OPINION 6

ENGAGE CHILDREN IN

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE MARGINALLY

HIGHER IN RANGE-BOUND TRADE

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NOVAK BACK TO

NUMBER 1 IN ATP RANKINGS

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

WORLD 8

UKRAINE 'RECAPTURES'

FOURTH VILLAGE

CAPSULE

IMPOSED AFTER 15 YRS

New Delhi: As the prices of wheat have increased by 8 to 10 per cent in the last month, the Centre on Monday imposed a stock limit up to March 31, 2024. The last stock limit of wheat was implemented in 2008.

NUCLEAR MODERNISATION RAISES CONCERNS

New Delhi: The international community finds itself increasingly concerned as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual report on Monday, shedding light on the ongoing modernisation of nuclear weapons by nine

BOY ATTACKED BY PET DOG IN DELHI COLONY

New Delhi: A five-year-old boy was allegedly bitten by a neighbour's pet dog in Shahdara's Geeta Colony area According to police, the victim Muhib Khan had to undergo a surgery but is said to be stable

HC SEEKS NIA'S REPLY ON NAVLAKHA BAIL PLEA

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) response on the bail plea of activist Gautam Navlakha, an accused in the Elgar Parishad

SC bans bike-taxi in Delhi till new policy

SC stays HC order, prevents coercive action against aggregators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Delhi High Court's ruling that allowed bike-taxi aggregators Rapido and Uber to operate in Delhi. The court has directed the Delhi Government not to take any coercive action against these aggregators until a new policy is formulated.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Rajesh Bindal granted the aggregators the liberty to request an urgent hearing of their pleas before the Delhi High Court.

The bench stayed the Delhi High Court's May 26 order and recorded the submission made by the Delhi Government's counsel, stating that the final policy will be notified by the end of July. The Supreme Court was addressing two separate



petitions filed by the Aam Party (AAP) Aadmi Government, challenging the High Court's order that prohibited any coercive action against the bike-taxi aggregators until the final policy was announced. Last week, the Supreme Court sought a response from the Centre regarding the pleas made by the Delhi Government.

Senior advocate Manish Vashisht, representing the Delhi Government, argued that the High Court's decision to stay the Government's notice until the final policy is announced is akin to granting Rapido's writ petition. On May

26, the High Court issued a notice to the Delhi Government in response to Rapido's plea challenging a law that excludes two-wheelers from being registered as trans-port vehicles. The High Court directed that no coercive action should be taken against the

bike-taxi aggregator until the

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final policy was notified.

The High Court, which has listed Rapido's plea for completion of pleading before the register on August 22 said. the registrar on August 22, said, "The counsel for the petitioners (Rapido) submits that the policy is under active consideration." It further added, "Accordingly, we hereby stay the notice and make it clear that the stay shall operate till the final policy is notified. However, once the final policy is notified, if the petitioners are still aggrieved, they are at liberty to take steps before the

> The identification of the anonymous individual was made possible by India Today's Open Source Investigations (OSINT) team, which traced the digital trail left by the person on the encrypted messaging platform.



However, Opposition par-ties have intensified their demands for a thorough Minister of Electronics and Information Technology

Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Saket Gokhale, the nation

al spokesperson for the

Trinamool Congress (TMC),

too criticised Vaishnaw's han-

dling of the situation, under-

scoring the seriousness of the

matter given his key portfolios

related to electronics, commu-

nications, information tech-

nology, and railways. Gokhale

questioned the Prime

Minister's tolerance of what he

perceives as Vaishnaw's incom-

petence. The Communist Party

of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]

echoed the demands for a

comprehensive investigation

inquiry into the alleged data breach. Congress leaders expressed grave concerns over what they perceive as "criminal negligence" on the part of the government and questioned the delay in enacting a data protection law. Karti Chidambaram, a

Congress MP, and party spokesperson Shama spokesperson Mohamed alleged that personal information of all Indian citizens registered on the CoWIN portal has been leaked on Telegram, including sensitive details such as phone numbers, Aadhar card, and PAN card information.

into the alleged breach. In response, the Health Mohamed accused the Ministry issued a statement Modi Government of comreiterating the safety of the CoWIN portal and the prespromising the security and privacy of Indians, labeling it as criminal negligence. They ence of robust safeguards for data privacy.

Continued on Page 2 directed their enquiries towards

US, India NSAs to

finalise agenda for

China asks last to leave country

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In the midst of the ongoing dispute between India and China concerning journalists, tensions have escalated as China has reportedly ordered the last Indian journalist remaining in the country to leave. The repre-Trust of India (PTI) has

been instructed to leave China by the end of this month, effectively erasing any Indian media presence from the coun-

Earlier this year, four Indian media houses had stationed journalists in China. However, over the weekend, The Hindustan Times reporter left, while two journalists from public broadcaster Prasar Bharti and The Hindu newspaper had their visa renewals denied in April, according to the Bloomberg.

The recent development of China expelling the last Indian journalist comes as both Beijing and New Delhi engage in a tit-for-tat row, further deepening the rift between the two Asian economic power-

The Chinese authorities' instruction to the PTI reporter follows the pattern of reciprocal actions, as China's last remaining journalist in India is still awaiting the renewal of their visa. Previously, India

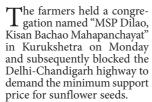


tions from two journalists from Xinhua News Agency and China Central Television.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to requests for comment, the Indian Government acknowledged that Chinese reporters had faced no difficulties operating in India. However, the same cannot be said for the Indian journalists in China. The two countries have been in contact regarding this issue, according to Indian

The visa dispute originated a few months ago when Indian journalists hired local assistants in China to aid in reporting. Chinese authorities responded by imposing restrictions, allowing only three individuals at a time from a pool provided by the Chinese authorities to be employed. In contrast, India does not have a cap on hiring.

