country, we have appointed two working presidents."

Queried as to what were the criteria behind appointing two working presidents, the NCP chief said, "There was a demand for two working presidents. That's why I have appointed Supriya and Patel as the two working presidents," he said.

On whether the two working presidents had a fixed term in office, Pawar said the party would have to bring about amendments in its constitution to specify the term of office etc.

Meanwhile, both Patel and Supriya expressed their gratitude toward the NCP chief for making them the party's two working presidents. "I am grateful to NCP president Pawar and all the senior leaders, party colleagues, party workers and well wishers of @NCPspeaks for bestowing this huge responsibility of working president along with @praful\_patel bhai," Supriya tweeted.

"To my fellow members of the party, because of whom we have come this far, I will work diligently along with all of you to further strengthen the NCP and we collectively will serve the nation for the larger good of our fellow citizens," she added.

On his part, Patel tweeted, "I thank Sharad Pawar for entrusting me with this responsibility as the working president of @NCPspeaks. With gratitude, I humbly accept this responsibility. I will work harder to help our party grow from strength to strength across India and also take our party's ideals and values to the grass root level. I am thankful to my party cadre for their continued support and together we will work for the well being of our country and the people."

In other announcements, Pawar appointed P P Mohammed Faizal, MP and general secretary as in-charge of Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala, the Overseas India and Foreign Affairs departments.

Parry's general secretary Sunil Tatkare, MP, will handle Odisha and West Bengal, plus national committee, sessions and conferences, Election Commission, Minority Department, Farmers Cell.

General Secretary Dr Yoganand Shastri has been entrusted with organisations, Seva Dal and also President of Delhi NCP.

Another GS K K Sharma will look after Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, plus Panchayati Raj Department in the party, while general secretary Narendra Verma shall oversee the party work in all the seven North Eastern States, Media, and IT departments.

General Secretary Dr Jitendra Awhad, MLA in

Maharashtra is given the responsibility of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, in addition to being the head of Labour, SC/SC/OBC, Cooperatives, and Consumer Affairs departments in the party.

Permanent Secretary SR Kohli has been entrusted with press, publicity, and administration, while he will assist Patel and Sule, and the treasurer in accounts and coordinating with the Election Commission.

Pawar has instructed all the national general secretaries to consult the new National Working Presidents for significant policy decisions and regularly keep them in the loop on various activities.

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# AAP, LG lock horns over Yamuna cleaning credit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena are again at loggerheads over the claiming credit for cleaning of Yamuna river. Bhardwaj on Saturday accused Saxena of claiming credit for the efforts of the Kejriwal government in cleaning the Yamuna river, dismissing the LG's claims as "misleading and baseless".

Terming the statement issued Bhardwaj is petty, self-defeating, laughable and anti-people/anti-Delhi to say the least, an official of Lieutenant Governor's office said if the Delhi government had done a single thing with regards to Yamuna cleaning apart from making hollow announcements issuing advertisements and hoisting banners, the National Green Tribunal would not have slammed the Delhi



Government and constituted a special High Level Committee and requested the LG to Chair it.

The LG has stated that there was consistent improve-

ment of quality of water ever since work on cleaning of the Najafgarh Drain was started in August last year after the constitution of the High Level Committee (HLC).

Earlier, the Water Minister also challenged the Lieutenant Governor's office to present any new projects or initiatives beyond the six-point action plan already announced. "It is

evident that the Lieutenant Governor has not sanctioned or approved even a single project related to Yamuna cleaning. The ongoing attempts to steal credit for the hard work and dedication of the Delhi Government are unwarranted and unjust," Bhardwaj stated.

Bhardwaj's statement came a day after the LG Secretariat issued a press release stating that the biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels in the Najafgarh drain, which accounts for approximately 70 per cent of wastewater discharge into the Yamuna, had decreased by 33 per cent compared to the previous year.

The LG office official asked Bhardwaj to refrain from this unnecessary mudslinging, especially at a time when after 08 years of total inaction on his and his government's part, things had started to look better for the Yamuna and the people of Delhi.

The reduction was attributed to the intervention of a high-level committee headed by Saxena. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), an important parameter to assess water quality, is the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose organic material present in a water body.

A BOD level of fewer than 3 milligrams per litre is considered good.

Challenging Saxena to provide evidence of any new projects or initiatives he had initiated before taking credit for the government's work, Bhardwaj has also laid stress on the fact that all the progress on the front of Yamuna cleaning is taking place as per a comprehensive six-point action plan announced by the CM in November 2021.

This proactive initiative laid out key steps to address the core problems affecting the

river, including increasing STP treatment capacity, in-situ treatment of major drains, upgradation of CETPs to handle industrial waste, linking community toilets and JJ clusters to the sewage system, expanding household sewage connections, and desilting and rehabilitating the sewerage system.

He dismissed the claims made by the LG's office as baseless and misleading, pointing out that the LG does not have the financial authority to approve projects in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) or the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFC).

Bhardwaj also accused the LG office of falsely presenting minutes of meetings and presentations from the DJB and IFC, deceptively claiming them as the sole achievements of the LG.

"Regrettably, the Lieutenant Governor's office

has been misrepresenting the initiatives undertaken by the Delhi Government as his own. The LG office copies minutes of meetings and presentations from departments such as DJB and IFC, and presents them falsely claiming that these projects are the sole achievements of the Lieutenant Governor.

It is important to note that the Lieutenant Governor lacks the financial authority to approve any projects in the DJB or IFC. The ongoing attempts to claim credit for the work already initiated by Kejriwal and the Delhi Government are baseless and misleading," he said.

The water minister also highlighted the achievements of the DJB, such as connecting jhuggi-jhopri clusters to the sewer network, tapping and diverting drains, desilting trunk sewers, providing house service connections, and upgrading sewage treatment plants.

## AAP's maha rally against ordinance today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will hold a "maha rally" at Ramlika Maidan on Sunday against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann along with other top leaders, including Saurabh Bhardwaj, Atishi and Sanjay Singh, are expected to attend the programme. According to AAP spokesperson, around one lakh people are expected to attend the rally on Sunday. Enhanced security measures have been put in place at and around Ramlika Maidan.

Party spokesperson Reena Gupta said they are expecting one lakh people to join the rally, adding that AAP has carried out extensive campaigns to inform the masses about the Ordinance and its impact on their daily life. "We have done extensive campaigning, reached out to people and explained them about the Ordinance and how will it impact their day to day lives," Gupta said.

She further said the

schemes introduced by the Delhi government will not get implemented in the union territory if the officers of Delhi are not accountable to the CM. "People of Delhi elected Arvind Kejriwal thrice and schemes that are being drafted for people's development cannot be implemented if the officers of Delhi are not accountable to the Chief Minister," she said.

"The Supreme Court judgment also said that how will an elected government function if the bureaucrats don't listen to them. People of Delhi are upset that why is the Centre trying change it," Gupta added. When asked about the AAP's moves against the Ordinance, BJP leader Gautam Gambhir alleged that Delhi has witnessed "no development" in the last nine years.

The Delhi government has only been "collecting money from the taxpayers to fight elections in other states," he added. "What development has he (Kejriwal) brought to Delhi in these nine years? They only collect money from here and fight elections in other states," he alleged.

A senior police officer said

around 12 companies of paramilitary forces will be deployed along with the local police. CCTV surveillance will also be made. Metal detectors will be installed at the entry gates of the ground. Those entering the rally venue will be frisked. Senior officials from the district will present at the ground, the officer said.

A large number of people are expected to attend the rally due to which the Delhi Traffic Police has also been asked to regulate the vehicular movement during the programme. Fire tenders and ambulances will also be deployed there.

The ordinance issued by the Centre on May 19 set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority, bringing back executive control over matters related to services to its domain.

It was issued close on the heels of a Supreme Court verdict on May 11, through which the Delhi government was given the executive control over service-related matters, including the transfers and postings of Delhi government officers but excluding those related to police, public order and land.

## BJP to launch drive to expose Kejriwal's graft

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP will launch a new political campaign to expose the Arvind Kejriwal government's corruption and nepotism.

Announcing this, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Saturday said that the state unit of BJP will launch a new political campaign to expose Arvind Kejriwal Government's corruption and nepotism on Sunday morning.

The campaign will be launched in the presence of Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MPs, MLAs and other senior leaders. Sachdeva said that the campaign to be launched from Connaught Place on Sunday will be taken across all prominent market places of Delhi in next few days by the party workers.

Bidhuri said that AAP's maharally will be super-



flopped on Sunday. "Their door to door campaign has been failed. People of Delhi have realised the true face of the Arvind Kejriwal's party. Kejriwal's entire politics is depended on the false narratives. This is the party of advertisements," said Bidhuri adding the focus of AAPians are spreading lie.

He said Kejriwal should stop patting his back and refrain from praising himself because he is now a subject of ridicule.

## 'Assembly OBC panel has no authority to deal with plaint of DANICS officer'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government's Services Department's Special Secretary YVJ Rajasekhar has said the committee on the welfare of other backward classes (OBCs) of the Delhi Assembly has no jurisdiction to deal with the complaint of DANICS officer AV Premnath, saying the officer is in the habit of indulging in frivolous complaint and services matters are outside the preview of the assembly.

In a letter to Sunil Dutt Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Delhi Assembly, Rajasekhar said that the caste certificate is an issue which falls under the category of 'service matter' and service matters are outside the purview of Assembly committee under provision of Section 3A of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991 as introduced through the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance 2023 on May 19, 2023. "Accordingly, Hon'ble Legislative Assembly of

Delhi/Committee has no jurisdiction in the matter. Secondly, AV Premnath also mentioned in his grievance referring to various orders of Hon'ble High Court as well as Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to few criminal cases pending against him.

Hon'ble Committee has no jurisdiction to deliberate upon and and given finding which may prejudice the ongoing litigation in various courts," reads the letter. "The complaint against me is far from truth, biased," Rajasekhar said, requesting the committee to get a version of the complaint on an affidavit.

Premnath, a 1997 batch DANICS officer, filed a complaint on June 2 with the Delhi Assembly speaker demanding a probe by the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) into the "fake credentials" of Rajasekhar. In his complaint, Premnath alleged that Rajasekhar entered the second list of selected candidates for the Civil Services Main Examination in 1994 through "fraudulent OBC credentials".

The Delhi Assembly's committee on the welfare of other backward classes (OBCs) has summoned on June 12 special services secretary Rajasekhar in connection with allegations of furnishing alleged "fake" caste certificates.

Rajasekhar said in the past also he has given complaints against IAS officer HPS Sran, then the Special Secretary (Vigilance) to Ministry of Home Affairs which was forwarded by the ministry to Vigilance Department for examination.

DANICS officer Premnath remained at Entry Grade only due to his various cases since 1998. In between the Ad Hoc promotion that was given by MHA was also withdrawn and his pay was re fixed by Urban Development Department, Delhi government.

The August Assembly may kindly take note of the antecedents and bona-fides and may kindly re-verify and check the veracity of the facts, so that this August Assembly is not taken for ride by vexations litigants.

## Services Secy seeks FIR against complainant | Give files of More: House secretariat to CS

He urges Delhi Police to seize CCTV footages of Delhi Secretariat, Computerised Visitor Management System

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer and Special Secretary (Services) YVJ Rajasekhar has written to Delhi police to register a case against Nukul Kashyap for making false and frivolous complaints against him.

He also urged police to seize the Computerized Visitor Management System and also other CCTV footages of the various floors of the Delhi Secretariat including 4, 5 & 6 and various entrance points etc.

or as deem appropriate. Nukul had accused Rajasekhar of making casteist remarks and demanding a bribe when the complainant met the senior official in March.

In his meeting with the Special Secretary, Nukul said he had sought to expedite the process of his appointment on compassionate grounds in place of his father, who was employed at Lok Nayak Hospital and died on duty in 2016. "It is emerged that insiders in conspiracy with Nukul and other unknown persons have lodged this fake complaint which is far from truth and malafidely planting in media aggressively.

It is seen from the records that Nukul's father was ex-nursing orderly in Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi government's health department for which

Minister for Services is also the Minister for Health. It appears that insiders in the government are taking advantage of the distress of Nukul have manufactured this false complaint, which is far from truth as mentioned above.

Technical evidence i.e. Delhi Secretariat's "Computerized Visitor Management System" also corroborates above facts," reads the police complaint. Rajasekhar said that language of the complaint filed against him is more of like administrative/journalistic language.

Rajasekhar said Nukul had never visited Delhi Secretariat at all since March 2023 as per the report of PWD Division M-2531 of Delhi Secretariat. Nukul wrongly stated twice that he met undersigned in "March 2023", which is not cor-



rect as per Visitor Management System of Delhi Secretariat.

The Services Department on 09.06.2023 has given a detailed Status note on Compassionate Appointment of Nukul and as per policy guidelines there is no reservation for SC/ST.

In his police complaint, Rajasekhar said he never met Nukul and he, has never submitted any representation in Services Department to pursue status of his case till date.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly secretariat has written to the chief secretary to direct Divisional Commissioner Ashwini Kumar to provide files related to a complaint against IAS officer Ashish More in connection with evacuee land transfer. It also sought both Kumar and More's appearance before the Petitions Committee on June 15. A

complaint against More, related to alleged irregularities in the transfer of 54 bighas of land with a current market value of around Rs 50 crore, was referred to the Delhi Assembly's Committee on Petitions by the House Speaker.

It was alleged in the complaint that More, while serving as District Magistrate (North) had decided two appeals under the Delhi Land Reforms Act in April and December 2013, which were allegedly related to land falling under "Muhafiz Jaydad" (evacuee property) and was the custodian land belonging to the central government.

The Delhi Assembly secretariat on June 9 wrote to the chief secretary on the directions of the chairperson of the Petitions Committee, requesting him to issue directions to

the divisional commissioner, Revenue Department, to submit the "requisite documents" by June 12. It sought from the chief secretary to further direct the divisional commissioner to appear before the Committee on the next date of its sitting. Earlier, the Petitions Committee had summoned the divisional commissioner and More, who is currently serving as staff officer of the chief secretary, for a hearing on June 7, but they had not turned up in the meeting.

The divisional commissioner did not appear in the meeting and instead a communication was received from his office on June 7 stating that "since the issues before the Committee pertain to the subject matter of "land" the same is not under the jurisdiction of the Committee and that since

the complaint seeks disciplinary action against an officer, the use is outside the purview of the Committee, in light of the GNCTD (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023," it said.

"Committee has taken serious note on the conduct of the Divisional Commissioner and expresses its deep displeasure at the blatant disregard of the proceedings of the Committee by the Revenue Department," said the Assembly secretariat communication.

The Committee on Petitions is not seeking to take any disciplinary action against the said officer and as it will only make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, and it will be up to the Legislative Assembly to either adopt the report or reject the report, it said.

## BJP, Cong following path shown by AAP, alleges Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Shortly after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan launched the 'Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Scheme', Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Saturday that the BJP and the Congress were following the path shown by AAP.

Reacting to the development, Kejriwal tweeted that this scheme was nothing but a replica of AAP's manifesto. "Both the Congress and the BJP have begun following the path shown by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Congress guarantees in Karnataka were a copy of AAP's manifesto. Now, in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has also embraced AAP's path. It's a positive development. The welfare of the people



should be the priority, regardless of the party behind it. It doesn't matter which party implements it or not," Kejriwal tweeted.

Inaugurating the scheme in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Chauhan announced that his government would transfer Rs 1000 to women under the 'Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana', and they had received 1.25 crore registrations for the scheme. Chauhan said that Saturday was a significant day in his life.



Photographers cover themselves with scarves during a hot summer afternoon, at the India Gate, in New Delhi, on Saturday PTI

## Excellence school good platform for students to explore abilities: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi said on Saturday Dr B R Ambedkar School of Specialised Excellence (ASoSE) has created a platform for students to explore their artistic abilities and channel their thoughts into impactful art forms.

Attending the art exhibition named "Lehar" at the Bikaner House, Atishi said the event not only highlighted the talent of young artists but also underscored the importance of incorporating arts education into school curriculum.

"B R Ambedkar School of Specialised Excellence has created a platform for students to explore their artistic abilities and channel their thoughts into impactful art forms. This exhibition not only highlighted the immense talent of these young artists but also under-



scored the importance of incorporating arts education into our curriculum to foster creativity," she said. The exhibition was organised by more than 370 students of Class 10 and 11 from ASoSE (Performing and Visual Arts) to showcase the artwork created by them.