Farmers demand sunflower seeds Indian journalist MSP, block Delhi-Chandigarh NH



The mahapanchayat was organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) at a grain market in Pipli, near National Highway-44.

chayat, the farmers assembled on the highway and placed their tractors and trolleys there, causing a blockade and disrupting traffic on the busy highway connecting the national Capital to the northern States. The police redirected traffic through alternative routes, but chaos prevailed as hundreds of vehicles lined up on the road. During the mahapanchayat, Karam Singh Mathana, a prominent farmer leader, mentioned that the local administration had promised them a meeting with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to discuss their demands.

However, they were later informed that the Chief Minister had already left Karnal. "Because of this, the local committee, which had organised the Mahapanchayat, decided to block National Highway-44 until our demands

are met," Mathana said. On June 6, farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Continued on Page 2 | Charuni blocked National



demanding that the govern- sunflower crop?

at the minimum support price. Police used water cannons and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the protesters. Later, nine BKU (Charuni) leaders, including its president, were arrested on various charges, including rioting and unlawful

assembly Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait, who attended the mahapanchayat, said the government should procure sunflower on MSP and the farmer leaders arrested in Shahabad should be released. Addressing the mahapanchayat, Tikait announced that the Samyukta Kisan Morcha would start a pan-India agitation if a law for MSP, "as promised by the Union

Government", is not enacted. He alleged that the government announces MSP but fails to procure it at that rate.

Tikait condemned the police action against Charuni and the farmers who blocked National Highway-44 on June 6 and asked, "What wrong has the BKU (Charuni) leader done

Highway-44 near Shahabad, when he sought MSP for the

wrestler Bajrang Punia, one of the grapplers who have been demanding action against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, were present at the Mahapanchayat.

Some farm leaders criticised the government for its alleged "anti-farmers" policies and police actions against their leaders. They demanded that the government procure sun-flower seeds at MSP and release the protesters arrested in Shahabad recently.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar released ₹29.13 crore as interim compensation to 8,528 farmers for sunflowers grown on 36,414 acres on Saturday. The farmers are demanding that the state government procure sunflowers at an MSP of ₹6,400 per quintal. Under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana, the price difference payment scheme, the state government is providing ₹1,000 per quintal as interim support for sunflower crops sold below

Retail inflation hits 25-month low at 4.25%



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{
m etail}$ inflation declined to a 25-month low of 4.25 per cent in May mainly on account of softening prices of food and fuel items, with experts saying that RBI is expected to hold interest rates steady in the current fiscal.

This is the fourth straight month when retail inflation has declined and the third straight month of Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remaining within the RBI's comfort zone of below 6 per

CPI-based inflation stood at 4.7 per cent in April and 7.04 per cent in May 2022.

At 4.25 per cent, retail inflation is the lowest since April 2021 when it was 4.23 per

Inflation for the food basket was at 2.91 per cent in May, lower than 3.84 per cent in April. The food basket accounts for nearly half of the CPI. Continued on Page 2

Guj braces for severest cyclone in 25 yrs; 7,500 evacuated

Modi-Biden talks SERVICE/AGENCIES ndia and the US are likely to

⊥discuss the final agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with President Joe Biden later this month in Washington during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday and Wednesday between National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan.

This crucial visit follows US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's recent discussions with Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in India, seemingly laying the groundwork for significant defense-related announcements expected after Modi's meeting with Biden. Austin also engaged in detailed discussions with Doval, mark-

ing his second visit to India, the

previous one being in March Additionally, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra held talks in Washington with US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland.

India is keen to acquire advanced defense technology



from the US, and a potential deal for joint production of GE-414 jet engines for the Tejas light combat aircraft in India may be on the horizon. The specifics of this deal and other proposals involving high-tech products are expected to be ironed out during the discussions between the two NSAs as part of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). NSA Doval initiated the iCET talks during his visit

to the US several months ago. In May 2022, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi announced the US-India iCET with the aim of strengthening strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between the two countries' governments, businesses, and academic insti-

Continued on Page 2

Balasore tragedy: 5 Railway employees under scanner

PNS NEW DELHI/BALASORE

Five railway employees, including the station master of Bahanaga Bazar, are under investigation in connection with the three-train accident in Odisha's Balasore district, which claimed 288 lives

according to official sources. The four other employees were on duty at the time of the accident earlier this month and were responsible for signaling-related tasks.

Presently, the five employees continue to discharge their duties, and any future action will depend on the accident probe report prepared by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).



is conducting a separate probe into allegations of criminal negligence that led to the accident at Bahanaga Bazar station on June 2.

Railway Ministry officials have suggested the possibility of manual tampering with the interlocking system, which turned the signal for the Coromandel Express to green,

guiding it towards the loop line where it collided with a stationary goods train.

The interference with the interlocking system, an automated signaling system, is considered the major cause of the incident. "A total of five railway personnel are currently at the center of the probe. We expect a final report from the CRS soon," said a senior rail official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

According to sources, three ossible scenarios are being investigated: intentional tampering of the system, tampering due to error or mistake, or a consequence of ongoing maintenance work in the area. Continued on Page 2

Cyclone Biparjoy will be the fifth severe or higher category cyclone to cross Gujarat in the past 25 years. This makes it only the third extremely severe cyclone to develop in the Árabian Sea during June in the past 58 years. Authorities have moved 7,500 people to safer places and put in place an elaborate evac-

released data suggesting that

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

uation plan. Cyclone Biparjoy is set to become the cyclone with the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea. This will mark the third cyclone to hit the western state

of Gujarat in June since 1965, according to IMD records. "Based on data from 1965



to 2022 for the month of June, 13 cyclones developed over the Arabian Sea. Of these, two crossed the Gujarat coast, one crossed the Maharashtra coast, one crossed the Pakistan coast, three weakened over the Oman-Yemen coasts, and six

dissipated over the sea," stated the IMD. Prior to 2023, only two cyclones had crossed the Gujarat coast in June. One was a severe cyclone in 1996, and the other was an extremely

severe cyclonic storm in 1998 Cyclone Biparjoy, which

formed over the southeast Arabian Sea on June 6 at 5:30 am, has already had a lifespan of approximately seven days and 12 hours. The extremely severe Cyclone Kyarr in 2019 holds the record for the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea, lasting nine days and 15 hours. It developed over the eastcentral Arabian Sea, underwent multiple recurvatures, and weakened over the southwest Arabian Sea Similarly, the very severe

cyclonic storm Gaja in 2018, which formed over the southeast Bay of Bengal, had a lifespan of nine days and 15 hours. It crossed the southern peninsular region, emerged into the Arabian Sea, and weakened there, according to the IMD.

Cyclone Biparjoy is projected to cross Saurashtra,

Kutch, and the adjoining Pakistan coasts between Mandvi in Gujarat and Karachi in Pakistan near Jakhau Port (Gujarat) around noon on June 15 as a very severe cyclonic storm with maximum sustained wind speeds of 125-135 kmph, gusting up to 150 kmph. Meteorologists attribute the sustained strength of

Cyclone Biparjoy to rapid intensification in its initial days and the unusually warm Arabian Sea. The IMD has issued heavy rainfall warnings for several districts in Gujarat, including Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Junagarh, and Morbi. All fishing operations in

the east-central, west-central, and north Arabian Sea will be completely suspended until

No CoWIN data breach:

Govt; Opp seeks probe

The Centre on Monday cat-

Legorically denied reports claiming a breach of data of

beneficiaries registered on the CoWIN platform, labeling them as "baseless" and "mis-chievous." Union Minister of

State for Electronics and

Information Technology,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said

the Indian Computer

Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) swiftly responded

and found no evidence of a

direct breach of the CoWIN

that a Telegram bot was access-

ing data from a threat actor database, which seemed to

consist of previously breached

channel has claimed to have successfully identified the per-

son behind the operation of the

Telegram bot that generated

personal details of vaccinated

individuals. According to their

investigation, the hackers clar-

ified that they did not breach

the CoWIN platform itself but

instead discovered vulnerabil-

ities in an associated platform.

Meanwhile, India Today

or stolen information.

Chandrasekhar disclosed

app or database.

Huge fire in Govt building in Bhopal

PM assures Central help

A massive fire erupted on the third floor of Satpura Bhawan building which houses offices of various depart-ments of the Madhya Pradesh government in Bhopal on Monday, prompting authorities to call in fire tenders from Army, AAI and facilities of oil companies, officials and the CMO said.

No casualties have been reported in the blaze which has been raging since 4 pm. Chief Minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan apprised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah about the fire and sought assistance for dousing it, an official said.

The Prime Minister has assured Chouhan to provide all possible assistance from the Centre for controlling the blaze, the official said.

AN-52 and MI-15 chopper will join the dousing operation in the night and will pour water using buckets from above, according to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

On directions of Chouhan, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra and medical education minister Vishwas Sarang have reached the spot to take stock of the situation, the official said.

The fire, which has affect-

the top sixth floor of the building and the terrace, can be seen from various areas of the city.

The affected building is located on a hill in front of the state government secretariat Vallabh Bhawan.

Officials said the fire has destroyed furniture and documents of several departments. Fire tenders and firefight-

ers from the Army, Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL, Airports Authority of India, BHEL, and Indian Air Force plane ed the third, fourth, fifth and from Mandideep and Raisen

were called in, the Chief Minister's Office said.

District collector Ashish Singh said all resources have been mobilised and around 22 fire tenders and 30-40 tankers are involved in the

He said the fire spread as there are many files stored in the building and firemen can't enter due to heavy smoke. The density of the fire is very high. No casualty has been reported, Singh added.

dousing operation as of now.

mation and people present at the spot informed that the blaze erupted on the third floor of the building due to a short circuit in an air conditioner and raged to other floors due to wind," said Bhopal Commissioner Police Harinarayanchari Mishra.

Bhopal Municipal Corporation's Fire Officer Ramesh Neel said the blaze erupted at around 4 pm.

"Furniture and documents are prima facie destroyed in the

fire," he said.

Meanwhile, the state government has formed a committee of senior bureaucrats to probe the possible reasons behind the fire. The panel includes the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Principal Secretary Administration), Principal Secretary (PWD) and Additional Director General

Arera Hills police station incharge RK Singh said the blaze engulfed furniture and documents in the departments of tribal welfare and health located inside the building.

(Fire), the CMO said.

1 L dropout girls in 11-14 age group brought back to mainstream education

About one lakh adolescent girls in the 11-14 age group who dropped out of schools have been brought back to the mainstream education, government sources said on Monday.

Over the years there has been a significant decline in the numbers reported by states of drop-out girls in the age group of 11-14 years, they

In 2013-14, states and Union territories put the figure at 1.14 crore. It came down to five lakh in 2020-21, to 3.8 lakh in 2021-22 and finally to about one lakh in July last year.

The drop in number reflects that many fake beneficiaries and wrong entries have been removed, the sources said.

"These one lakh girls have since been brought back to the mainstream education and then the scheme (for adolescent girls) was revised," a senior official, who did not wish to be named, said.

Adolescent Girls in the age on real-time basis has 9.38 group of 11-14 years have been discontinued and a revised scheme has been introduced and subsumed under

Poshan 2.0 Mission. In the revised SAG which covers girls in the 14-18 age group in aspirational and northeast region districts, as many as 22.40 lakh adolescent girls have been identified.