Under the theme 'Lehar', the students embarked on a journey of transformation, expressing their interpretation not only of their own lives but also of their surroundings, environment, and cities. The exhibition served as a testament to the student's creativity and

passion, as they confidently addressed issues such as the environment, pollution, and various community concerns.

"It was heartening to see how young minds are engaging with pressing issues of the surrounding and conveying their concerns through art. This exhibition served as a powerful reminder of the role education plays in nurturing talent," Atishi said. She added that art and music is often considered as a hobby by parents and children never get right opportunity to showcase them.

The Delhi Government had launched 'Performing and Visual Arts - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Schools of Specialised Excellence' in 2021. These schools were set up especially for students demonstrating early awareness of their artistic aptitude and keen to build a career in the field of creative arts.



# 130 looted arms dumped in Imphal East drop box

## BJP MLA's offer for anonymous arm return a hit

**PTI | IMPHAL**

A drop box for returning weapons snatched from security forces set up at the home of a BJP legislator from Imphal East has become a popular attraction with local youth, who have taken advantage of the anonymous facility to deposit 130 weapons including sophisticated automatic rifles.

A large poster at a covered shed outside the home of L Susindro Meitei, who is currently a Minister in the Manipur government, says "Please drop your snatched weapons here" both in English and Meitei language.

A tagline below this adds "Feel free to do so", an indication that questions will not be asked how the weapons were in their possession of those who drop by in the first place.

A few weapons including a couple of automatic rifles and live ammunition belts were actually present in the box



Security personnel pose with the recovered arms and ammunition during a combing operation in the sensitive areas of Manipur on Saturday. **PTI**

when a PTI reporter went there this morning. Susindro who was touring his constituency area persuading young villagers to join in the peace process by depositing their weapons, later told PTI over the phone that he had set up the facility as, "Many a time those who come to surrender arms hesitate out of fear of the police... that's why this anonymous box." He said that some 130 weapons have been received so far since it was set

up a few days ago. "The keys to the box are kept with the police and they can come anytime to pick up the weapons," the MLA added.

Large numbers of weapons were looted from police stations in early May when ethnic violence broke out in the state of Manipur. Since then both Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have appealed to people to surrender their weapons.

"The keys to the box are kept with the police and they can come anytime to pick up the weapons," the MLA added.

Large numbers of weapons were looted from police stations in early May when ethnic violence broke out in the state of Manipur. Since then both Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have appealed to people to surrender their weapons.

# Mini reshuffle in Modi Cabinet likely before LS polls: Sources

**PNS | NEW DELHI**

A 'mini Cabinet reshuffle' hand-in-hand with organisational revamp in the BJP is expected in the run-up to the Lok Sabha poll which are barely 10-11 months away.

According to sources, the 'limited exercise' may take place before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit from June 21 to 24.

The Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

Indications for changes in the Union cabinet and the party organization at the central and state levels rose after a series of meetings (since last one-week) of BJP top leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Party President JP Nadda.

The BJP leaders also deliberated on the strategy to expand the National Democratic Alliance in the back drop of TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu meeting Shah, last week. The 'restrict-

ed reshuffle' may include ministries of agriculture, aviation, finance, Jal Shakti, environment, power and rural development, said. The exercise could be a mix of dropping of ministers or 'changing their portfolios or vice versa'.

Last month, Kiren Rijiju was suddenly shifted from the high-profile law ministry to a less glamorous Earth Sciences Ministry and was replaced by a dalit leader Arjun Meghwal hailing from the poll-bound Rajasthan.

Similar changes are expected as key states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Telangana, Odisha, are to for assembly polls this and next year. The BJP is also looking at revamping party units in MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala.

The party is also expected to announce the name of the leader of the Opposition in Karnataka. Karnataka BJP chief Nalin Kateel has completed his second term and

due for replacement. The poll debacle in Karnataka also warranted large-scale changes in the state unit. Sources pointed to the 'series of meetings' that Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and General Secretary (org) B L Santosh had with state BJP and RSS leaders recently.

Sources said BJP which is facing a 'tough electoral challenge' in Madhya Pradesh a-vis former Congress ex-Chief Minister Kamal Nath and thus set to make major organisational revamp under the incumbent CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Union Minister Pralhad Singh Patel being seen as elevated as Madhya Pradesh BJP head. Patel is considered an 'efficient leader' who may elevate party's performance in the state elections later this year. Incumbent BJP state chief V D Sharma is said to not have a good rapport with the Chief Minister.

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar may also be shifted from the state to get a national role.

# Min: Oil firms may slash petroleum prices if global crude cost remains stable

**PNS | NEW DELHI**

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Saturday oil companies will be in a position to look at the issue of reducing petrol and diesel prices if the international crude cost remains stable.

Addressing a press conference here at the BJP headquarters on the of the nine-years of the Modi-government, Puri lauded its performance saying the government is characterised by good "niti, niyat and neta" (policies, intentions and leader) as the prime minister has led from the front "on every issue".

On the oil price front, the petroleum minister said He said state-run oil marketing companies did "okay" in the last quarter. He, however, added that he was not in a position to make an announcement on the issue. "As we go along we will see what can be done."

Puri was asked whether reducing oil prices is on the government's agenda. The minister said it is the non-BJP state governments that are most vocal about petroleum prices even though they sell petrol and diesel at higher prices than BJP governments as they did not reduce VAT.

He referred to neighbours like Pakistan and Sri Lanka without naming them and noted the power crisis they have suffered.

The western neighbour has to cut down on electricity after evening, the minister said, lauding Modi for pursuing policies which kept availability and affordability under control while also pushing sustainability by promoting green energy.

The government is also working to push the country's refining capacity to 400-450 million metric tonnes from around 252 MMT now, Puri said. Taking a swipe at former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan for forecasting that India may not grow at a faster rate than 5-5.5 per cent, Puri wondered if this is what he wished and said he should have at least acknowledged his mistake after India clocked 7.2 per cent growth in the last fiscal.

An eminent economist who has turned to politics, Puri said in a dig at him and used the barb of "prophets of doom" to criticise critics like Rajan.

He cited growth in the infrastructure sector to hit-out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his jibe at the government that it is always looking into the rear view mirror to blame others.

"His eyesight should be checked. He may be wearing wrong glasses," the minister said. Puri said the Indian economy has risen to the fifth position globally from 10 under the UPA government.



# Rlys orders double-locking of signalling assets

**PTI | NEW DELHI**

The Railway Board on Saturday ordered a double-locking arrangement for all its signalling assets and also issued directions to bolster the protocol for the commencement of train movement after maintenance work, officials said.

In the latest of its series of missives sent to railway zones after the June 2 Odisha train tragedy that killed more than 280 people, the Railway Board ordered a double-locking arrangement for all relay rooms with train controlling mechanisms, relay huts housing signalling and telecommunication equipment of level-crossings, and point and track circuit signals.

The order indicates that the "access to the relay room" was key to the "signalling interference" that caused the

Coromandel Express to take the loop line at Balasore and crash into a stationary goods train.

With enough evidence to show that some kind of tampering was done with the interlocking system, the job now is to make it "tamper-proof", senior officials said.

"This double locking will ensure that no one can access these locations in isolation," said an officer.

The order said that level crossing gate (goomy/cabin), housing signalling and telecommunications equipment in station yard, should be treated as a relay hut and till double-locking arrangement is provided, the key of the present single lock would be with the Station Master (SM).

"The relevant entries regarding issue and deposit of the key should be maintained



by SM in the same manner as being done for station relay room. The proforma for handing over/taking back of the key by the ASM (assistant station manager) on duty shall have a column specifying that the location for which key had

work was going on near the location of the accident.

A disconnection memo (to shut down interlocking system and start work) and a reconnection memo (reconnection of the system indicating the end of work) was received by the station manager, they said.

However in reality, the technician bypassed the system because the work was not complete and he rigged the location box to get a "green signal" for the Coromandel Express, they said. The present order, therefore, laid down proper disconnection-reconnection protocols to be followed for signal maintenance, repairs, alteration works.

Once the reconnection is accepted by the SM for the first train after the completion of any work, the reception signal (signals control the reception of trains into a station) should not

be taken off and it shall be brought to a stop at the first stop signal.

Similarly, the departure signal (the signal provided to dispatch the train from the station) for run-through trains should be taken off only after the first train has occupied berthing portion (when berths are all lined up at their set locations).

"These should be applicable for all Up and Down direction trains," says the Joint Procedure Order of Disconnection and Reconnection for Signalling gears issued jointly by the Signalling and the Traffic departments of the Railway Board.

This is the third such orders on signalling issued by the Railway Board since the accident which is now being probed by the CBI.

# India-B'desh border forces talks today

**NEW DELHI :** India and Bangladesh will hold biannual talks between their border

guarding forces in Delhi from June 11 during which the two sides are expected to discuss a

host of issues related to combating cross-frontier crimes and measures to create better synergy.

A 15-member delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), led by its director general (DG) Major General AK Nazmul Hasan, landed in Delhi on Saturday.

# Seaweeds cultivation solves hunger and malnutrition: Study

**PNS | NEW DELHI**

Taking up cultivation of seaweeds in a large way can help solve hunger and malnutrition issue besides slowing climate change impacts in low and middle income countries (LMIC) including in coastal regions of Africa and Southwest Asia, a team of researchers has said after mapping the potential of farming of the 34 commercially important nutritious marine plant species using the Global Biosphere Management Model.

The study from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University which has been published in Global Food Security, noted that producing and selling seaweed could boost incomes for farmers in the said region which are on the brink of facing food threats in view of growing population and climate change threats.

India, on its part, with a huge coastline of 1600 km is already pushing for cultivation of this underwater plants, eyeing its commercial and environmental potential as a nutritious food and a building block for commercial products including animal feed, plastics, fibres, diesel and ethanol.

Around 844 species of seaweeds have been reported from Indian seas, their standing stock is estimated to be about 58,715 tonne (wet weight). Of the total 844 seaweed species, Indian sea is home to around 434 species of Red Algae, 194 species of Brown Algae, and 216 species of Green Algae.

Patrick Webb, the Alexander McFarlane Professor of Nutrition at the Friedman School and senior author of the study along with his team members said that a more sustainable alternative to raising



livestock, seaweed cultivation requires no land, freshwater, or chemical fertilizers, and could become particularly profitable as demand for nutrient-rich seaweed products grows around the world.

Those profits would mean more buying power for those households and communities who produce, process, package, and export the microalgae, which in turn would translate into healthier diets.

The other authors were Natalie Somers, N23, and Shakuntala Thilsted, who works for the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research and won a 2021 World Food Prize for research and innovation in aquaculture and food systems. The team reviewed research papers, existing databases, United Nations and World Bank Group reports, and more.

"One of the biggest problems of food insecurity in LMICs is the unaffordability of healthy diets," said Webb. "There are roughly 3.5 billion people in the world who can't afford a healthy diet even if they choose local foods at local prices."

For many of those people, cultivating and selling seaweed would lead to higher incomes and improved nutrition through purchases on the market.

# Development Mins of G20 to meet in Varanasi today

**New Delhi:** India will host a three-day meeting of development ministers of the G20 member nations in Varanasi beginning Sunday that is expected to focus on disruptions in global supply chains, food and energy security challenges and impacts of climate change among other issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a special video address at the beginning of the meeting which will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Around 200 delegates are expected to attend the meeting, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). India is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of G20.

**PTI**

# PM to inaugurate maiden National Training Conclave

**PTI | NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first 'National Training Conclave' here on Sunday and will address its more than 1,500 participants drawn from training and research institutes across the country.

An official statement said Modi has been a proponent of improving the governance process and policy implementation in the country through capacity building of civil service.

As part of this vision, the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) - 'Mission Karmayogi' - was launched to prepare a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge.

This conclave is yet another step in this direction, it said.

The event is being hosted by the Capacity Building Commission with an objective to foster collaboration among civil services training institutes and strengthen the training infrastructure for civil ser-



vants across the country.

More than 1,500 representatives from training and research institutes will participate in the conclave.

Civil servants from central government departments, state governments, local governments, as well as experts from the private sector will also take part in the deliberations, it said.

The statement said this diverse gathering will foster the exchange of ideas, identify the challenges being faced and opportunities available, and generate actionable solutions and comprehensive strategies for capacity building.

**ICICI Home Finance** | Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kuria Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India

Branch Office: 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010

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

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earned Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vijendra Kumar Singh (Borrower) Anu Singh (Co-Borrower) James Marketing Pvt Ltd (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. NHHN00000805133	Office No.701 And 702 7th Floor Devika Tower Commercial Complex, Plot No. 4A & 4B Sector 12, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010	Rs. 3,65,00,475/- 08th June, 2023	Rs. 10,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	July 10, 2023 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	July 19, 2023 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website **(URL Link- / https://BestAuctionDeal.com)** of our auction agency **GlobeTech**. The Mortgagee's notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 18, 2023 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010 on or before July 18, 2023 before 04:00 PM.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010 on or before July 18, 2023 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of **"ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction"** payable at Ghaziabad.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 7021072869 or our Sales & Marketing Partner **NexXen Solutions Private Limited**.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifh.com/>

Date : June 11, 2023  
Place : Ghaziabad

**Authorized Officer**  
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

# Navy carries out mega op with 2 aircraft carriers, submarines, 35 combat planes

**PTI | NEW DELHI**



The Navy said the demonstration of the naval prowess underscored India's commitment to safeguarding India's national interests," Indian Navy Spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

A carrier battle group or carrier strike group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships.

Commander Madhwal said the exercise marked a "significant milestone" in the Indian Navy's pursuit of enhancing maritime security and "power projection" in the Indian Ocean, and beyond.

"The successful demonstration of two-carrier battle group operations serves as a powerful testament to the pivotal role of sea-based air power in maintaining maritime superiority," the Navy said in a statement.

In one of the biggest demonstrations of its combat prowess in recent years, the Indian Navy has carried out a mega operation in the Arabian Sea that involved two aircraft carriers, multiple frontline warships, submarines and over 35 combat planes amid China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean region.

The Indian Navy said the "seamless" operational integration of the two aircraft carriers - INS Vikramaditya and newly-inducted INS Vikrant, as well as the accompanying fleet of ships and submarines, is a "powerful testament" to the capabilities of its sea-based air power and India's role as the preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean and beyond.

The twin carrier CBG (carrier battle group) drills were held recently, officials said without divulging the specific date of the exercise.

The twin carrier CBG (carrier battle group) drills were held recently, officials said without divulging the specific date of the exercise.



# Ukraine's last nuclear reactor shut down amid flooding

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's military reported intense fighting with Russian forces on Saturday, while the country's nuclear energy agency said it put the last operating reactor at Europe's largest nuclear power plant into a "cold shutdown" for safety as Russia's war on Ukraine drags on through its 16th month. After Russian forces pummeled Ukraine with missiles and drones overnight resulting in deaths and damage to a military airfield, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Kyiv Saturday for an previously unannounced visit, his second trip to Ukraine since Russia's invasion in February last year. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland. Ukraine's General Staff said Saturday that "heavy battles" were ongoing, with 34 clashes over the previous day in the country's industrial east. It gave no details but said Russian forces were "defending them-

selves" and launching air and artillery strikes in Ukraine's southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Five out of six reactors at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is occupied by Russian forces, were already in a state of cold shutdown, in which all control rods are inserted into the reactor core to stop the nuclear fission reaction and generation of heat and pressure. Energoatom, the Ukrainian nuclear agency, said in a statement late Friday that there was "no direct threat" to the Zaporizhzhia plant due to the breach of the Kakhovka dam further down the Dnieper River, which has forced thousands of people to flee flooding and also sharply reduced water levels in a reservoir used to help cool the facility. Energoatom said it shut down the final reactor due to that, and also because of shelling near the site that has damaged overhead lines connecting the plant to Ukraine's energy system. With all nuclear reactions

stopped, temperatures and pressure inside reactors gradually decline, reducing the required intensity of water cooling of the radioactive fuel. This is a nuclear power plant's safest operating mode. Energoatom employees are still working at the power plant, although it remains controlled by the Russians. The site's power units have not been operating since September last year. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is due to visit Ukraine in the coming days. Analysts and Russia say that Ukraine has launched a counteroffensive in southern Ukraine, potentially aiming to retake territory near the plant. Also on Saturday morning, Ukrainian authorities reported that at least four civilians have died across the country as Russian forces launched Iranian-made Shahed drones, missiles, and artillery and mortar strikes. Ukraine's State Emergency Service reported that three people were killed and more than

two dozen wounded overnight in an attack targeting the Black Sea port of Odesa. A spokesperson for Ukraine's southern operational command, Natalia Humeniuk, said two children and a pregnant woman were among those wounded. In Ukraine's north-east, a 29-year-old man was killed as more than 10 drones targeted the Kharkiv region, its governor, Oleh Syniehubov, reported Saturday. He added that at least three other civilians were wounded. In the Poltava region further west, there was damage to a military airfield struck overnight during a Russian drone and missile attack, local Gov. Dmytro Lunin reported. Lunin said no one was hurt. As of Saturday morning, there was no additional comment from the Ukrainian army or officials on the extent of the damage. The Ukrainian air force said that during the night, it had shot down 20 out of 35 Shahed drones and two out of eight missiles "of various types" launched by Russian forces.

# Taiwan prez pledges to strengthen island's defence capability

AP ■ KAOHSIUNG (TAIWAN)

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Saturday said the self-ruled island would work to improve its rescue and defence capabilities with new technologies, adding that strengthening Taiwan is key to maintaining peace. Tsai also pledged that her government would promote policies to safeguard maritime and border security after inspecting an anti-terror drill in Kaohsiung city in southwestern Taiwan. "The safer Taiwan is, the safer the world is," she said. Tsai's remarks came as the democratic island faces increasing military threats from China, which sees Taiwan as a breakaway province to be retaken by force if necessary. During Saturday's drills, Taiwanese security officers demonstrated how they would defend against terrorist acts at sea. Some climbed from small boats onto a vessel controlled by "terrorists" and brought them under control. Others rappelled down from a flying helicopter. The simulation ended with a dramatic scene in which some officers hung in the air as they were sent back to the



Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, centre, waves to press after an offshore anti-terrorism drill outside the Kaohsiung harbor in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, on Saturday. President Tsai on Saturday said the self-ruled island would work to improve its rescue and defence capabilities with new technologies, stressing that strengthening Taiwan is key to maintaining peace. AP/PTI

helicopter. Taiwan and China split in 1949 following a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party in control of the mainland. The island has never been part of the People's Republic of China, but Beijing says it must unite with the mainland. Beijing also has intensified its battle to win away Taiwan's diplomatic allies since independence-leaning Tsai took office in 2016. In March, Honduras established formal relations with China, becoming the latest in a string of countries to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Honduran President Xiomara Castro arrived in Shanghai on Friday on her first visit since the establishment of ties. She said her country would strengthen cooperation with the financial hub and actively participate in the China International Import Expo to be held there in November, according to a report by state media Xinhua on Saturday.

# 5 killed in Turkey blast

AP ■ ANKARA

An explosion at a rocket and explosives plant in Turkey caused a building to collapse on Saturday, killing all five workers inside, an official said. The explosion occurred at around 8.45 am at the compound of the state-owned Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation, on the outskirts of the capital, Ankara, Gov. Vasip Sahin told reporters. Sahin said the explosion was likely to have been caused by a chemical reaction during the production of dynamite. Prosecutors have launched a formal investigation, he said. Gray smoke was seen rising from the compound as ambulances and fire trucks rushed to the area, private NTV television reported. Shop and house windows in surrounding areas were shattered by the force of the blast, the report said. Family members rushed to the compound for news of their loved ones, the station said.

# French stabbing suspect charged with attempted murder

AP ■ PARIS

French judges on Saturday handed preliminary charges of attempted murder to a man suspected of stabbing four young children and two adults in a French Alps park, an attack that reverberated across France and beyond. The suspect is a 31-year-old Syrian refugee with permanent residency in Sweden. His name was not released. The lead prosecutor, Line Bonnet-Mathis, told a news conference Saturday that the man was presented to investigating judges in the lakeside town of Annecy on Saturday and given charges of attempted murder and armed resistance. He is in custody pending further investigation. The prosecutor said the victims are no longer in life-threatening condition after Thursday's attack in and around a playground. The chil-

dren, between 22 months and 3 years old, remain hospitalised. The six victims came from four different countries: France, Britain, the Netherlands and Portugal. The suspect, a 31-year-old Syrian political refugee with permanent residency status in Sweden, has a 3-year-old daughter and wife living in Sweden, the prosecutor said. He was examined by psychiatrists who deemed him fit to face charges, the prosecutor said. She said that the motive for the savage attack remained unclear, but it didn't appear to be terrorism-related. Witnesses said they heard the attacker mention his daughter, his wife and Jesus Christ, according to the prosecutor, who said he had Christian objects with him at the time of the attack. Police detained the suspect in the lakeside park in the town of Annecy after bystanders —

notably, a Catholic pilgrim who repeatedly swung at the attacker with his backpack — sought to deter him. French President Emmanuel Macron visited the victims and their families, first responders and witnesses Friday. Macron said two young French cousins who were the most critically injured have stabilized, and doctors were "very confident." The wounded British girl "is awake, she's watching television," Macron added. A wounded Dutch girl also has improved and a critically injured adult — who was both knifed and wounded by a shot that police fired as they detained the suspected attacker — is regaining consciousness, Macron said. The seriously injured adult was treated in Annecy. Portugal's foreign ministry said he is Portuguese and "now out of danger."

# Iran cops fire at father in stolen car, son killed

AP ■ DUBAI

A boy was shot and killed by police after his father stole a car in the southwestern Khuzestan province and drove off with him, Iranian authorities said. Ruhollah Bigdeli, chief of police in Shushtar County, said — via Iran's official police website — that officers tried to stop the "stolen vehicle by shooting at it," but the boy was caught in the crossfire and died on the spot. Police said they issued the man several warnings before they started shooting, adding that he had a criminal record, including car theft and drug smuggling. The Iranian Jamaran news website identified the boy as 9-year-old Morteza Delf Zaregani. They spoke to the father who accused the police of not issuing any warning before shooting. Morteza's photo was shared on social media, with people expressing sorrow for his death. In November, 9-year-old Kian Pirfalak, was killed in a shooting that his mother blamed on security forces. Pirfalak was shot and killed while passing with his parents through a street in the southwestern city of Izeh, in Khuzestan province, filled with demonstrators, during nationwide protests following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police.

# Facing sanction, Johnson quits as UK lawmaker

AP ■ LONDON

Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson shocked Britain on Friday by quitting as a lawmaker after being told he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament. Johnson quit after receiving the results of an investigation by lawmakers over misleading statements he made to Parliament about "partygate," a series of rule-breaking government parties during the pandemic. In a lengthy resignation statement, Johnson accused opponents of trying to drive him out — and hinted that he might try to return. "It is very sad to be leaving Parliament — at least for now," he said. Johnson said he had "received a letter from the Privileges Committee making it clear — much to my amaze-



ment — that they are determined to use the proceedings against me to drive me out of Parliament." He called the committee investigating him a "kangaroo court." "Their purpose from the beginning has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts," Johnson said. The resignation will trigger a special election to replace Johnson as a lawmaker for a suburban London seat. Johnson, whose career has been a roller coaster of scandals

# Pak Finance Min hints at stability

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday declared that the country was out of the economic vulnerability phase and the government would make payments to multilateral lenders on time while seeking bilateral debt restructuring. Addressing the post-budget press conference in Islamabad, a day after unveiling the Rs 14.46 trillion budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year beginning from July 1, Dar said there were no plans to approach multilateral or development institutions to request debt rescheduling. "As far as Paris Club rescheduling, we have no such plan on our menu. We will not go for rescheduling multilateral debt. We will make the payments on time and when they become due. I don't think it is a dignified way to go and tell them that we cannot pay," he said. Dar said negotiations could be pursued with bilateral lenders for extending the repayment period, which existed as an option and could be explored after the budget process. "Backloading the principal and focusing on debt servicing could be considered for bilateral debt rescheduling," he said. Dar also clarified that there was no issue with the domestic debt, and the government would not go for its rescheduling. The minister admitted that the country faced deep and steep economic vulnerability but added that the government successfully overcame it and prevented further economic decline. Adding that the country would be put back on the road to progress, Dar said the first objective would be to reach the 2017 economic indicators when Pakistan became the 24th economy in the world.

and comebacks, led the Conservatives to a landslide victory in 2019 but was forced out by his own party less than three years later. He had been awaiting the outcome of an investigation by a House of Commons standards committee over misleading statements he made to Parliament about a slew of gatherings in government buildings in 2020 and 2021 that breached pandemic lockdown rules. Police eventually issued 126 fines over the late-night soirees, boozy parties and "wine time Fridays," including one to Johnson, and the scandal helped hasten the end of his premiership. The committee had been expected to publish its report in the next few weeks, and Johnson could have faced suspension from the House of Commons if he was found to have lied deliberately.

# 4 kids lost in jungle for 40 days found alive

AP ■ BOGOTA

Colombian President Gustavo Petro has said that authorities found alive four children who survived a small plane crash 40 days ago and had been the subject of an intense search in the Amazon jungle that held Colombians on edge. The children were alone when searchers found them and are now receiving medical attention, Petro told reporters upon his return to Bogota from Cuba, where he signed a cease-fire agreement with representatives of the National Liberation Army rebel group. The president said the youngsters are an "example of survival" and predicted their saga "will remain in history." The crash happened in the early hours of May 1, when the Cessna single-engine propeller plane with six passengers and a pilot declared



an emergency due to an engine failure. The small aircraft fell off radar a short time later and a frantic search for survivors began. The three adults were killed, and their bodies were found in the area.

DMI HOUSING FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED ("COMPANY") (U65923DL2011PTC216373; Registered Office: Express Building, 3rd Floor, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002; T: +91 11 41204444; F: +91 11 41204000; email: dmi@dmihousingfinance.in) PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch: Name, Address and contact details of Closing Branch: DMI Housing Finance Private Limited Basement of H.no. 3, Panchsheel Park, Near M4U, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad - 201001, (+91 9811993137), (satish.mishra@dmihousingfinance.in) Date of Closure: 15.09.2023 It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closure. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with the base branch (i.e. Plot No C - 40 Third Floor RDC Rajnagar Ghaziabad (UP), Pin code- 201001, UP). Customers holding loan account may transfer their account to any other branch of our company, provided the same is approved by the competent authority. The relevant Application form is available with the branch. Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change which will be effective tentatively from 15.09.2023. In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the officials of DMI Housing Finance Private Limited (+91 9811993137, Mr. Satish Mishra): Place: Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad Date: 05th June 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Smt Salma Ali, wife of Sheikh Muzaffar Ali, resident of J-1/409, DDA Janta Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have lost/misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (i.e. Allotment Letter-cum-Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip and NOC for Water and Electricity, etc.), in respect of Property No. J-1/409, DDA Janta Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 allotted by DDA vide File No. F21(1052)74/HB along with original Agreement to Sell, General Power of Attorney executed by Shri Prithvi Singh (Allottee) in my favor. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No. 408776/2023 dated 04/05/2023. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact above named person at above address/ phone no. 9810397985 or to Dy. Director (Housing Janta), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. ACHIN SHARMA (Advocate) Regd. No. D/5425/2021 Ph. : 9650865007, 9810221449

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD) No. Track /2194/051177/Vo.III Date: 09.06.2023 CORRIGENDUM NO.2 Sub.: Publication of Corrigendum No. 2 against E-Tender Notice No.TKP-1-2023 for Selection of Inspecting Agency for "Testing and Inspection of Rails as per IRS-T-12-2009 Specification with Latest Amendments"- (RFQ-cum-RFP). Corrigendum No. 2 issued against E-Tender Notice No. TKP-1-2023 for Selection of Inspecting Agency for "Testing and Inspection of Rails as per IRS-T-12-2009 Specification with Latest Amendments"- (RFQ-cum-RFP) has been uploaded on IREPS. The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.in for Corrigendum details. (Alok Kumar) Executive Director/Track (P&P) 2nd Floor, Room No. 256-D, Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001 Phone: 011-23304852 Email: alokkumar@gov.in

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK) Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan (India) CIN: L36911RJ1996PLC011381 APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES 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 / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank), the same shall be referred herein after as AUSFB. The Secured Assets, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction for recovery of amount mentioned in the table below along with further interest, cost, charges and expenses being due to AUSFB viz. Secured Creditor. It is hereby informed you that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website https://sarfaei.auctiontiger.net

Account No. and Name of borrower/ Co-borrower/ Mortgagees/ Guarantor	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2) & Date of Physical Possession and amount as on (Date)	Descriptions of the Property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (Amount in Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Place of Submission of Bids and Documents, Inspection Date
211244634647791 M/S. SHER SINGH NAVEEN KUMAR AND CO. THROUGH IT'S PROPRIETOR MR. NAVEEN KUMAR (Borrower)	13(2) Notice Issue Date 09-June-2022 For Loan Account No. 211244634647791 is Rs. 1,23,81,953.25 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three lakh Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three Five paise Only) as on date 04 June 2022 Physical Possession done on 19 November 2022	All that part and parcel of Property Situated at Built up Ground Floor without roof rights (said floor) built on property Bearing No. A-169, in Block A, area measuring 180.00 Sq. Yards out of Khasra No. 6/2 situated in the area of village bharola colony known as majlis park, Delhi-110033, Property Owned by Mrs. Kavita w/o Mr. Naveen Kumar. East: Property No. A-168 West: Property No. A-170 North: Road 25 feet South: Lane 10 Feet Total built-up area on Ground Floor is 1620.00 Sq. Feet. Note: - In respect of said loan account, One TSA 265/2022 pending before DRT-I-DELHI, however there is no stay for conducting auction	Reserve Price Rs. 86,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Six Lakh Only) EMD Price Rs. 8,60,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Only) Bid Incremental Amount Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)	18-July-2023 From 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM With unlimited extension of Five Minutes Last Date of Bid Submission 17-July-2023 Upto 06:00 PM AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., Au Bank Branch Office: A8, Patparganj Rd, Priyadarshini Vihar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110092 Email ID: rakesh.jain1@aubank.in
MR. NAVEEN KUMAR S/O MR. SHER SINGH SAINI (Guarantor) MRS. KAVITA W/O MR. NAVEEN KUMAR (Guarantor/Mortgagor)	For Loan Account No. 211244634647791 is Rs. 1,44,19,664/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Four Lakh Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four Only) as on date 06 June 2023 plus Future interest & charges extra.			Inspection Date 13-14 July 2023

All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website https://sarfaei.auctiontiger.net & https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction for further details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact Mr. Rakesh Jain, Contact Number 9116181827 and e-mail of rakesh.jain1@aubank.in.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER / MORTGAGORS

The terms and conditions of e-auction sale:- 1. The E-Auction sale of Secured Asset is on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for and on behalf of the Secured Creditor viz. AUSFB and there is no known encumbrance which exists on the said property. 2. For participating in online e-auction sale, Bid document, copies of PAN Card, Board Resolution in case of Company and photo ID, address proof are required to be submitted along with EMD, which is payable by way of RTGS/NEFT in the name of MSME AUCTION POOL ACCOUNT OF AU Small Finance Bank Limited, Current account No. 192120112171599 AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED Fifth and Sixth Floor Sunny Bid Junction STC Khasra No. 64 to 67, Gram Sukhalpura New Atish Market Jaipur 302020, IFSC Code: AU010002011. Once an Online Bid is submitted, same cannot be withdrawn. Further any EMD submitted by bidder will be required to send the UTR/Ref no of the RTGS/NEFT with a copy of cancelled cheque on the following email ID: i.e. rakesh.jain1@aubank.in 3. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website https://sarfaei.auctiontiger.net & https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction for further details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact Mr. Rakesh Jain, Contact Number 9116181827 and e-mail of rakesh.jain1@aubank.in

Place : Delhi Date : 09.06.2023 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited



# 'Number of startups grew 300 times under Modi'

PTI ■ UDHAMPUR (J&K)

The number of startups grew 300 times in the last nine years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the country, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was speaking at a two-day 'Young Start-up Conclave' which commenced in Udhampur, the home constituency of Singh.

"The startups in India grew 300 times in the last 9 years as from just around 350 startups before 2014, there has been a quantum jump in startups to more than 90,000 with more than 100 unicorns," Singh said. He said the startup movement promoted by Modi is now reaching every part of the country.

Asserting that the conclave at Udhampur offers an opportunity to explore new avenues for industry as well as entrepreneurs in the region, he said, under Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is given the top most priority in everything which is the reason J&K is competing in terms of development with other states and Union Territories in the country.