"Out of 22 lakh, Aadhaar seeding of 19 lakh has been done," the official said.

the Saksham Anganwadi and

Also, the official said, Poshan Tracker which monitors and tracks activities of identified anganwadi centres crore Aadhaar-seeded beneficiaries out of a total of 10.06 The official 10 lakh angan-

wadi centres have been geo-tagged and the work is on for the remaining centres. The official said an age-

appropriate take home ration is being designed for children up to six years of group and a proposal has been sent to the finance ministry.

The government is also carrying out Aadhaar-seeding of migrant workers so that they can avail the benefits of anganwadi scheme throughout the country, the official said.

Farmers will also be bitumen providers, says Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said the country's farmers, the "annadata", could also be its "daamardata", the providers of "daamar" or bitumen used to surface roads.

Addressing a function here after laying foundation stones of five national highway projects worth Rs 2,200 crore, the road transport and highways minister said that the government is planning a scheme to use crop stubble for preparing bitumen.
"Earlier, the farmers were only 'annadata'

(grain providers). Now, they have become 'urjaadata' (energy providers), and we are going to make them 'daamardata'. The 'parali' (crop residue) will be used in preparing bitumen, and my department is bringing a scheme in this

He also exuded confidence that under the leadership of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state's road infrastructure will be at par with that of the US in the coming times.
"We want to make this country free from

'kachra' (solid waste). About 25 lakh tonnes of solid waste of Delhi has been used for the city's Ring Road. Similarly, 30 lakh tonnes solid waste of Ahmedabad has been used for Ahmedabad-



Dholera road. Rubber powder of rubber tyres is being used for roads and seven per cent plastic is also used, so that environment can be pro-

Praising CM Adityanath, the Union minister said in the coming times, UP will become the number one state in the country. "The farmers will make progress, the youth will get jobs and UP's road infrastructure will become equivalent to that of the US," he said.

Later, laying the foundation stones of five major road projects worth Rs 6,215 crore in Deoria along with Adityanath, Gadkari said that hydrogen is the future of the energy sector and that it is his intention that UP should become the first state to make hydrogen energy because "Yogi ji knows how to create wealth from waste".

UP App-based 'conversion' case: Cops get remand of prime accused

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Aday after his arrest in the neighbouring Raigad district, a Thane court on Monday granted transit remand to Shahnawaz Khan, alias Baddo, the prime accused in the case involving 'conversion case through gaming app', and ordered that he be produced before a Ghaziabad Court within three days.

After the Thane court granted transit remand of the prime accused in the UP Appbased conversion case, Mumbra police from Thane district handed over Shahnawaz Khan to a 4-man team of the Ghaziabad police that was camping at Thane for the past six days. Working in tandem with

their counterparts from Ghaziabad, the Mumbra police tracked down Shahnawaz



Khan at a lodge at Alibaug in the neighbouring Raigad dis-

During the raid the Thane and Ghaziabad police conducted raids on a lodge at Alibaug and found the accused in a room along with his brother. The police have recovered iPad and other gadgets which were purportedly used in conversions. Khan, who used to target children for conversion through a gaming App 'Fortnite', had been absconding for several days since the

alleged conversion racket broke in Uttar Pradesh.

Following complaints of alleged conversions through a gaming App, the Kavinagar Police Station of Ghaziabad registered a FIR on May 30 against Khan, a resident of Devripada in Thane who is engaged in a cosmetics busi-

According to the complaint, Khan had sold computer gadgets to a minor Jain boy in Ghaziabad, then befriended him through regular chats. Khan later made a Jain boy recite Quranic verses and allegedly brainwashed him with videos of the fugitive evangelist, Zakir Naik of Mumbai. The modus operandi used

by Khan in the alleged conversions was to befriend minors with fake names. "He would tell them that if they wanted to win a prize they would have to recite certain verses. The accused would make them win and trap them by sending videos of Zakir Naik," an investigating officer

After being "indoctrinated" by Khan, the Jain boy soon began visiting a local mosque in Ghaziabad to offer 'namaz' five times daily, an unusual behaviour that shocked his family members who felt that there was something fishy behind the sudden change in

Balasore tragedy: 5 Railway...

Amidst the criticism from Opposition parties over the accident that left over 1,000 people injured, two rail workers' unions have expressed their support for the national transporter. In a joint statement, the general secretaries of the All Īndia Railwaymen' Federation (AIRF) and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) expressed their anguish over the politicisation of the train tragedy.

"We are deeply anguished to see how this train tragedy has been politicised, and attacks are being launched in social media and print media on railways' performance. Each such attack is an affront to our sincerity and dedication to duty. Small amounts spent on ensuring safe conditions for frontline staff like loco pilots and track maintainers are being described as frivolous expenditure," the statement read.

No CoWIN data breach: Govt...

tal maintains stringent security measures, including a web application firewall, regular vulnerability assessments, and and Access Management. The ministry has initiated an internal review of existing security measures to ensure their efficacy.

As the controversy continues to brew, the demand for an inquiry into the alleged data breach grows stronger. The government remains steadfast in asserting the security of the CoWIN portal, while the Opposition parties persist in their calls for further investigation to guarantee the priva-

THE PIONEER Q ASSIFIED

· CHANGE OF NAME I, Beero W/o. Man Singh

Yadav, R/o.161/156, Jogabai, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have declared that name wrongfully mentioned in my bank account record as Birvati Yadav instead of BEERO PD(065)A

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original Plot Buyer Agreement of Property Number S-15/06 DLF City Phase-III Gurgaon Haryana Dated 30-10-1984 name of 1. Ajay Shridhar Shriram 2. Vikram Shridhar Shriram 3. Ajit Shridhar Shriram R/o 5/16 Shanti Niketan New Delhi if found please contact 9810212316 or above addres PD/066/A

cy and security of citizens'

and are being taken to ensure security of the data in the CoWIN portal," the Ministry said. "CERT-In in its initial report has pointed out that backend database for Telegram bot was not directly accessing the APIs of CoWIN database," the statement said.

At present, the statement said, individual-level vaccinated beneficiary data access is available at three levels.

The first is the beneficiary dashboard -- the person who has been vaccinated can have an access to the Co-WIN data through use of registered Mobile number with OTP authentication. The second is CoWIN authorised user -- the vaccinator with use of authentic login credential provided can access personal level data of vaccinated beneficiaries.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that my client name Mrs. Sheela W/o Raj Kapoor, is owner of the Portion of Plot No. R2-M-35, having land area measuring 50 St. Vids. pertaining to the Khasra No. 256, situated in the colony known as West Sagarpur, in the revenue estal of Village Nasirpur, Delhi, and enjoying the peaceft possession since 12-06-2001 vide GPA, ATS & Widated 12-05-2001, and the same is to be financed infrance Ltd Who so ever believes and finds any clair or an interest, directly or indirectly over the aforesal or property than he/she may raise the objection within days from the date of this publication at the belomentationed address, failing which, it shall be assume that there are no claims or issues in respect of that offersald property.

Raphay Tiwari, Advoca

aid property. Raghav Tiwari, Advocai Ch. 830, Patiala House Court New Delhi – 110001 Mob.: +91-807618832

PUBLIC NOTICE

To, be known to all that my client, RITA SHARMA D/O SHRI SANWAL SINGH R/O HOSUE NO.212, MUNIRKA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI-110067, is the owner of FLAT NO.A-102, MUNIRKA CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD., PLOT NO.11, SECTOR-9, DWARKA, NEW DELH have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of ne aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e riginal ALLOTMENT LETTER and POSSESSION LETTE If the above said property have been lost or misplaced bur client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. A I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Polic tation, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No.545008/2023) date 12.06.2023. Any person(s) claiming any rights, interes having any objection or found in possession of origin ocuments, may write/contact with **above named perso** t above Address/Phone No.**9650798761** within **15 day** rom the date of publication of this notice. The personal calaring any right, interest, objection with respect to the operations, can personally inform or write to Deputy Direct Group Housing) or Director (Group Housing), Vikas Sadar lew Delhi. Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)

The Ministry refuted the reports alleging a data breach as baseless and mischievous. It based access of data is providated authorised access of data is providated authorised access of data is provided authorised access of sonal level data of vaccinated beneficiaries only through beneficiary OTP authentication.

The CoWIN system tracks and keeps record of each time an authorised user accesses the CoWIN system, the statement said.

"Without OTP, vaccinated beneficiaries' data cannot be shared to any BOT," the ministry said. It further said only the year of birth is captured for adult vaccination but it seems that on media posts it has been claimed the Bot also mentioned the date of birth. Also, there is no provision to capture the address of beneficiary," it said.
"The development team

of CoWIN has confirmed that there are no public APIs where data can be pulled without an OTP. In addition to the above there are some APIs which have been shared with third parties such as ICMR for sharing data. It is reported that one such API has a feature of sharing the data by calling using just a mobile number of Aadhaar. However, even this API is very specific and the requests are only accepted from a trusted API which has been white-listed by the Co-WIN application," it said.

Media reported the personal data of individuals who have been vaccinated is being accessed using a Telegram (online messenger application) Bot. It is reported that the bot has been able to pull individual data by simply passing the mobile number or Aadhaar number of a beneficiary. The reports published the vaccination data of many people including CoWIN CEO, Union Health Secretary several Ministers and politicians.

From Page 1

Tensions between Beijing and New Delhi have persisted since a deadly clash on the Himalayan frontier in 2020. While China has sought to separate that dispute from the overall relationship and focus on trade and economic ties, India has maintained that relations cannot return to normal until the border issue is resolved.

These visa rejections occur as India hosts the Group of Twenty (G20) and the Shanghai Cooperation Dialogue meetings this year. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expect-ed to attend the G20 leaders summit in September as China aims to strengthen its diplomatic and political presence Notably, China has also

been involved in a long-standing dispute with the United States over journalist visas. The Trump administration categorised several Chinese media companies as "foreign missions" and imposed restrictions on the number of Chinese journalists in the country. In response, Beijing revoked press credentials for reporters from US media companies.

In 2020, two Australian journalists fled China amid escalating diplomatic tensions between the two nations. Initially barred from leaving, the journalists spent five days under consular protection until Australian diplomats negotiated their departure. That year, Beijing accused Canberra of raiding the homes of Chinese State-media staff and seizing their property.

Leave China, last | Retail inflation hits Indian journalist... 25-month low at...

From Page 1

Inflation in fuel and light eased to 4.64 per cent, from 52 per cent in April.

CPI inflation print for May eased more than expected, with the positive surprise chiefly driven by the food and beverages segment. Nevertheless, concerns loom on the horizon regarding the potential impact of a sub-par monsoon on food inflation in the second half of this fiscal.

ICRA Chief Economist and Head of Research and Outreach Aditi Navar said the headline CPI inflation may rise mildly to 4.5-4.7 per cent in June 2023 based on the early uptrend in the prices of most of the food items, barring edible oils.

ICRA expects an extended pause by RBI through FY2024, and the stance to remain unchanged over the next couple of policy meetings, Nayar said.

Barclays, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics, Rahul Bajoria said inflation moderated further in May, given the high base and some sequential easing in energy costs.

The RBI is likely to watch for the persistence of core inflation and the impact of El Nino on food prices in the coming months.

The decline in inflation was mainly driven by food items led by 'oils and fats' and vegetables where inflation fell by 16 per cent and 8.18 per cent respectively.

However, inflation in cereals and pulses came in higher at 12.65 per cent and

6.56 per cent respectively. Experts said the mon-

soon forecast and performance will hold clues to future movements in food inflation, and pulses will be more vulnerable in this context.

Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said going forward inflation is expected to remain in the 4.4-5.4 per cent range for the rest of this fiscal. It expects RBI to maintain a pause on interest rates for the rest of the current fis-

cal. Last week, the Reserve Bank kept policy rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent and projected retail inflation for the current fiscal to average 5.1 per cent. June quarter inflation was projected at 4.6 per cent.

US, India to hold talks to finalise agenda for Modi-Biden...

Meanwhile, reports from Washington suggest that Prime Minister Modi's first State visit to the US could be a defining moment for Indo-US relations. Extensive efforts are being made to draft a robust joint statement that will shape the nature and trajectory of the bilateral ties for years to come, according to individuals familiar with the planning of the

high-profile trip.

Key areas of focus in the joint statement are expected to include technology, space, and defense, with all sectors having a personal touch from Prime Minister Modi, who emphasises their linkage to development and welfare. Both leaders believe that the India-US rela-

tionship holds global significance, and the outcome document is anticipated to reflect

The outcome document is likely to feature a concrete set of deliverables, emphasizing cooperation between industries and elevating the trust and confidence between the two countries to an unprecedented level. The visit aims to transform the partnership from India being viewed solely as a big market for American companies to a relationship based on mutual trust and reliability, particularly in the realm of supply chain integration, leverag-ing India's scale and affordability with American tech-

Prime Minister Modi is

scheduled to arrive in a one-on-one talk followed by Washington on June 21 from New York after attending the International Yoga Day celebrations. A grand cultural show organized by hundreds of Indian Americans is planned in front of the White House and Blair House, the official guest house of the US President, as a warm welcome.

Traditionally, the visiting leader is hosted for a private dinner at the President's residence. The two leaders will then spend two days together, starting with a welcome ceremony on the South Lawns of the White House, anticipated to be one of the largest in histo-

Following the ceremony, Biden and Modi will engage in

a delegation-level meeting in the Cabinet meeting room. Subsequently, Modi will address a joint session of the US Congress presided over by Vice President Kamala Harris. The demand from Americans to attend this historic event is high, and lawmakers are facing challenges in ticket distribution.

Later in the evening, Prime Minister Modi will return to the White House for a State dinner hosted by President Biden and the First Lady. The guest list has not been announced vet. The First Lady has a key role in the preparations. All eves are on the dinner menu, decor and entertainment.

Harris would host the Prime Minister for lunch on June 23 at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department, which is being co-hosted by the Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Second Gentleman. The two leaders are likely to deliver remarks during the luncheon. Interaction with the dias-

of the Prime Ministers' overseas trips, which is expected to consume most of the day's proceedings on June 23. In between, several Cabinet

pora and the business com-

munity is one of the hallmarks

Ministers in the Biden administration and key leaders are likely to call on the Prime Minister for meetings

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DU's UG admissions under ECA rejigged

The Delhi University has Trejigged the norms for undergraduate admissions under the extracurricular activities (ECA) and sports quotas, capping the intake in a course to 20 per cent of total supernumerary seats in a college.

The DU will also start a

Centre for Hindu Studies (CHS) this year to focus on various facets of the Hindu civilisation, its multiple dynamics, history, philosophy and worldview. Several universities of the country, including central universities like the Banaras Hindu University, have already introduced Hindu Studies as a course at the postgraduate level

The move was approved by the DU's Executive Council last week. However, council sity's plan to give equal weightage of 2.5 per cent of supernumerary seats to the ECA and the sports quotas. The members pointed out



that there are several colleges, especially the all-women institutions, where the majority of admissions to supernumerary seats are done under the ECA category and not sports, the official said.

Supernumerary seats are those that are over and above the intake approved for a college. There are two categories under which admissions to supernumerary seats are done -- ECA and sports quota. The maximum number of supernumerary seats in a college is capped at five per cent of its

total intake

"By introducing the 2.5 per cent clause, we wanted to bring parity. But some members pointed out that there are women's colleges where the majority of supernumerary seats are filled under the ECA quota. So, we decided that the representation of at least 1 per cent under each category will be mandatory and the college can decide on the rest," the official

The number of seats under the two categories will now be calculated programme-wise,

and not college-wise as was the case earlier, he said. The number of seats

under both categories was calculated college-wise but now will be done programme-wise," the official said. "Until now we used to ask the colleges how many students they would take in these two categories. Now, we will ask for a course break-up and we have put a rider that a course cannot take in more than 20 per cent of total supernumerary seats," he added. The number of supernu-

merary seats will not be impacted by the changes and candidates must appear in CUET (UG)-2023 to avail of the quota under the two categories, the official further said. For the admissions, a weightage of 25 per cent will be given to CUET score and 75 per cent to certificates, trials and perfor-

The DU will also start a Centre for Hindu Studies (CHS) this year to focus on var-

view. The resolution in this regard was approved at an Executive Council meeting of the university on June 9, he

Under the new centre, DU will initially introduce a post-graduate programme in Hindu Studies for the 2023-24 academic session, the official said. This course aims to involve all the stakeholders, including the enrolled students of the programme, to "think critically and evolve a Bharat-centric perspective beyond theoretical explanation", he added. The official also pointed out that the new course will ensure diversification of knowledge system in line with the National Education Policy 2020.

Doctoral, certificate courses, diplomas and other programmes in Hindu Studies will be launched later depending upon the operational feasibiliof the centre, he said.

DU also plans to launch

alongside the major courses of computer science, data analytics, artificial intelligence, graphic design and animation, management and commerce, according to the official. The CHS will be part of the Faculty of Arts, which will facilitate the curriculum design, implementation of the academic programmes and the enrolment of the students for the centre.

The University is going to establish a Centre for Hindu Studies under the Faculty of Arts of the University which will offer a Master's Programme in Hindu Studies. Such an initiative on the part of the University of Delhi was necessitated by various significant developments at the level of higher education in the country," the official said. This year, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has intro-

duced Hindu Studies as a discipline in the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET).