"The year 2023 is important for many reasons as this is the



year India has been able to attain G20 Presidency.

This year is being celebrated as International year of Millets by UN due to the efforts of Modi which shows how the stature of India has grown in the world under the present government," the minister said.

Singh said India had no dearth of talent, capability, innovation and creativity among the youth, but they were lacking a favourable milieu and proper patronage from the political leadership which was provided by the prime minister.

"Focus of the Modi-led government in the last 9 years has not been just to create employment but also to build entrepreneurship," he said.

He said the mantra of the prime minister's 'StartUp India, StandUp India' is creating millions of job opportunities for the youth who are gradually coming out of the government job mindset and are ready to take the plunge and create new opportunities in niche sectors, in turn creating scores of job opportunities. Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Zabeer Ahmad termed this day as historic for Udhampur which has been chosen for this two-day event.

People of Udhampur and other districts must visit this 'Start-up Conclave' so that they can be "informed, counselled about the benefits of startups which are the engines of economic growth," he added.

# India can play key role in technological areas identified as critical by Quad nations: Quin

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India has a lot of opportunities due to its talent base and its ability to stand up as a second big manufacturing base outside of China and can play a leading role in technological areas being identified as critical by Quad nations, the head of the Quad Investment Network has said.

Karl Mehta, chairman of the Quad Investment Network (Quin), along with Alex Trueman, the network's special advisor, is here in Washington DC for meetings with the Biden administration officials following the recent Quad Summit in Japan and ahead of the official state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US.

The Quin is a network of investors and executives across Quad countries that seeks to foster co-investment in critical technologies. The QUIN was officially launched on May 20.

Mehta said the Indian government has this very big 'Made In India' campaign. India wants to rise and be the manufacturing factory of the world, which China has been for the past 30 years, Mehta



said. "India has tremendous opportunities as a part of one of the four Quad nations (Japan, India, Australia and the United States). It is the only developing country because the other three are already developed nations. There is a huge talent base in India," Indian-American serial entrepreneur Mehta told PTI in a joint interview with Trueman. "So, I think India has a lot of opportunities both from its talent base and its ability to stand up as a second big manufacturing base outside of China," he said.

Mehta said Quad Investment Network has identified nine technological areas which are very critical both from a supply chain perspective as well as from establishing or maintaining the Quad leadership in those technologies.

These areas include semiconductors, clean energy and critical mineral, quantum technologies, mobility like 5G or 6G, cybersecurity, health tech, biotech, defence tech, and space tech.

"These are some of these technology areas where we are taking a very deep dive. We are assembling prominent experts

from each one of these four countries and creating a centre of excellence in each one of them. In the next two weeks, we are launching a centre of excellence for Quantum Technologies, where we have experts from all four countries," Mehta said.

"These expert groups are going to help guide and create the direction and very specific goals in terms of where technical collaboration opportunities exist today, where we can help enable it from the Quad Industry Network; where these players need help in terms of market access and

helping them solve the regulatory hurdles that might be coming in the way of developing the markets for this new tech," he said.

In these technologies, India is a technology powerhouse, Mehta said. Although the United States, Japan, and Australia, are very advanced in their technology, India is a collaborator in these technologies.

India's focus on vaccine development was super helpful and in the whole Quad nation partnership around vaccines, India played a big role in it. That's why that vaccine partnership has now been expanded into an overall health security partnership.

"So, I think there's a tremendous opportunity for India to play a role in every one of those nine technology areas that we mentioned," he said.

Before leading the Quad Investors Network, Mehta was the founder and CEO of an artificial intelligence-powered Knowledge Cloud platform - EdCast Inc. - which was backed by Stanford University and acquired by Cornerstone Inc. He was also a former venture partner at Menlo Ventures, a leading Silicon Valley firm.

# Sri Lanka lifts import restrictions on 286 items as economic woes eases

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has lifted import restrictions on nearly 300 items with immediate effect, the Finance Ministry announced on Saturday, in a clear sign that the island nation is slowly but surely emerging from its worst economic crisis in decades.

Last year, Sri Lanka plunged into its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 due to plummeting foreign exchange reserves that caused severe shortages of essential items and triggered massive public protests.

In April 2022, Sri Lanka declared its international debt default due to the forex crisis.

Sri Lanka's economic situation has improved after it secured a USD 3 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in March. The IMF lifeline helped Sri Lanka bolster its foreign exchange reserves and stabilise the spiralling inflation.

"With the economy stabilising, import restrictions on 286 items have been lifted from Friday midnight," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

"Restrictions on 928 items will continue, including vehicle imports, which were banned in March 2020," the statement said. "Imported goods can help moderate prices by providing consumers with options and lower cost alternatives," Shehan Semasinghe, the Minister of State for Finance, said.

In August last year, Sri Lanka slapped a ban on the import of 300 consumer items like chocolates, perfumes, and shampoos to tackle its economic woes.

Sri Lanka's reserves grew by an impressive 26 per cent to touch USD 722 million in May, while the currency also rose by 24 per cent this year, according



to central bank data.

The positive signs notwithstanding, Sri Lanka's path to complete economic recovery is still arduous.

The country needs to complete debt restructuring talks with its creditors, notably China, India, and Japan, and implement key economic reforms ahead of the first IMF review in September.

The IMF bailout, the 17th in Sri Lanka's history, called for hard economic reforms such as tax hikes, utility rate hikes and divesting loss-making state business enterprises, which have been met with stiff political opposition.

India has extended multi-pronged assistance to Sri Lanka during the peak of its economic and humanitarian crisis in line with its "Neighbourhood First" policy and as an earnest friend and partner of Sri Lanka.

New Delhi has extended lines of credit worth over USD 4 billion to Colombo in diverse sectors including the supply of essential items, petroleum, fertilisers, development of railways, infrastructure, defence sector and renewable energy, according to the Indian High Commission here.

Sri Lanka's unprecedented financial crisis in 2022 also sparked a political turmoil in the country, leading to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family.



# Raj Govt to turn 1.20 lakh hectares of agri land into organic farming area

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government on Saturday said it will convert about 1.20 lakh hectare of agricultural land into organic farming area and provide organic seeds, bio-fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers.

The state government is making all-out efforts to encourage organic farming. In this sequence, chief minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal to convert 1.20 lakh hectares area into organic farming area.

Under this, organic seeds, bio fertilizers and pesticides will be made available to the farmers, an official statement said. This year, farmers will be benefited by converting 1.20 lakh hectare area into organic. It will cost about Rs 23.57 crore. Besides, Rs 5,000 per farmer will also be given to 50,000 organic farmers.

The chief minister has also sanctioned Rs 5 crore from the state fund for activities like farmer selection, formation of farmers' groups and master trainers training, among others.

# Pakistan out of economic vulnerability phase, says Finance Minister Dar

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday declared that the country was out of the economic vulnerability phase and the government would make payments to multilateral lenders on time while seeking bilateral debt restructuring.

Addressing the post-budget press conference in Islamabad, a day after unveiling the Rs 14.46 trillion budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year beginning from July 1, Dar said there were no plans to approach multilateral or development institutions to request debt rescheduling.

"As far as Paris Club rescheduling, we have no such plan on our menu. We will not go for rescheduling multilateral debt. We will make the payments on time and when they become due. I don't think it is a dignified way to go and tell them that we cannot pay," he said.

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"Backloading the principal and focusing on debt servicing could be considered



for bilateral debt rescheduling," he said.

Dar also clarified that there was no issue with the domestic debt, and the government would not go for its rescheduling.

The minister admitted that the country faced deep and steep economic vulnerability but added that the government successfully overcame it and prevented further economic decline.

Adding that the country would be put back on the road to progress, Dar said the first objective would be to reach the 2017 economic indicators when Pakistan become the 24th economy in the world.

The minister also defended that the declared GDP target of 3.5 per cent growth would be achieved and added that the focus was on agriculture, IT and small and medi-

um-sized industry.

Talking about the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he hoped that the Washington-based donor would complete the process of the ninth and tenth review of the USD 6.5 billion stalled loan package and release funds, but insisted that alternative options were available.

Cash-strapped Pakistan is awaiting a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from IMF, which was originally due to be disbursed in November last year.

The funds are part of a USD 6.5 billion bailout package the IMF approved in 2019, which analysts say is critical if Pakistan is to avoid defaulting on external debt obligations.

The IMF has insisted that the government should meet tough conditions before releasing USD 1.1 billion.

There is growing consensus among the experts that without a revival of the IMF programme or a new bailout package in the next fiscal year, Pakistan will find it almost impossible to ward off default.

Dar also said that the total current expenditure was Rs 13.3 trillion, 53 per cent higher than last year, and includes subsidies for nearly a dozen sectors.

# TVS Credit Services raises equity capital of ₹480 crore from Premji Invest to fund its growth plans

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Non-banking finance company TVS Credit Services Ltd has successfully raised equity capital of Rs 480 crore from Premji Invest to fuel its growth plan including advancing its digitisation journey, the city-based company said on Saturday.

Premji Invest, the investment arm of Wipro founder Azim Premji's endowment, would pick up 9.7 per cent equity stake in TVS Credit for Rs 737 crore as part of the transaction via a combination of primary and secondary investments.

The primary capital raised would be utilised to further strengthen the efforts of TVS Credit in expanding its customer base in new markets, increasing the channel partner network, and advancing its digitisation journey. With this infusion of capital, the company aims to accelerate its mission of



fulfilling the aspirations of a growing India by providing convenient financing options, TVS Credit Services said in a statement.

"TVS Credit has demonstrated exceptional performance, achieving robust and profitable growth. Within a short span of time, our company's Assets Under Management have surpassed Rs 20,000 crore supported by a strong balance sheet," TVS Credit Chairman Sudarshan Venu said.

"As we embark on the next phase of our journey, our focus will be leveraging digi-

tisation to reach new customers and achieve a higher growth momentum. I have deep respect from Premji Invest and am delighted to have them as a partner," he said.

"With their deep understanding of the Indian consumer landscape and the financial services industry, Premji Invest will bring strategic value and expedite our growth plans," Venu said.

Premji Invest CEO and managing partner T K Kurien said: "We are delighted to partner with TVS Credit in their journey to drive financial inclusion by providing easier access to a range of affordable and innovative financial products."

"TVS Credit proposes to leverage technology and digital partnerships through an omnichannel approach to widen its customer base and to significantly reduce the friction involved in traditional financing," Kurien said.



# Finance Ministry on same page with RBI for FY24 growth forecast: CEA

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Saturday said that the government is on the same page with the Reserve Bank of India on the GDP growth forecast for the current financial year which is 6.5 per cent.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced at the end of the monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting on Thursday that the GDP growth forecast for 2023-24 has been pegged at 6.5 per cent, a tad higher than the April forecast of 6.4 per cent.

Speaking at a session organised by Bharat Chamber of Commerce here, Nageswaran said, "Both the ministry of finance and the RBI are on the same page with the growth forecast for the current fiscal which is 6.5 per cent with risks evenly balanced. The domestic economic growth momentum is strong enough to overcome external risk factors."

"We also benefit from lower oil prices and overall domestic macroeconomic stability," he said. The CEA said that during the last financial year, real GDP

growth was 7.2 per cent, which was lower than the 9.1 per cent registered in the previous fiscal.

"However, I feel that the growth for the last fiscal will be much higher than 7.2 per cent," Nageswaran said.

The CEA to the government said that India was the fastest growing among major economies with all high-frequency parameters for April signalling a good start during the first quarter of the current fiscal.

"With exports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP pegged at 23.5 per cent during the last financial year, the highest since 2015, private consumption and gross capital formation had increased in the last financial year after the pandemic."

"Private consumption has been mainly driven by urban consumption, contributed largely by the release of pent-up demand," he said.

Speaking sectorally, Nageswaran said on agriculture that though there are concerns about the El Nino effect, the water reservoir storage is adequate in the country and enough availability of seeds and fertiliser stock is comfortable.

# IAMAI flags concerns, practical difficulties on new norms for anti-tobacco warning on OTT platforms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union health ministry's latest move mandating anti-tobacco warnings for OTT platforms did not involve any consultative process with the industry prior to notification, IAMAI has said flagging "fundamental concerns" and "practical difficulties" in implementation of the new norms.

The industry body has highlighted the practical impossibility associated with including such warnings across content. The amount of content being commissioned in India and licensed from within India and around the world is very high, IAMAI said, adding, "to create and incorporate multiple

health spots, audio-visual disclaimers and warnings in multiple languages for the same piece of content poses significant logistical issues".

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has cautioned that the rules will significantly impact consumer viewing experience, and "throttle creativity and artistic expression".

The newly-notified rules make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television programmes.

The regulation of online curated content is a legislatively occupied field under the IT



Rules and administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after multiple rounds of extensive inter-ministerial consultation, IAMAI argued.

On May 31, the Union health ministry notified the

amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004.

According to the notification, the publishers of online curated content displaying tobacco products or their use will be required to display anti-

tobacco health spots of a minimum of 30 seconds each at the beginning and middle of a programme.

"At the outset, we would like to highlight that there was no consultative process with the industry before the notification of these rules," IAMAI said its latest submission on the issue.

IAMAI said while the Online Curated Content Provider (OCCP) community in India recognises the importance and necessity of reducing the consumption of tobacco and the intention and the objective of the 2023 Tobacco Warning Rules, it wished to highlight "...Fundamental concerns on the process and the means by which the Rules were notified by

the health ministry".

"The Rules are designed for the 57 OCCPs registered with MIB (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules"). However, these 57 OCCPs were not consulted to share their thoughts and inputs," it said.

This lack of industry consultation not only disregards OCCPs' compliance to Code of Ethics under the IT Rules, but also disregards industry best practices that these OCCPs currently follow, which are aligned to the overall objective of preventing the promotion of smoking.



# IGA IS QUEEN OF FRANCE

Iga Swiatek battled past Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 to win her third French Open title on Saturday and become the first woman to successfully defend the Roland Garros title since 2007

AFP ■ PARIS

The 22-year-old Swiatek is just the third woman in the Open era to win each of her first four Grand Slam finals, the Pole adding to her 2020 and 2022 titles in Paris and last year's US Open triumph.

Monica Seles and Naomi Osaka are the only other players to accomplish the feat.

Swiatek, the world number one from Poland, is also the youngest woman to claim back-to-back French Open titles since Monica Seles in the early 1990s.

Justine Henin was the last woman to win successive Roland Garros crowns when she captured her third in a row and fourth in total 16 years ago.

"I know I have said this every year, it isn't really about the performance, I really love being here - it's my favourite place on tour," said Swiatek.

Swiatek's latest coronation caps another dominant two weeks on the clay in Paris, where her record stands at 28 wins and two losses in five visits. Muchova, at 43 in the world, was the fourth lowest ranked woman to reach the French Open final, her first championship match at a major.

"This was so close and yet so far, that's what happens when you play one of the best, Iga," said a tearful Muchova, who was told only last year by doctors she may never play tennis again.

The unseeded Czech came into the final having won all five matches in her career against players in the top three -- four of them at Grand Slams -- after stunning Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals.

On guard against an underdog with a habit of taking those



down at the top, Swiatek quickly applied pressure on the 26-year-old Muchova, playing her biggest match of an injury-hit career. A miscued forehand from Muchova gave the Pole two break points in the second game which she took with minimal fuss.

The top seed consolidated with a quick hold before Muchova got on the board in

game four, drawing loud roars from the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd.

Muchova carved out a break opportunity to get back on serve but Swiatek snuffed it out in a protracted fifth game -- pumping her fist in relief as she surged 4-1 up.

Swiatek saw another break point come and go the following game, but her disappoint-

ment was brief as she easily won the next two games to wrap up the opening set.

Back and forth Muchova had outfoxed her rivals with her cunning variety throughout the tournament, but Swiatek had clearly done her homework since the Czech won their only other meeting in Prague in 2019.

A loose service game

allowed Swiatek to pull 3-0 in front in the second set, but Muchova refused to roll over, displaying the grit and resolve she used to rally from match point down against Sabalenka in the previous round.

A crunching forehand down the line retrieved the break before Muchova levelled at three games each. Swiatek slowed Muchova's momentum as the pair traded holds before the reigning champion showed her first real sign of nerves, double-faulting to leave her rival serving at 5-4 to force a decider.

Muchova couldn't take advantage as Swiatek broke right back, but another shaky game from the Pole presented her with another shot. Two set points passed Muchova by but she set up a third with a brilliant backhand volley on the stretch, with Swiatek then pumping her return long to send the match to a third set.

Muchova sensed the tide was turning in her favour as Swiatek's title defence began to creak, the Pole broken to love as her opponent rattled off eight straight points to move 2-0 ahead.

But with her formidable record at Roland Garros, Swiatek came storming back and snatched three games on the bounce.

Muchova broke for 4-3 only for Swiatek to hit back immediately and then secure a nervy hold, resisting another break point, to move within a game of victory. Swiatek swiftly raced 3-0 ahead and earned two championship points when Muchova dragged a forehand wide, the Czech succumbing in the most brutal of ways with a double fault to end a thrilling contest.

## 'History hovering' over Djoker as Slam record beckons



AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic admits "history is hovering" over him as he takes on Casper Ruud in the French Open final on Sunday with a men's record 23rd Grand Slam title tantalisingly close. The 36-year-old Serb can set numerous landmarks in what will be his seventh championship match at Roland Garros.

As well as breaking the 22-Slam tie he shares with Rafael Nadal, he can become both the tournament's oldest champion and the only man to win all four majors on at least three occasions.

"The only thing I can say is that I'm very focused. History is always something that's hovering over me," said Djokovic, the 2016 and 2021 winner in Paris and now the oldest finalist in 93 years.

Djokovic, playing his 34th Grand Slam final, can also

return to the world number one ranking with victory over Ruud, replacing Carlos Alcaraz, the man he defeated in the semi-finals.

Victory on Sunday would place him once again halfway to an historic calendar Grand Slam, a sweep of all four majors in the same year which has only ever been achieved by two men. Rod Laver accomplished it twice, the last coming in 1969. Djokovic, however, refuses to contemplate such dominance, wary of how the pressure doomed his last bid to pocket all four Slams in the same year when he lost the 2021 US Open final to Daniil Medvedev.

"I'm not thinking about a calendar slam. I'm thinking really just to win another Grand Slam title here on Sunday, and I'm so close. I know it. I know the feeling," said Djokovic.

"Experience is on my side, but does it win matches? I don't think so. I have to be prepared for another long battle, and after the final, if I win, let's talk about history."

Ruud was runner-up to Rafael Nadal in the 2022 final before also losing the championship match at the US Open to Alcaraz. The 24-year-old Norwegian has never defeated Djokovic in four meetings and has yet to win a set.

Despite Ruud's desperately poor record against Djokovic, he can point to his prowess on clay. Since 2020, he has the most wins on the surface with 87, most finals with 12 and nine titles.

On Sunday, the world number four will attempt to make sure that all the pressure sits squarely on the shoulders of Djokovic. "I think it's just a matter of not thinking like, I need to win this match. This is a word that I try to avoid," he said.

## Neymar 'already knew' Messi was Miami-bound

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilian striker Neymar revealed on Friday he was in on the secret that Lionel Messi was leaving Paris Saint-Germain for Inter Miami before it was officially announced.

"I already knew it!" exclaimed the Brazilian, laughing, in response to a question on the YouTube channel of NBA Brazil about his reaction to the announcement of the departure of his Argentine teammate for Florida.

Neymar was in Miami on vacation and attended Game Three of the NBA Finals between the Miami Heat and the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday.

"I knew he would come here, we had already talked about it. I told him he would be happy in Miami," said Neymar, who played alongside Messi at Barcelona from 2013 to 2017 and then for the last two seasons at PSG.

"I'm very happy for him, and at the same time a little sad because he left," added the Brazilian star, whose own future at PSG is uncertain after another injury-marred season.

Neymar said he was confident that Messi will help Major League Soccer reach new heights: "It will be a much more popular league, with a lot more viewers, and everyone should benefit from it."



## Diallo elected new head of French football

AP ■ PARIS

Philippe Diallo was elected the new president of the French Football Federation on Saturday.

Diallo, installed as interim boss after the resignation of long-standing former chief Noel Le Graet, swept to office winning over 90 per cent of the 200-strong vote at the FFF's general assembly in Paris.

The 59-year-old's mandate runs until the end of 2024.

"You grant me a very great honour with this huge vote," Diallo said after the election.

"It's also a big responsibility as we've endured some difficult times over the past few months," he added.

Diallo stepped up as acting president in January when Le Graet first moved aside and then was forced to resign following accusations of sexual and psychological harassment, bringing to an end more than a decade in charge.

The 81-year-old's time at the helm had coincided with the revival of the French men's national team as a force, with their victory at the 2018 World Cup followed by a run to last year's final in Qatar, which they lost on penalties to Argentina.

PTI ■ PARIS

Top Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar secured a creditable third place in the Paris Diamond League with a jump of 8.09m, his maiden top-three finish in the prestigious one-day meeting series.

Sreeshankar also became the only third Indian to finish in top-three of a Diamond League after Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and former discus thrower Vikas Gowda.

Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sreeshankar achieved his best jump of the day in his third attempt on Friday night.

His 8.09m effort was below his season's best of 8.18m, which he recorded while winning gold in an event in Greece last month. The 24-year-old has a personal best of 8.36m that came last year.

The competitors in the men's long jump event faced head wind most of the time.

## Long jumper Sreeshankar finishes third in Diamond League

Olympic champion and world number one Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece took the top spot with his fifth round jump of 8.13m, just 4cm better than Sreeshankar.

Switzerland's World Championships bronze medallist Simon Ehammer finished second with his fourth round jump of 8.11m.

Sreeshankar's series at the Charley Stadium here was 7.79m, 7.94m, foul, 7.99m and foul.

He was leading after the third round before Ehammer and Tentoglou went ahead.

The Indian however finished ahead of Cuba's Olympic bronze medallist Maykel Masso (sixth place with 7.83m) and



Sweden's World No. 4 Thobias Montler (seventh with 7.82m) to join the exclusive three-member DL club. Olympic champion Chopra is the reigning Diamond League champion in javelin throw after winning the Finals

in Zurich last September.

He has also finished on top in Lausanne and second in Stockholm last year before winning the season-opening leg in Doha last month.

Gowda had finished second

twice -- in New York in 2012 and in Doha in 2014 -- and third on two occasions -- Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.

Medals are not awarded to individual Diamond League Meetings. This was Sreeshankar's second foray in the Diamond League Meeting series.

He had finished sixth the Monaco leg last year.

Sreeshankar grabbed six qualification points for the Diamond League Finals of the season to be held in Eugene, USA, in September.

He will also get valuable ranking points in his bid to qualify for the World Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary, in August.

## India pip Japan to reach Women's Jr Asia Cup final

PTI ■ KAKAMIGAHARA

Sunelita Toppo fired a field goal as India eked out a narrow 1-0 win over hosts Japan to enter the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Saturday.

The win also sealed their berth in the FIH Junior World Cup slated to be held in Santiago from November 29-

December 10 this year. The top three teams from the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 make the cut for the global showcase.

This was also India's only second entry in Junior Asia Cup final after 2012.

After goalless three quarters, Sunelita finally broke the deadlock in the 47th minute to seal the issue.

India will play either China or Korea in the final on Sunday.

## Stimac to coach national team in Asian Games

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A new coach will take charge of the Indian team for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers in September but national senior side head coach Igor Stimac will be at the helm during the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said.

It must be mentioned that football is an U-23 event at the Asian Games and hence after the quadrennial extravaganza, Stimac will have to focus on senior team's preparation in the lead up to the Asian Cup next year.

India U-23 are clubbed with Maldives, UAE and hosts China for the September 6-12 qualifying round games in Dalian.

The dates of this tournament clash with the Kings Cup in Thailand -- September 7-10 -- in which the senior national team under Stimac will take part.

"Stimac will not be available for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers as there is Kings Cup in Thailand. So we are appointing a new U-23 team coach who will also assist Stimac during the Asian Games. He will be an Indian," AIFF Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran said.

Stimac was at the helm of affairs of the U-23 team during



the 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers. The team had finished second in their group and failed to make it to the main tournament.

After the Kings Cup, Stimac will travel to Hangzhou, China for the September 23 to October 8 Asian Games as the country is set to return in the continental multi-sport showcase after missing out in 2018. Since 2002, football in Asian Games has been a U-23 affair with three players above that age are also permitted in a team.

Many of the players in the current senior national team

under Stimac are below 23 and Stimac can field them in the Asian Games.

"There is no other international tournament for the senior side during the Asian Games, so Stimac will be at the helm of the Indian team in Hangzhou," Prabhakaran said.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had refused to clear the national team for the 2018 Asian Games on the ground that it was not ranked in the top-8 in the continent. But this time, India is taking part in the Asian Games.

## Neeraj pulls out of Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Recovering from a muscle strain he had sustained last month, superstar Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has pulled out of the prestigious Paavo Nurmi Games to be held on June 13 at Turku in Finland.

Event organisers said that the Olympic champion Indian has informed them about the "cancellation" of his participation in the World Athletics Continental Tour gold level event due to "health" issues.

"Javelin Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra cancelled his participation in the Paavo Nurmi Games. Chopra's manager messaged the competition organisers that the athlete has health problems, which is why the (his) competition had to be



cancelled," said a statement on the website of the Finnish Athletics Federation.

"Of course, peak cancellations are always upsetting. At the moment, there seem to be quite a few 90m javelin throw-

ers from recent years injured. Chopra's second best result of all time is from Turku last summer and he was certainly looking forward to the competition at least as much as we were," said Jari Salonen,

CEO of PN Turku Oy, which organises the Paavo Nurmi Games.

On May 29, Chopra has issued a statement that he suffered a muscle strain during training and was pulling out of the FBK Games (June 4) at Hengelo in the Netherlands as a precautionary measure.

"Recently, I sustained a muscle strain during my training. Following a medical evaluation, me and my team have decided to avoid any risks which can aggravate the injury," the world No. 1 had said on Twitter.

"Unfortunately, it means that I have to withdraw from the FBK Games. Injuries are part of the journey, but it's never easy. I am on the road to recovery, and will aim to be back on the track in June."

The 25-year-old had enjoyed a perfect start to the season by winning the Doha Diamond League on May 5 with a throw of 88.67m.

It is not yet clear when Chopra will return to action, though there is more than two months before of the World Championships (August 19-27) in Budapest, Hungary, which is the major event this year, along with the Diamond League Finals and the Asian Games.

Last month, the sports ministry, while clearing Chopra's training proposal in Finland, had said that he will take part in multiple World Athletics gold level events in June by basing at Kuortane Olympic Training Centre in that country during this time.



# INDIA NEED 444 RUNS TO WIN WTC FINAL

Star openers Rohit and Gill, made a brisk start & were not afraid to go for their strokes against Australia

Pitch was under prepared going into Day 1: Shardul

PTI ■ LONDON

A focused Virat Kohli stood between Australia and World Test Championship mace as India require another 280 runs to create history on what promises to be an intriguing final day of the summit clash.

Kohli was batting on 44 off 60 balls and had Ajinkya Rahane (20 batting) for company during a stand of 71 for the fourth wicket as India ended the fourth day on 164 for 3 in pursuit of world record chase of 444.

Having been set a mammoth target, India lost Shubman Gill (18 off 19) to a contentious catch before skipper Rohit Sharma (43 off 60) and Cheteshwar Pujara (27 off 47) brought about their own downfall to make it 93 for three in 31st over.

Australia had declared their second innings at 270 for 8 midway into the afternoon session after an unbeaten 66 from Alex Carey.

Though the highest chase at The Oval is 263, Indian fans will not lose hope going into day five with Kohli and Rahane hardly facing any trouble with batting not looking so difficult on the penultimate day.

The pitch continues to have variable bounce but played better than the first three days.

Kohli looked in sublime touch and used his strong wrists to play the flick between mid-wicket and mid-on off the Australian pacers. He also whipped Nathan Lyon (1/32) for a crisp on drive before leaning into a straight drive off Mitchell Starc towards the end of day's play.

The Indian openers, Rohit and Gill, made a brisk start and were not afraid to go for their strokes against the formidable duo of Pat Cummins and Scott Boland. However, at the stroke of tea, Scott Boland got one to bounce little extra from length and it flew from ball the shoulder of Gill's bat only to be lapped up by a diving Cameron Green at gully.

It was the second time in the



game that Green took a screamer though replay suggested it was a close call with the ball very close to the ground. Rohit got most of his runs playing the pull-shot. The partisan Indian crowd really got going when he pulled Starc's second ball of his opening for a six over fine-leg.

Lyon was brought into the

attack in the 20th over break the stand between Rohit and Pujara and he did exactly that. Bowling around the wicket, Lyon bowled a full one around Rohit's pads and the India skipper went for the sweep shot only to miss it. Rohit reviewed the leg before call unsuccessfully.

Next to depart was Pujara, who played an uncharacteristic shot - a

non-existent ramp shot off Cummins, to get caught behind. Pujara too had played some confident strokes in his 47-ball effort.

Rahane, who did not take the field in Australia's second innings to protect his bruised finger, looked comfortable in the middle.

In the first session, India picked up a couple of wickets but Australia

chugged away to take extend their overall lead to 374 runs after reaching 201 for 6 at lunch.

Australia had to battle hard to get 78 runs in 26 overs from the morning session. On the hottest morning of the game, the pitch continued to play plenty of tricks with both seamers and spinners being in business.



PTI ■ LONDON

India all-rounder Shardul Thakur has called The Oval pitch under prepared, saying it is very different from the surface they played on back in 2021.

India had won that game by 157 runs in September 2021 with Thakur getting a fifty in each innings.

Thakur copped two nasty blows on Friday but managed to score a crucial 51. He and Ajinkya Rahane shared a valuable 109-run stand to take India to 296 in reply to Australia's first-innings total of 469 in the World Test Championship final.

"The pitch is surely different. Last time we played the pitch was doing something and everyone knows if there is cloud cover in England the ball moves around."

"As the game went forward last time and the team started taking rollers it became flat. But this time it was not anything like that. It was under prepared I felt going in to the game. Like

we saw yesterday and today it was a bit up and down," Shardul said.

From one particular end, the ball took off from length and the Australian pacers exploited that effectively.

"If we see yesterday's play also, pitch changed a little. Ball was hard and bouncing from odd length. With six wickets down on the board, not too many runs, under pressure, yes you would say the toughest hour though I have played handful of game but felt like welcome to Test cricket."

"There is an area from where the ball is coming up, there is a little grass around the crack and the length is such that batsmen can't leave the deliveries easily. You have to play, commit because we saw today many balls kept down and I mean that is an area of good length, and I mean, that area is at a good length, a little short of length."

"So that's the area where the batsmen can't immediately see and leave the ball. You have to play it. And if it bounces from there - then good luck for the batsmen. It was bouncing from the other end too - but from a bit behind, so the batsmen were getting time to adjust," said Thakur.

Thakur asserted that India remain very much in the game despite trailing Australia by 296 runs.

"Cricket is a funny game. You can never say what is the right total, especially in an ICC final. One good partnership and you can chase down 450 or maybe more than that. We saw last year England chased 400 here and they did not lose too many wickets."

He was all praise for Rahane who made a gritty 89 in his comeback Test.

"Ajinkya is one of the top players in the world. He has scored runs in England Australia and South Africa. It did not seem that he was batting badly though he wasn't getting the runs (before being dropped). Even today he was using all his experience of batting in English conditions."

## Aggression is very important in my bowling: Siraj



PTI ■ LONDON

India pacer Mohammed Siraj believes aggression brings the best out of him, saying being aggressive on the ground is the recipe for his success.

Siraj has received a lot of international success since making his Test debut against Australia in 2020.

The Hyderabad pacer has been India's stand-out performer with the ball in the ongoing World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval, picking four wickets in the first innings.

"Aggression is very important in my bowling. Test cricket is based on aggression. It's not just about delivering simple ball and walking away without saying anything," Siraj said in a video posted by the ICC.

"When I bowl with aggression, I keep my body engaged. Unlike some other bowlers who bowl here and there with aggression, my bowling is precise."

"The more aggression I put into my game, the more success I achieve. I thoroughly enjoy playing with aggression," added Siraj, who is known for bowling hostile spells.

Just like any cricketer, Siraj considers Test cricket as the pinnacle of the game and rues the fact that his father could not watch him make his Test debut.

Siraj's father Mohammed Ghouse had died just a few weeks before the pacer made an impressive Test debut in Melbourne on December 26, 2020, picking up 5 for 77.