Delhi Assembly's Petitions Committee summons Chief Secy



Expressing displeasure, the Delhi Assembly's Petitions Committee has summoned Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar yet again; this time, for nonsubmission of action taken reports (ATRs) with regard to issues such as removal of data entry operators at OPD at government hospitals, old age pension and mohalla clinics.

The chief secretary was requested to submit status reports on action taken and enquiries conducted on recommendations of the committee by June 14 and appear before it in its next sitting, according to the written communication from the Assembly

munication from the Assembly Secretariat dated June 9.

"... the Committee expresses its displeasure at the lack of seriousness shown by you on such issues that had caused great suffering to the public at large," the Assembly stated in its communication stated in its communication, adding that the ATRs were to be submitted by February 10.

In a reply to the Delhi Assembly secretariat on June 11, Chief Secretary office said that the draft action taken reports (ATRs) were submitted for approval of the "competent authority". These will be furnished to the committee once the approval of the competent authority was received, it said. The Assembly had adopted three reports of the Petitions Committee in its sitting on January 19 this year.

According to the commu-nication sent by the Assembly, Kumar had been directed to take "appropriate action" on adoption of three interim reports, which pertained to "subject matters of public importance" and directly affecting the "health and well-being of the citizens of Delhi".

The reports involved nonayment of old age pensions, a lack of medicines and diagnostic tests and non-payment of wages at mohalla clinics, and sudden removal of data entry operators from outdoor patients department (OPD) at Delhi government hospitals that had allegedly led to a "chaotic" situation.

The ATRs on the three reports were to be submitted within 30 days from February 10. Reminder's were sent to the chief secretary on March 14 and May 16, but no response was received, according to the Assembly secretariat communication.

Since no ATRs were submitted from the chief secretary's office, the committee held its sitting on June 7 to enquire about its status. However, "neither you nor anyone from your office" appeared and instead an exemption was sought on the basis of "you being out of town", the letter read.

"I am directed by the Chairperson, Committee of Petitions to inform you that the Committee expresses its displeasure at the lack of seriousness shown by you on such issues that had caused great suffering to the public at large," according to the communica-

tion sent by a deputy secretary.
The committee reports pertained to subjects of public importance and directly affect-

Delhi BJP chief seeks probe into religious conversion at night shelter

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva wrote to the city police chief on Monday, demanding an extensive probe into an alleged incident of religious conversion at a night shelter to find out whether it was a handiwork of any fundamen-The Delhi Police should

enquire whether accused Moĥammad Kalim was operated with some fundamentalist group, Sachdeva wrote to Police Commissioner Sanjay

Kalim was arrested last week on a complaint from one Sandeep Saagar, alleging that he was lured and pressured by the accused to convert to Islam. Saagar worked as a caretaker of a night shelter run by the Delhi government at Turkman Gate, Sachdeva



Police said a case under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc. And doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion

or religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was lodged at the Chandni Mahal police station and the inves-

tigation taken up.
Sachdeva claimed that according to Saagar, the accused was also "pressuring' two other occupants of the night shelter to convert to Islam, which was a "serious' issue. "The Delhi BJP has been for quite long saying that

the campaign of religious conversion and love jihad by Islamic fundamentalists has reached the doorstep of the city and the Turkman Gate incident and the killing of a minor girl in the Shahbad Dairy area are its glaring examples," Sachdeva wrote in his letter to Arora.

With the developments reported from the night shelter, one has reasons to suspect that Islamic fundamentalists may be targeting poor inhabitants of other night shelters too, he added. The Delhi BJP chief urged the police commissioner for an "extensive" probe in the matter and to direct the in-charges of police stations across the city to closely monitor the activities at the night shelters. Delhi BJP President had said that religious conversion is a very serious matter and cannot be allowed to happen any further in the national capital Delhi.

5-year-old bitten by pet dog, left arm fractured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A five-year-old boy was allegedly bitten by a neighbour's pet dog in Shahdara's Geeta Colony area. According to police, the victim Muhib Khan had to undergo a surgery but is said to be stable. According to police, around

7.30 pm on Saturday, the boy was playing in his house in Sarojani Park, Shastri Nagar area of Geeta Colony when a neighbour's pet labrador entered the house and attacked him. He was rescued by family

members in the house and was rushed to Lok Nayak Hospital, a senior police officer said. The dog attack fractured the boy's left arm and he had to undergo a surgery for it. When the victim's father confronted his neighbour over

the issue, he was allegedly threatened by the pet dog owner, the officer said. Based on the complaint of the victim's father, a case under sections 289 (negligent con-

others) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code was lodged against the dog owner, he added. Police said the owner of the labrador, Yashpal Singh (48), has been arrested and added that further investigation in the mat-

ter is underway. Last month, a

seven-year-old girl was mauled

duct with respect to animal),

337 (causing hurt by act endan-

gering life or personal safety of

by a stray dog in Rangpuri Hill in Delhi's Vasant Kunj. The canine pounced on the girl, who suffered injuries to her neck and arms. Soon after being attacked, the girl was

rushed to a hospital. Doctors discharged her after treatment. ed the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Delhi, it said. 4 gang members involved in

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

■ ed four members of a gang for their alleged involvement in a shootout in northeast Delhi's Jafrabad earlier this month in which four people were injured.

According to the police, the shootout that occurred on June 5 was the fallout of a turf war between two gangs. The accused — Gosh (22), Anas Iqbal (29), Shaved (26) and Shahzad (35) — were sharpshooters of a gang run by gangsters Hashim Baba and Suhail, they said.