"That year was difficult for me personally because I lost my dad during that time. Afterward,

I wasn't sure if I would make my debut or not. However, I played my first match because (Mohammed) Shami bhai was injured. Then I got the opportunity to play in Melbourne," he said.

"At that time I used to think how proud my dad would have been if he was alive because he wanted me to make Test debut for India and play Test cricket. Playing Test cricket is a matter of immense respect and honour."

By his own admission, Siraj started playing the game for fun and leisure.

"Initially I used to play a lot of tennis-ball cricket. I never thought that I would become an Indian player. When I used to play tennis-ball cricket, I always used to give my 100 per cent," he said.

"Then gradually I started playing in the league, I held the seasoned ball for the first time. At that time I didn't know about outswing and inswing. Nonetheless, I took five wickets on my debut. From then on, I continued playing consistently and the my confidence grew."

"The idea of playing for India never crossed my mind but I kept enjoying the game. If I had thought playing for India, I wouldn't have been able to achieve it," Siraj said.

"I stuck to my plan and earned the opportunity to wear India cap. I am very proud of myself."

## Don't think it will affect my batting: Rahane on finger injury

PTI ■ LONDON

Battling a finger injury, India's saviour Ajinkya Rahane on Friday dispelled doubts about his involvement with the bat in his team's second innings of the World Test Championship final against Australia here.

Rahane, who made a memorable 89 in his comeback Test after 18 months, hoped that the finger injury he sustained on Thursday would not affect his batting in the second innings.

"Don't think it will affect (my) batting (in India's second innings)," Rahane told the broadcaster at the end of the third day's play.

Rahane faced 129 balls and struck 11 fours and a six during

his stay in the middle.

His 109-run partnership for the seventh wicket with Shardul Thakur (51 off 109) kept India in the game but Australia still managed to take a massive 173-run first-innings lead.

"Happy with the way I batted. Had a good today. We were looking to get 320-330 but overall we had a good day. Bowling wise we bowled well. Everyone chipped in."

Referring to Cameron Green's incredible catch to dismiss him, Rahane said, "That was a really good catch. We all know he's a really good fielder. Has a big reach."

He had no qualms in admitting that Australia have their nose ahead.



"Australia slightly ahead in the game. For us it's important to be in the moment, play ses-

sion by session. First one hour will be crucial tomorrow. We know funny things can happen.

Jadeja bowled really well, footmarks helped him against the left-hander. Still feel wicket will help seam bowlers," Rahane said.

Rahane was struck on his right hand's index finger off a Pat Cummins bouncer on the second day of the match. He immediately felt pain and called on the physio for treatment.

Thakur also said Rahane will "definitely bat" in the second innings.

"He (Rahane) got a bad blow on his finger. It does not look too bad, it is being assessed. He did not go out in the field as it would have been risky and he had already fractured the same finger previously. He will definitely bat."

## Shubman's wicket causes massive controversy

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian supporters, on Saturday, resorted to booing the Australian team, primarily Cameron Green after the giant all-rounder's diving catch to dismiss opener Shubman Gill looked inconclusive to the naked eye.

At the stroke of tea, Scott Boland got one to bounce little extra from length and it flew from ball the shoulder of Gill's blade only to be scooped up inches off the ground by a diving Green, stationed at gully. Gill scored 18 in an opening stand

of 41 and was looking in good rhythm.

As tea was called, a dejected Indian skipper Rohit Sharma was seen having a chat with on-field umpires while trudging back to pavilion.

It was the second time in the game that Green took a screamer after Ajinkya Rahane's catch in first innings. Although replays suggested that it was a close call as some camera angles suggested that the ball was touching the grass.

The soft signal, which was removed from the playing conditions ahead of the final, could

have gone in India's favour if the on-field umpires had signalled it not-out to the TV umpire. The final call was with TV umpire Richard Kettleborough, who adjudged it as a fair catch. Chants of 'cheat cheat cheat' were heard soon after and were repeated when Green came on to bowl.

Gill was batting well and his partnership with Rohit Sharma had started to look threatening. Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh, who is commenting on the game, felt the replays were inconclusive.



## Bazball strategy won't always work: Waugh

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia legend Steve Waugh has issued a stern warning to England ahead of the high-profile Ashes, saying their 'Bazball' strategy may backfire if they don't have a back-up plan to their win-at-all-costs approach.

England's 'Bazball' strategy under coach Brendon McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes have worked wonders, having won 11 out of 13 Test matches with the remodelled aggressive approach.

But former Australia skipper Waugh feels the move won't always work. "That is the big question mark over so-called Bazball. What is Plan B? Have they got a Plan B? If they haven't then they are going to be found out," Waugh was quoted as saying in cricket.Com.Au.

"They have shown they are good enough to carry this style

of cricket off but the ultimate test will be against a world-class bowling attack, which Australia has got," he said.

Stokes had called for flat and fast pitches for the marquee five-Test Ashes series beginning at Edgbaston on June 16.

"It is exciting but to me the jury is out at the moment. Does (Bazball) hold up under scrutiny against a really good bowling attack in maybe challenging conditions?," Waugh questioned.

Waugh, however, said he doesn't expect England to give up the fearless approach.

"There is no doubt it won't work all the time but I think with (coach Brendon) McCullum and (captain Ben) Stokes they will have the courage to go through with it," Waugh said.

"They can't chop and change. Have they got a back-up plan? I'm not sure. That might find them out."

## We knew Rahane could play innings like that: Starc

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc on Friday said Ajinkya Rahane showed how to bat on a seaming pitch as his 89 kept India in the hunt in the World Test Championship final here.

India are well behind in the game but if was not for Rahane's knock, they were staring at a follow on.

"He played really well. We know Jinks can play innings like that; we've seen it through series before. He came in at a tough time to bat and managed to, along with Thakur as well, to absorb some pressure there and build an innings and played really nicely," said Starc.

"So, it took a special catch to get him out and certainly that partnership was one that

sort of prolonged our bowling innings I guess but I think they both played pretty well."

"Jinx probably was a little bit more you know - waited for the bad ball and built his innings and then built a nice partnership. So, we know what a good player he is and he's done in the past and hopefully we can get him out early in the second innings."

The left arm pacer had dismissed Virat Kohli with a snorter on day two. With the pitch playing tricks, he felt he got lucky.

"From that far end I struggled to find some rhythm. I just went back to trying to run in and hit the wicket. I managed to find a bit of extra bounce and found the thumb. So, yeah, nice one to get," he said.

Starc added that it was a



good toss to lose for Australia.

"It (pitch) is certainly showing more signs of inconsistency as we go on obviously. It seems to be a good toss to lose. But yeah, I think obviously with the weather that we've had and the weather that's coming up, it might play some more tricks."

"I felt like we all, sort of our group, certainly felt like bowling from the far end we didn't quite have the same rhythm as we did from the pavilion. And so, I certainly felt like the other end was uphill into the wind and just playing a part in not being able to find that rhythm."

"So, bowling from the pavilion certainly felt a lot freer and we all felt a bit better today. Might just play a few more tricks as the game goes on," he added.



It's the choice. You have to wake up every day and say, "There's no reason today can't be the best day of my life."  
— Blake Lively



# A GRIM WAKE-UP CALL FOR RAILWAY SAFETY

The Balasore train tragedy highlights the urgent need for substantial improvements in critical aspects of railway safety, writes DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

The Balasore train tragedy, which unfolded on [Date], stands as a chilling testament to the critical importance of stringent safety measures within the railway industry. The tragedy underscores the need to explore the urgent lessons that must be heeded to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Train accidents have long been a cause for concern, representing a grave threat to human life and property. However, it is when such tragedies occur in serene towns like Balasore that their significance becomes all the more poignant. Nestled amidst picturesque landscapes and a close-knit community, Balasore was the epitome of tranquility—until that fateful day.

The incident sent shockwaves through the country, leaving behind a trail of devastation, anguish, and disbelief. Families were torn apart, dreams were shattered, and a sense of deep sorrow engulfed the nation. The Balasore train tragedy was a stark reminder that in an instant, lives can be irrevocably altered, leaving behind scars that may never fully heal.

The investigators are grappling to understand whether it was a case of human error or technical glitch. At first, it was speculated that the accident was primarily the result of human error, a tragic lapse in judgment that led to cataclysmic consequences. The train driver, regrettably, failed to observe a crucial signal, resulting in a collision with another train. The aftermath was horrific, with twisted metal, shattered windows, and the heart-wrenching cries of trapped passengers transforming the once serene landscape into a harrowing scene of destruction. Rescue efforts were launched immediately, but the magnitude of the disaster overwhelmed the town, its emergency services, and the surrounding communities.

However, as the inquiry unfolded, it became evident that the tragedy was not merely an isolated incident of human error. It served as a searing indictment of the underlying systemic issues that plague the railway infrastructure in the region. Balasore was not an isolated case—it represented a microcosm of the larger challenges faced by the Indian railway system as a whole.

Outdated tracks, inadequate signaling systems, and insufficient maintenance practices had long been prevalent challenges, neglected and left unaddressed. The Balasore train tragedy highlights the urgent need for immediate attention and substantial improvements in these critical aspects of railway safety. The incident exposed the vulnerabilities that exist within the system, where a single lapse in judgment can have far-reaching and devastating consequences.

The Balasore train tragedy serves as an unwelcome reminder that railway safety must never be taken for granted. It is a multifaceted issue that demands a comprehensive approach, encompassing both individual accountability and systemic changes to ensure the well-being and security of passengers.

To avert future catastrophes akin to the one that unfolded in Balasore, crucial lessons must be learned. Enhancing safety measures emerges as an imperative priority. Implementation of advanced signaling systems, investment in real-time monitoring technology, and unwavering adherence to stringent safety protocols can significantly mitigate the risk of human errors culminating in accidents.

Similarly, bolstering the railway infrastructure assumes paramount importance. Allocating adequate resources and funds for the modernization of tracks, bridges, and signaling equipment, along with regular inspections and meticulous maintenance practices, are essential to ensure the safety and reliability of operations.

The importance of comprehensive training programs and continuous skill development for railway personnel cannot be overstated. Drivers, signalmen, and maintenance staff must undergo rigorous training that emphasizes the strict adherence to safety guidelines, effective fatigue management protocols, and continuous workshops to enhance their competence and vigilance in executing their responsibilities related to train operations.

Furthermore, the Balasore train tragedy necessitates a strengthening of regulatory oversight to uphold safety standards rigorously. Independent audits, unwavering compliance with safety regulations, and unequivocal accountability for any negligence serve as indispensable pillars of a robust oversight mechanism.

Public awareness and education are crucial components in fostering a culture of railway safety. Engaging with the public, conducting safety campaigns, and instilling a sense of responsibility among passengers can contribute to a collective effort towards ensuring safer travel experiences. It is vital to cultivate a mindset where safety becomes a shared responsibility, where every stakeholder plays a role in maintaining and upholding high standards of railway safety.

The train tragedy serves as a tragic reminder of the paramount importance of railway safety. It unveils the deep-rooted systemic challenges that exist within the railway industry and calls for immediate action to rectify the existing shortcomings. By implementing the lessons learned,

“THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND CONTINUOUS SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR RAILWAY PERSONNEL CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. DRIVERS, SIGNALMEN, AND MAINTENANCE STAFF MUST UNDERGO RIGOROUS TRAINING THAT EMPHASIZES THE STRICT ADHERENCE TO SAFETY GUIDELINES, EFFECTIVE FATIGUE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS, AND CONTINUOUS WORKSHOPS TO ENHANCE THEIR COMPETENCE AND VIGILANCE IN EXECUTING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO TRAIN OPERATIONS”

## Five Deadliest Train Accidents in History

Train accidents have the potential to cause immense devastation, resulting in the loss of numerous lives and leaving a lasting impact on communities and nations. These incidents serve as grim reminders of the critical importance of robust safety measures within the railway industry. In this article, we will explore five of the deadliest train accidents in history, shedding light on the need for improved safety protocols, infrastructure maintenance, and enhanced training to prevent such catastrophic events.

### The Gare de Lyon Train Crash (France, 1988)

On October 27, 1988, a commuter train crashed into a stationary train at the Gare de Lyon terminal in Paris, France. The accident, caused by a braking system failure, led to a massive fire that rapidly spread through the station. Tragically, the incident claimed the lives of 56 people and injured more than 50 others. This disaster emphasized the importance of rigorous safety inspections, proper maintenance procedures, and emergency response protocols within train stations.

### The Balvano Train Disaster (Italy, 1944)

On March 2, 1944, during World War II, a train carrying hundreds of passengers stalled inside the Balvano Tunnel in southern Italy due to mechanical issues. With no ventilation and extreme cold temperatures, carbon monoxide poisoning claimed the lives of an estimated 426 passengers. This tragedy shed light on the need for adequate ventilation systems, regular equipment checks, and emergency protocols to ensure passenger safety, even in unforeseen circumstances.

### The Awash Train Derailment (Ethiopia, 1985)

On January 7, 1985, an overcrowded passenger train derailed near Awash, Ethiopia. The accident occurred when the train attempted to cross a bridge with weakened supports, causing several carriages to plunge into the river below. The derailment resulted in the loss of approximately 428 lives. This incident highlighted the importance of infrastructure maintenance, including regular inspections and timely repairs, to prevent catastrophic accidents.

investing in infrastructure, enhancing safety measures, and fostering a culture of accountability, the railway system can strive towards a safer and more secure future for all passengers. The tragedy in Balasore should not be forgotten but should serve as a catalyst for change, motivating stakeholders to work collectively towards a comprehensive transformation of railway safety practices, ensuring that such a devastating event never occurs again.

CBI PROBE— However, instead of uniting in the pursuit of justice and improved safety measures, the tragedy has become entangled in a web of political controversy surrounding the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). This unfortunate politicization of the Odisha train tragedy has taken the focus away from desperately needed reforms in India's railway system.

One of the major points of contention was the demand for a CBI

probe into the accident. While some BJP leaders called for a thorough and impartial investigation by the CBI, others alleged political motives behind the request, accusing their opponents of trying to gain political mileage from the tragedy.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee opposed the CBI probe in the Balasore tragedy, calling it "unnecessary" and "unwarranted."

In a press statement, Banerjee stated, "While the Balasore tragedy is undoubtedly a tragic event, I firmly believe that a CBI probe is unnecessary and unwarranted. We have capable state agencies to investigate the matter thoroughly and bring the perpetrators to justice. It is crucial for us to maintain the integrity and sovereignty of our state institutions."

The opposition suspects that the CBI may be influenced to make it look like a case of sabotage to absolve the Modi government of any blame for the accident.

The constant bickering and blame game between political parties created an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion, undermining the credibility of the investigation and potentially delaying justice for the victims and their families.

The repercussions of this political posturing are far-reaching. While politicians engage in finger-pointing and rhetoric, the essential issues remain unresolved. The critical safety reforms required in India's railway system, such as upgrading outdated infrastructure, improving signaling systems, enhancing training programs for railway personnel, and strengthening regulatory oversight, are pushed to the back burner.

The victims and their families, who should be at the forefront of the discourse, find themselves sidelined in the political spectacle. Their anguish, grief, and demand for justice are overshadowed by political grandstanding. The tragedy that unfolded in Odisha deserves a comprehensive and unbiased investigation, devoid of any political influence, to ensure justice and provide closure to the affected families.

It is crucial to separate the investigation process from political maneuvering and prioritize the implementation of safety reforms. The Odisha train tragedy serves as a painful reminder that the focus must remain on preventing such incidents in the future rather than scoring political points in the present. By prioritizing safety over politics, the government can demonstrate its commitment to the welfare of its citizens and work towards building a robust and secure railway infrastructure.

(The writer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)



# LF: A POOR MAN'S DISEASE

In this concluding part, doctors from AIIMS Delhi's Dept of Surgical Disciplines tell ARCHANA JYOTI that Lymphedema, a build up of lymph fluid that causes swelling in a part of the body is not only due to cancer or cancer treatment. It can be also due to filarial parasites which is transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. The infection is usually acquired in childhood with painful and disfiguring visible manifestations appearing much later in life, often in the form of enlargement of body parts causing pain, severe disability, and associated stigma



DR DEVENDER SINGH



DR JYOTI SHARMA



LYMPH NODE WITH FILARIA WORMS



DR YASHWANT SINGH RATHORE



DR. RAVI

## WHAT IS FILARIASIS?

Filariasis is a vector borne disease caused by small parasites which enters the body through a mosquito bite and reside in the lymphatic system or the subcutaneous tissues. Lymphatic filariasis impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to the abnormal enlargement of body parts like the arms, legs, and genitals. Acute infection may present as fever, redness and swelling of the affected limb or genitals, presence of painful red streaks over the limb, swollen and painful lymph nodes. Skin infections of the affected region are common. Repeated attacks result in severe swelling of the lower limbs and/or genitals with thickened 'elephant-like' skin, i.e. 'elephantiasis'. This may cause long term disability and disfigurement to the patient. In some cases, it

can also affect the eyes and cause problems with vision. The treatment consists of medical therapy with Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) or Ivermectin, which kill these parasitic worms and alleviate the symptoms. Preventive measures mainly rely on mosquito control and protection from mosquito bites. Strategies include using mosquito repellents, wearing protective clothing, sleeping under mosquito nets and environmental measures to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. It is one of the most debilitating diseases. Four States (UP, Odisha, Telangana, and Bihar) account for more than 60% Lymphedema cases, while four States (Odisha, Jharkhand, UP and Bihar), account for over 80% Hydrocele cases.

## CONTRIBUTION OF FILARIASIS TO LYMPHEDEMA

Earliest structural change in filarial infection is blockage of lymphatic channels by the nests of adult worms residing in lymphatic channels. Once this lymphatic damage progresses, stasis of lymph tends to occur in the dilated vessels due to incompetence of the unidirectional valves in them. Stagnation of lymph encourages growth of bacteria invading the region. Any interference with the skin integrity of the affected region like injuries, fungal or bacterial infections, fissuring of the skin, favour entry of pathogenic bacteria [mainly streptococci] into the tissues and are responsible for the acute attacks of dermato-lymphangio-adenitis commonly

seen in filarial limbs. Lymphedema of extremities is a common chronic manifestation of filariasis, which on progression results in elephantiasis. Usually the lower limbs are involved, upper limbs, male genitalia and rarely breasts in the females may also be affected. Affected parts get swollen. In advanced stages of lymphedema, the skin is thickened and thrown into folds, often with hypertrichosis, black pigmentation, nodules, warty growth, intertrigo in the webs of toes or chronic non-healing ulcers. Fungal infections in the interdigital region and in deep folds are a common finding in advanced lymphedema.

## INVESTIGATIONS IN FILARIA AND LYMPHEDEMA

The diagnosis of filariasis, a parasitic disease caused by worms, involves different methods to find evidence of the worms or their substances in the body. Clinical examinations to look for signs like swelling, enlarged body parts (like limbs or genitals), or other symptoms that suggest filarial infection. After that a blood smear examination is done and a small amount of blood is taken, usually at night when the worms are more likely to be in the blood. The blood is looked at under a microscope to check for the presence of young worms called microfilariae. Apart from this, antigen detection tests to look for specific substances produced by the



DR GAGAN SONI



DR KAMAL KATARIA

indicate whether the person has been infected in the past or currently. The choice of which test to use depends on factors like the stage of infection, the type of worm involved, and available resources. Sometimes, a combination of tests may be needed to get an accurate diagnosis. Whereas, the diagnosis of lymphedema, a condition characterized by swelling due to impaired lymphatic drainage, involves a few key steps. It's important to note that there is no definitive test for diagnosing lymphedema. The diagnosis is primarily based on the clinical assessment, medical history, and exclusion of other possible causes of swelling.

worms in the patient's blood or urine. It can be done using a dipstick or card test, similar to a pregnancy test. It can also be done via the nucleic acid amplification by polymerase chain reaction. This method amplifies and detects the genetic mate-

rial (DNA or RNA) of the worms in the blood sample. It can identify different types of filarial worms and is very accurate. Diagnosis can also be made by antibodies produced by the patient's immune system in response to the filarial infection. It can



## INDICATIONS OF SURGERY

The mainstay of treatment for filariasis is medical therapy. However, surgery may be required in advanced stages to manage the complications or improve the quality of life, says Dr Jyoti Sharma. Some of the common indications are, severe swelling of the limbs (Advanced lymphedema); Surgery is offered to patients in whom the severe swelling causes difficulty in walking or performing daily activities. It is however secondary to conservative management that includes compression therapy and physiotherapy exercises. Also, fluid accumulation around the testicles (Hydrocele): Surgery is offered to patients with discomfort or complications due to hydrocele. Repeated infections is another indication due to the presence of excess skin and multiple folds, these patients are prone to repeated skin infections leading to redness, pain, fever and development of abscess (pus) in the affected limb. Surgery helps to remove excess skin; however, it is generally kept as a last resort.

## TREATMENT



DR RICHA GARG

Dr Devender Singh and Dr Richa Garg say that a multipronged approach is needed that focuses on preventing further transmission of the disease and alleviating the symptoms in infected individuals. Here is an overview of the treatment methods used: Medications: There are several medications available to treat filariasis. Diethylcarbamazine (DEC), Ivermectin and albendazole are commonly used. These medications work by killing the adult worms or preventing their reproduction. They are usually taken in combination for a prolonged period of time, often years, to ensure that all the worms are eliminated from the body. Vector control: Since filarial worms are transmitted through mosquito bites, controlling the mosquito population is crucial in preventing the spread of the disease. This can be done by using insecticide-treated bed nets, applying insect repellents, and eliminating mosquito breed-

ing sites, such as stagnant water. Surgery: In cases where the disease has caused severe swelling and deformities, surgical intervention may be necessary. Lymphatico-venous anastomosis and lymph node transfer and debulking procedures are available which can help to reduce the size of the affected body parts and improve mobility and quality of life for individuals with advanced stages of the disease. Hygiene: Good hygiene practices are essential in managing filariasis. This includes regularly washing and keeping the affected areas clean to prevent secondary infections. Affected individuals should also elevate their limbs whenever possible to reduce swelling and avoid prolonged standing or sitting. Compression stockings: These specialized stockings apply pressure to the affected limb, reducing swelling and improving lymphatic flow. Health education and community involvement: Raising awareness about filariasis and its transmission methods is crucial in preventing new infections. Community participation in mosquito control programs and early detection and treatment of the disease can significantly reduce its prevalence. It's important to note that filariasis is a complex disease, and treatment may vary depending on the stage and severity of the infection. Overall, a comprehensive approach that combines medication, vector control, hygiene practices, surgery when needed, and community involvement is essential for the effective prevention of the disease.

## DRUGS FOR FILARIASIS

The drug treatment for filariasis involves the use of medications to kill the worms causing the infection.

1. **Diethylcarbamazine (DEC):** This drug is effective against both microfilaria and adult worms. The typical dose is 6mg/kg given for 14 days.

2. **Ivermectin:** Ivermectin is another medication used to treat filariasis, often given in combination with DEC. This drug acts directly on the microfilaria and is used

in single doses of 200 to 400ugm/ kg. The dosage varies depending on the person's weight and the specific treatment protocol. Typically, a single dose of ivermectin is given, and it may be repeated annually. Ivermectin was popularised during the COVID-19 pandemic for its treatment initially. But its usefulness was questioned later.

3. **Albendazole:** This anthelmintic drug is shown to destroy the adult

filarial worms when given in doses of 400 mg twice daily for two weeks. When given in a single dose of 400 mg in combination with DEC or ivermectin, the destruction of microfilaria by these drugs becomes more pronounced. Albendazole is often used in combination with DEC or ivermectin for the treatment of filarial infections. The recommended dosage is usually a single tablet taken once

a day, along with the other medications. It's important to note that the exact dosages and treatment regimens may differ based on the type of filarial worm involved, the stage of infection, and other individual factors. It's crucial to complete the full course of medication as prescribed, even if the patient starts feeling better. This ensures that all the worms are effectively eliminated and reduces the risk of the infection returning.



India is committed to eliminate LF by 2027 three years ahead of the global target through mission mode through the five-pronged roadmap that includes early diagnosis/ treatment, engagement of medical colleges for strengthening morbidity management/ disability services, integrated vector control with multi-sectoral coordinated efforts, leveraging existing digital platforms for LF and exploring alternate diagnostics. —Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

## FILARIASIS PATHWAYS

A patient with long term filariasis can go ahead and develop certain conditions which can be mild to severe in nature. The skin in patients with filariasis can be hard in consistency due to chronic lymphatic obstruction. There is constant hardening of skin and swelling of the tissue underneath the skin can lead to accumulation of microbes in the finger webs, which is why we always ask patients with filariasis to maintain thorough skin hygiene. Filariasis can also lead to certain occult conditions meaning they are not very evident. The conditions are described below.



DR CATHERINE HALAM



DR ANKITA SINGH TIWARI

It can also lead to tropical pulmonary eosinophilia. The daughter worms (microfilariae) get trapped in the lungs. Our body has an inbuilt mechanism to any type of foreign

body. So, when the daughter filariae gets trapped in lungs, the lungs produce reactions, and it becomes hyper responsive. In this process, the individual starts having wheezes,

fever, and on blood tests there are raised eosinophilic counts (a component of blood). There can be involvement of joints in the form of filarial arthritis. Arthritis means inflammation of bony joints in the body. In this, the joints get swollen and painful due to filariasis. It is seen to be more common in children than adults. It can also cause a kidney reaction and the patient's urine output is decreased. Filariasis is known to affect both legs, also arms, but they may involve genitalia and breast too. In ladies, there can be breast abscess and in gents there can be swelling of private parts.

## ROLE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGIST IN MANAGEMENT OF LYMPHEDEMA

Patients coming for lymphoedema surgery undergo a pre-anesthetic check-up before surgery where thorough general and physical examination is done, investigations checked and instructions for fasting given. Also, patients are asked to quit smoking and avoid taking aspirin or herbal medications before surgery. When patients are taken to the operation theatre, venous cannulation and attaching blood pressure cuffs in the affected limb are avoided.

Regional anesthesia like spinal or epidural anesthesia is given in surgeries involving lymphoedema of lower limbs where a drug is injected into the back through a needle to numb the lower limbs and the patient is awake and pain free during surgery. Many patients prefer general anesthesia technique where patients are put to sleep throughout the surgery using drugs injected into the vein or inhaling some drug through mask and pain relief during and post-



DR SUSHMITA BAIRAGI

surgery is done using opioids and NSAIDs. Some surgeries require local anesthesia where injections given directly in surgical site to numb the pain which is accompanied with minimal sedation.

## NATIONAL FILARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

ancillary personnel; reduction of the problem in un-surveyed areas; control in urban areas through recurrent anti-larval and anti-parasitic measures; Intensive monitoring at block level to be focused upon along with daily analyses of coverage and monitoring reports at all governance levels. The strategies include vector control through anti-larval spray/application at weekly intervals with appropriate larvicides, biological

control through larvivorous fishes, environmental engineering through source reduction and water management and anti-parasitic measures through diagnosis and treatment of microfilaria carriers and cases. Single dose mass preventive dose of diethylcarbamazine once a year has been one of the strategies for its control. The anti-mosquito and anti-larval measures include one or two rounds of residual insecticide



DR PUNEETH THALASTA

spray with DDT in areas which are known to be endemic for filariasis. Anti-larval measures with temephos in prescribed dosage in water storage tanks every week and application of Mineral Larvicidal oils on water surface are advised.



DR GEETA PRASAD

As the Government aims to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target, much hope is on the National Filaria Control Programme. It has five-pronged objectives including training of professional and



# Anti-BJP Opp front faces interneccine challenges

The recent Karnataka Assembly election results have proved to be a shot in the arm for the Congress, which has been starved of power at the Centre for the past nine years. The party, elated by its success, is now hoping to replicate the Karnataka victory in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Besides, the Congress's Karnataka message that the BJP, which has ruled the country for the past nine years, has lost its supposed invincibility, has inspired all regional parties to take the initiative to cobble together a front that can serve as an antidote to the BJP in the 2024 parliamentary elections.

However, knitting together a viable Opposition front appears to be no easy task. Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (U) supremo Nitish Kumar has initiated efforts to bring together all Opposition leaders under one umbrella to discuss and formulate plans for a strong Opposition front against the BJP. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool Congress), Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (Bharat Rashtra Samiti), and other non-BJP Chief Ministers such as Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan (CPM), Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin (DMK), and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (Congress), all seem interested in challenging the ruling BJP and making their common foe, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to use the Shakespearean lingo, feel that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." (King Henry IV- Part 2).

Originally scheduled for June 12, 2023, in Patna, Nitish Kumar's planned meeting has been postponed. He insists that the leaders of Opposition parties themselves, not their representatives, must attend the Opposition roadshow and wants to involve the Congress as the main actor in the planned extravaganza. However, with Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi currently abroad, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wants the meeting to be postponed, and thus June 23 has been set as the new date for the event.

Meanwhile, on June 7, 2023, former Chief Minister of



Jammu & Kashmir and president of the National Conference Farooq Abdullah met with former Prime Minister and JD(S) president Deve Gowda in Bangalore. This meeting has sparked speculation about a possible Opposition front. However, Abdullah has stated that the meeting did not hold any political significance.

The efforts to build a forceful and viable Opposition front face challenges. Currently, Opposition leaders are divided on the question of leadership within the proposed front. Leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Chandrasekhar Rao view the proposal that projects the Congress as the shepherd of the flock with skepticism. Additionally, in some States, the Congress is in Opposition to the ruling parties that have aligned with the anti-Modi camp. For example, in Kerala, it is the Congress versus the CPM; in West Bengal, it is

Trinamool Congress versus Congress versus CPM; and in Tripura, it is the CPM versus the Congress.

The Congress is clearly a rival for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YSR Jagan Mohan Reddy. The YSR Congress, led by Jagan Mohan Reddy, and the TDP, led by Chandrababu Naidu, though at odds with each other, both support the BJP, ruling out their participation in the anti-BJP movements.

Sharad Pawar, once a dissident leader in the Congress who established his own Nationalist Congress Party in 1999, has expressed his support for the efforts to galvanise Opposition against the BJP. However, he has not yet revealed his specific plans.

Parties like Apna Dal (S) in Uttar Pradesh, the Akali Dal in Punjab, and the AIADMK cannot be expected to rally behind the leaders attempting to build a strong Opposition, as they

have aligned themselves with the BJP. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, being non-committal on the matter, may not join the anti-BJP bandwagon.

Thus, the unity of non-BJP leaders seems uncertain. It is said that a few leaders are considering the idea of an Opposition front without the Congress. Nonetheless, it all feels like a repetition of the various anti-establishment initiatives taken in the years leading up to the new millennium. A sense of déjà vu hangs over the current political environment.

Looking back to the early 1970s, the vociferous slogan of 'India is India and India is India' symbolised the narrative of Congress invincibility and the 'TINA' (There Is No Alternative) factor. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, following the Machiavellian political theory ('The Prince'), knew when to be ruthless and when to be accommodating, depending on the circumstances. In

the 1950s, the all-powerful Congress ensured that no other party emerged as a challenge and cracked down on parties such as the Communist Party of India, PSP-SSP (Socialist), and Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.

However, despite Congress's dominance, some Opposition parties started gaining strength, reminiscent of the story of David and Goliath. In the 1970s, the Nava Nirman movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan and JB Kripalani laid its foundation, eventually bringing together all those opposed to Indira Gandhi, including Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram, Charan Singh, Vajpayee, Advani, Madhu Dandavate, George Fernandes, Raj Narain, and others. This hodgepodge of parties, including Congress (O), Socialist Party of India, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, and Lok Dal, formed an amalgam called the Janata Party, which swept

the supposedly invincible Congress out of power in 1977. The DMK and the CPM supported the coalition.

The catalysts for their success were the infamous Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975 and her aggressive persecution of all Opposition leaders.

However, differences emerged within the Janata Party, particularly between the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (the predecessor of the present-day BJP) and other factions, leading to the party's decline and the Congress, led by Indira Gandhi, regaining power in the 1980 general elections.

Subsequently, the monolithic Congress rule continued until 1989 when the National Front (NF) was formed as an alternative to the Congress. The NF, led by a coalition of parties, including the Janata Dal with NT Ramarao (Telugu Desam) as the president and VP Singh as the convener and

Prime Minister, aimed to challenge the Congress's hegemony. Chandra Shekhar (Janata Dal president) succeeded VP Singh as Prime Minister. Regional parties such as the DMK in Tamil Nadu, NTR's TDP in the then composite Andhra Pradesh, and the Asom Gana Parishad in Assam represented the NF, while the Left parties supported it.

Later, the United Front (1996-98) emerged as a significant anti-ruling party movement, bringing together parties such as Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, DMK, TDP, AGP, Left Front, and TMC, among others. This 13-party coalition installed HD Deve Gowda (Janata Dal S) as the Prime Minister, followed by I.K. Gujral.

Although the BJP became the single largest party in the 1996 general elections, it could not secure the majority to sustain its government, which lasted only 13 days. As a result, the United Front, a coalition of several parties, took power, but its regime collapsed in 1998.

The BJP, which had only two MPs in 1984, has since grown by leaps and bounds and now boasts 303 MPs. It first came to power in 1999 but lost its status as the ruling party to the Congress in 2004. The NDA, led by the BJP, had to wait for a decade to regain power in 2014. Consequently, the Congress has been out of power for nearly a decade.

Now, as the Congress looks to regain power in 2024, similar to its return to the throne in 2004 after eight years of defeat, the outcome depends on the discussions among opposition parties, primarily regional ones. Will the anti-BJP front be led by the Congress or exclude it? Democracy requires at least two equally powerful parties for its survival. As the famous American comedian Bob Hope once said, "No one party can fool all of the people all of the time; that's why we have two parties."

In conclusion, the current political landscape in India can be likened to the conflict between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines in medieval Italy, with the BJP and the Congress being the main rivals.

(The writer is an advocate, political activist and the editor of Kathaisoli)

**Opposition leaders are divided on the question of leadership of the proposed front. Leaders like Mamata Banerjee and KCR view the proposal that projects the Congress as the shepherd of the flock with skepticism. Additionally, in some States, the Congress is in Opposition to the ruling parties that have aligned with the anti-Modi camp. For example, in Kerala, it is Congress versus CPM; in West Bengal, it is TMC versus Congress versus CPM; and in Tripura, it is the CPM versus the Congress**



KS RADHAKRISHNAN

## PERSPECTIVE

# Nuclear secrets: Trump indictment takeaways

The federal indictment against Donald Trump accuses the former president of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Florida estate after leaving the White House in 2021, and then scheming and lying to thwart government efforts to recover them.

Justice Department prosecutors brought 37 felony counts against Trump in the indictment, relying upon photographs from Mar-a-Lago, surveillance video, text messages between staffers, Trump's own words, those of his lawyers, and other evidence.

An aide to Trump, Walt Nauta, was charged as a co-conspirator with six felony counts.

Trump says he is innocent and has decried the criminal case — the second indictment against him in a matter of months — as an attempt by his political opponents to hinder his 2024 campaign. He is expected to make his first court appearance on Tuesday in Miami.

Here are key takeaways from the indictment unsealed Friday:

### What are the charges?

Trump faces 37 felony counts, including 31 counts of willful retention of national defense information under the Espionage Act. Other charges include: conspiracy to obstruct justice; corruptly concealing a document or record; concealing a document in a federal investigation; and making false statements.

Each of the willful retention counts pertains to a specific classi-

fied document found at Mar-a-Lago marked "SECRET" or "TOP SECRET." Topics addressed in the documents include details about US nuclear weapons, the nuclear capabilities of a foreign country and the military activities or capabilities of other countries.

The conspiracy charges deal with Trump's alleged attempts to hide documents from his lawyer or federal investigators. The false statement charges stem from Trump causing his lawyer to tell the FBI that no more classified documents were at Mar-a-Lago but then the FBI later found more than 100 documents during an August 2022 search.

The most serious charges carry potential prison sentences of up to 20 years each. But judges have discretion and, if convicted, first-time offenders rarely get anywhere near the maximum sentence. Being a former president would also likely be a major consideration in any sentencing.

What is the alleged conspiracy to obstruct justice?

The indictment accuses Trump and Nauta of conspiring to hide the secret documents from the grand jury, which in May 2022 issued a subpoena for him to turn them over. The conspiracy allegation included a suggestion from Trump that his lawyer falsely tell investigators that the former president didn't have any more classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. It also involved moving boxes to hide the secret documents from Trump's lawyer, and suggesting that Trump's



lawyer hide or destroy documents that investigators were seeking.

The indictment says that, at Trump's direction, Nauta moved about 64 boxes of documents from a Mar-a-Lago storage room to the former president's residence in May 2022. He then returned "approximately 30 boxes" to the storage room on June 2 — the same day

Trump's legal team came to examine the boxes and search for classified documents to return to the government, the indictment says.

Nauta had a brief phone call with Trump before returning those boxes, the indictment says. Neither Trump nor Nauta told the former president's lawyers that Nauta had moved any of the storage room con-

tents, the indictment says.

### Is Trump accused of sharing classified information?

The indictment alleges that Trump showed classified documents to people who didn't have security clearances on two occasions.

The court papers detail a meet-

ing Trump had in July 2021 with a writer and publisher about an upcoming book. Trump told the pair "look what I found" and showed them what he described as a senior military official's "plan of attack," according to an audio recording of that conversation obtained by investigators.

Trump acknowledged during that meeting that the document was "highly confidential" and "secret information," the indictment says. He also says that he could have declassified the document if he was still president.

"Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret," he said, according to the indictment.

A few months later, Trump showed a representative of his political action committee a classified map of a foreign country while discussing a military operation in the country that was not going well, the indictment says. Trump acknowledged that he shouldn't be showing the map to the person and told him not to get too close, prosecutors allege.

### What evidence do prosecutors have?

In addition to the audio recording, prosecutors also relied upon text messages between Trump employees, photos of boxes of documents stored in various rooms throughout Mar-a-Lago and details about conversations between Trump and his lawyers that were memorialized by one of them.

In one conversation with his

lawyers, Trump said, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes." Trump also asked one of his lawyers if it would be better "if we just told them we don't have anything here," the indictment says.

Photographs in the indictment show boxes stacked on a stage in a ballroom as well as in a bathroom. Another shows boxes that spilled over in a storage room, including a document marked "SECRET/REL TO USA, FVEY," which means information releasable only to members of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

### Where will the case be heard?

While Trump's first court appearance on Tuesday is expected to be in front of a magistrate judge in Miami, the case was filed in West Palm Beach — about 70 miles to the north. The case was assigned to Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, who issued rulings favourable to him last year and expressed repeated skepticism of Justice Department positions.

Cannon was broadly criticised last year for granting the Trump legal team's request for a special master to conduct an independent review of the hundreds of classified documents seized from his Florida property last year. The move, which temporarily halted core aspects of the Justice Department's investigative work, was overturned months later by a three-judge panel of a federal appeals court.



I WAS BORN DURING AN ECLIPSE. I BELIEVE VERY MUCH IN ASTROLOGY. IF YOU WERE BORN ON AN ECLIPSE IT INDICATES YOUR DESTINY IS CHAOTIC —GLORIA VANDERBILT



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week is all about finance, money, and business. You are the monarch of the kingdom, and you make smart and remarkable judgements that will benefit you; there is also financial gain from property. All your hard work has paid off. There will be more opportunities in the future. New offers with enticing packages will appear out of nowhere. You believe in the power of face-to-face conversation and connection. But this is all done through technological devices since you are too busy to meet people. Spiritual activities will also be prioritised towards the end of the week. You will be interested in charity work and assisting the underprivileged. During this time, money transactions should be handled with caution.

**Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour** Saffron  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You are confident and radiant the first two days of the week. Any task or assignment you completed last week appears to be taking shape and expanding in the proper way. Encouragement and support from your spouse or family will help you. The partnership business will be successful. Be wary of your enemies in the middle of the week. There may be alterations to your programme that you have agreed upon with your family members. Other pressing matters will keep you occupied and demand your attention. Your health and money require your care. Visit the doctor and receive a medical check-up. Overspending must be controlled; otherwise, there is a risk of a financial disaster in the future.

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You are generous and compassionate, and you spend money on spiritual activities. You are also interested in charity and donations. You might require funds for your children's higher education. There are also other family difficulties that require your attention. This is the moment to discover the importance of life balance. A system, discipline, and careful planning will only help you fulfil your tasks. Any legal issues may result in a final decision that is favourable to you. There will be some joyful moments towards the end of the week. Good messages that you have been waiting for a long time are on the card. During this time, there is a change in place, a transfer to another location, and a change in your office or cabin. In your social group, you must project the image of a diligent worker.

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Your work progress appears to be sluggish. Any project you've begun, any business you've launched, but it's not producing results yet. So, the main idea of the week is to wait patiently. More effort just seems like a farmer sowing the seeds, nurturing the plant, and waiting for the produce to be cut. Sudden changes are expected in the middle of the week. Money will be obtained from other sources. There will be monetary advantages. Some of you may have to travel because of your job. Posting in a desired location is on the cards. By the end of the week, you will become too creative and dreamy. This is not how your ambitions will be realised in the real world. Your family members will guide you in the appropriate direction.

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you must use your intelligence to reach the final stage of an issue that is critical and can affect the trajectory of your life. This may be a domestic issue, or something linked to your profession. Some of you may be given a job or a new assignment with decent pay. You require healing or medical assistance in the middle of the week. You feel better and live a better life after receiving first aid. But by the end of the week, you're feeling exhausted. Something might cause you harm. You will take it to heart. If there is friction in the family, your reasoning and arguments could worsen it. It is time to put all your problems aside and rest to refresh yourself.

**Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

The week begins with a celebration, such as a marriage ceremony or a promotion party, following the successful completion of work. There will be joyful times spent with family and friends. You are entrepreneurial and determined in the middle of the week. This power will inspire you to work hard and concentrate on your tasks. There will be difficulties, but you will confront them with wisdom. A pilgrimage to a Goddess shrine is planned. That will provide you with mental calm and eliminate your life's confusion. Money saved is money earned, which is the primary focus of the week. You may be experiencing financial difficulties at this time. You were not spending money wisely, and now you are in a crisis. You might borrow money from a friend or family member. It's time to go through your money and create a budget.

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week will bring about a lot of changes. Your children will bring you delight, and you will be in good health. New work possibilities, startups, and new sources of revenue will emerge. There might be a positive message from abroad. An auspicious ceremony will be held at home. There will be a shift in the situation by midweek, and you may feel that some adjustments are needed in your life. It might be your job, food, or lifestyle. This shift will plant the seeds for a better future. Your money and health should be reviewed. The most critical problems at the end of the week will be any taxes that must be paid, money that must be returned, and health care. You may also donate money to charity.

**Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour** Maroon  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Some evil eyes are on you. Be careful, truthful, and just. Any unpleasant or undesirable aspect may cause you stress. You might be the victim of a conspiracy or scheme that will damage you. Some form of covert relationship, bribe, or greed may place you in a difficult situation. Your ideas and views will change by midweek. There will be remarkable improvements in your life, and you will feel more organised and disciplined. You look after others. Concern will be expressed for siblings and family friends. Most significantly, children will play a vital role in your life. At the end of the week, a spiritual journey or spiritual awakening will give you the strength and willpower to tackle life's obstacles.

**Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Friday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

The week begins with conflict. You are well on your way to accomplishing your project or task. Any obstacle or barrier you encountered may have frustrated you, and there may be times when you want to abandon your endeavour. But an inner power will lift you up; you will feel like a warrior and will be ready to confront the issue once more. You will be successful and satisfied this time. Positive vibrations will be felt in all aspects of life, including financial gain, domestic bliss, children's excellent proficiency, and financial stability. You will be inventive and zealous, making your week exciting. You want to enjoy and arrange a pleasure trip. There is also a spiritual awakening at the end of the week.

**Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour** Blue  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

You feel lucky and blessed since the week ahead offers a lot of pleasant things. Mutual understanding and a strong connection will be felt at the start of the week. There is also spiritual enlightenment, and you have dedicated your time to achieving your spiritual objectives. Some unpleasant thoughts may come into your head by mid-week, and some wild urges may arouse and land you in danger. But heavenly messages will keep you in check. A lot of innovation is planned for the end of the week. There are several benefits, both financial and emotional. Business operations will accelerate, revenue inflows will grow, and luxuries and happiness through children are on the agenda. This week may also see a child's birth or conception.

**Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Monday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You're too focused on your goals to see the possibilities that are coming your way. This week, you are an introvert and a self-centred person. Loneliness and solitude will entice you more, yet you will remember to communicate with others when in this mood. Midweek, you will be creative and may meet an influential individual who will assist you with your money difficulties. There will be money and a decent financial situation, and you want to enjoy life in all aspects. Property deals are feasible towards the end of the week. Make friendly connections with your in-laws and parents; children want your attention as well. For those who live far away, a brief trip to your hometown may be in order. There could be some talk about domestic difficulties that will be beneficial to you.

**Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Investing too much money in any enterprise can make you nervous. There are no results. You can't sleep because of your worries and fears. This is a time of mental chaos. But you are blessed in the middle of the week, and God rains his blessings on you. You are kind, giving, and philanthropic during this period of great financial wealth. The week is advantageous for working women. They are strong enough to carry out their obligations on all fronts. They are loving, compassionate, and financially powerful, or there is a female influence in your life that may be beneficial to you. Respect your mother, wife, and elder sister, since you will need their blessing to advance in life; pay them a visit if you are away. A journey or excursion is on the agenda.

**Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Thursday

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Awareness levels of mind



The laws of Karma – life driven by cause-effect chain – implies that existence as such needs to be seen in continuation. It means that memory impressions from the past birth will influence the ongoing course of life. In this scheme of things, the going at this moment is the culmination of doing and undoing in the past. And seeded in the doings at this moment, is the way future is likely to unfold. All through the run of life, what we come across, small or big, good, or bad, their impressions make their presence in our memory bank. These imprints have future ramifications in terms of mind's working. In apparent terms, most of the memory impressions from the past may not be directly accessible, but they continue to have their bearing on mind's functionalities.

It is again pertinent to recall here that the singular 'fundamental element of consciousness' commonly available to one and all, grants us with the 'power of knowing'. But to what extent the 'consciousness element' manifests on a being, or how much one would avail of in applied sense, would vary

from person-to-person, according as each mind is inherently framed. And this depends on how much evolved or clouded the individual mind is. That is subject to how much one would have strived to rise above the limitations of mind in the past. Accordingly, one's awareness level would vary.

It is thus obvious that it is the premise laid down in the past on which our life as on date stands, especially in terms of level of awareness. And to chart out how our sense of awareness plays out in real terms, Indian philosophy has identified primarily four operational layers of mind - conscious, subconscious, unconscious, and super-conscious. Contextually, they are also termed as the levels of awareness.

Conscious mind is literally ego-consciousness, which works from the front. It is aware of what is happening now – outside or inside. It communicates with the outer world as also one's inner self. The way it wills and directs, is where you get focused. Conscious mind is comparable to waking state of experience.

The subconscious relates to subtle

level of mind, which primarily draws its succour from impressions of immediate past and the persistent desires. This state is comparable to dream state of experience. Like dreams, during this state too, though not operating in visible terms, inlaid impressions keep churning within the mind. It, however,

remains the prerogative of the conscious mind, whether to translate the callings of subconscious into action on visible plane, or leave them aside. So, the subconscious obeys the conscious. Sub-conscious also contains such impressions as would be needed for quick recall to one's asking, like some-

one's telephone number. It does also carry such impressions that hold the key to spontaneously carry on many routine functions as a reflex action. It is something like somebody driving a car shuffling his foot spontaneously on the accelerator, break, clutch, and navigating the car, while the mind may be simultaneously engaged in some other thoughts.

The Unconscious state is a still deeper layer than the sub-conscious, and ordinarily not accessible by the conscious. The impressions laid down there, however, often influence our mind-trends. Many of instinctive acts on our part, having no scope for having learnt any way during the present time, such as an infant child instinctively being drawn to mother's breast for feed, fall under this category. Or for that matter eye lid sensing fear instinctively closes. One would have had those experiences in previous birth, the impressions of which are in store at the unconscious level that come into play as and when occasion arises.

Through a continued course of learning and unlearning, when a being

rises above the sense of relative perception, the Super-Conscious stage is arrived at. Having gained this status, one would be in tune with the 'true seer' – the consciousness element. Obviously then, the wholesome and omniscient 'light principle' intrinsic to consciousness element lead us through. One may then know no limits. Standing on this plane of consciousness, one becomes aware of even the ideal on which the phenomenal world is premised, where after one realises unity underlying all diverse existences. The sense of duality and thereby divide, then gets resolved for once and for ever. A pure uncorrupted and un-fluttering mind comes into play with its wholesome power and would thereby know no limits. Modern psychology, however, acknowledges only three operational layers of mind. The super-conscious state doesn't seem to be in their reckoning.

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