Four men owing allegiance to a gang run by Ifran alias Chennu were attacked by some men carrying sophisticated weapons, they said, adding the incident was recorded on CCTV cameras installed in the area. Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav

said the accused kept changing their locations in Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. Upon receiving informa-

tion that the accused would



gather at a shelter for the homeless in the Welcome area, police. According to the police, a trap was laid the four accused were nabbed, the police officer said. The weapons used in the

seized from them, he said. During interrogation, the accused revealed that the shootout was carried out on the directions of Suhail. Those injured in the Jafrabad shootout were members of the Chennu Pehalwan gang. They had gone to collect money from satta operators from whom gangster Hasim Baba was extorting money to let them run their rackets, said

Jafrabad shootout were also

the special commissioner of

Shahzad had given shelter t the shootout accused for eight days before the incident and also after it. He also took the accused to his native village, they said. "When our team reached the village, they got to know that the accused persons had returned to Delhi. When the news emerged that the shootout victims were injured but alive, the accused were tasked with killing them," the police official said. Police have recovered five firearms and 15 cartridges from the accused.

Neither BJP nor Cong talked about education during their rule: AAP



AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that neither the BJP nor the Congress talked about education during their respective tenures in the national capital while asserting that his government's politics is solely dependent on educating children. He made the remarks at the inauguration of a new building of a government school in west Delhi's Uttam Nagar.

"This school was constructed in 1985. The governments of (BJP and Congress) came to power. But education was not on their agenda. "Neither the BJP nor the Congress spoke about providing education. But our politics is dependent on education," the chief minister said.

He said his government is just the "means to educate children", adding "probably God was waiting for the AAP to come to power and improve the condition of schools". "Earlier, girls used to have this feeling that they were going to gov-ernment schools while their brothers studied in private schools. But now the government schools in Delhi are providing good education. Some more government buildings are left to be renovated," he said.

Speaking about the challenges ahead, Kejriwal said since the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is in power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), it wants to improve the condition of 1,800 schools of the civic body. "We want that the students get good education from class 1 onwards. We will also improve the MCD schools in the next five years," he added.

The chief minister also opined that the biggest challenge is to not find any employment after completing one's education. "If one does not get a job after completing education, there is no use of this education. We have to focus on each and every student of classes 11 and 12, and we are preparing them to do business through the Business Blasters initiative," he

Earlier in the morning, Education Minister Atishi trained her guns at both the L-G and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as she subtly renewed the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) "fourth class pass King" rhetoric against Modi. Taking to Twitter on Monday to share an invite to the inauguration of a school that the chief minister is scheduled to inaugurate in West Delhi's Uttam Nagar, Atishi said Saxena was welcome to the event to "take credit."

Hours after the inauguration, Atishi held a press conference and took a dig at Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena for not attending the event despite being invited. Her comments also come in the backdrop of sloganeering at the inaugural event of the newly built campus of Indraprastha University in east Delhi last week where Kejriwal and Saxena were both present.

Anti-encroachment drive near metro stations ahead of G20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aspecial anti-encroachment near various metro stations as the national capital prepares to host the G20 summit in September. On Monday, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) started a comprehensive week-long drive in areas abutting Lal Quila and Chandni Chowk metro stations, officials said.

The multi-agency drive in the densely populated areas involves the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Development Authority and Delhi Police, and will be staggered over next few days to ensure commuters do not face any hassle in accessing metro stations, they said.

The drive near gate no. 1 and 2 of the Lal Quila metro station and gate no 5 of Chandni Chowk metro stations began on Monday and will be conducted daily till June 17, 2023.

It has been observed that encroachments by parking of

selling carts ('rehris'), vending objects, rickshaws, and other unauthorised establishments outside metro stations cause inconvenience to passengers at these locations. This drive is being taken up to mitigate these inconveniences, the

DMRC said. It said it also keeps writing to agencies concerned about these issues from time to time. Such special drives will

also be undertaken for passenger convenience at other Delhi Metro stations in the days ahead, the officials said.

In May also, the DMRC had undertaken a special drive at 11 metro stations to clear

pedestrian pathways of ven-

dors, encroachers, and unauthorised hindrance caused by movement of e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and others. The DMRC has accorded a lot of focus on maintaining cleanliness, hygiene and disciplined commuter behaviour inside the Delhi Metro premises, the official said.

These drives are now being organised to ensure that the areas outside the stations are also free from any form of encroachments, he said. Several other agencies in Delhi have also been undertaking antiencroachment drives as part of a larger plan to spruce up the city for the mega G20 event in

SIT formed to probe role of woman SI in honeytrap racket

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aspecial investigation team (SIT) was formed on Monday to probe the role of a woman assistant sub-inspector of police in the alleged honeytrap racket, police said. The SIT will be headed by Pataudi Assistant Commissioner of Police Harender Singh, they

The ASI, Munesh Devi, who was posted at Farrukhnagar police station, who was sent to the police lines over her alleged role in two suspected cases of rape, which were registered on the complaint of a woman employee of an IT company, police said.

The complainant woman



were arrested for allegedly honeytrapping people and extorting money from them, the police said.

The ASI came under scanner after one of the victims questioned her role in the two ses, they said. Earlier, police had arrest-

ed the kingpin of the honeytrap

with her associate Mahesh Phogat, an NGO operator. Binita allegedly trapped

victims through online dating apps like Tinder and Bumble and after calling them for a meet her at a hotel, she would make allegations of rape and molestation. She would then threaten to file an FIR to extort

money from them, according to the police. One of the victims alleged

that the woman ASI was "hand-in-glove" with the accused. He alleged that after meeting Binita at a hotel in Farukhnagar on May 14, the ASI had called him and said there was a complaint against him. Later, she asked him to strike a compromise with the accused, they said.

Commissioner of Police Kala Ramachandran confirmed that an SIT has been constituted. The five-member team will be led ACP Harender Singh and will investigate the role of the ASI in the racket and will file a report to senior officers soon, he added.

Drunkard stabs man for asking him not to smoke in salon

STAFF REPORTER ■

A³⁸-year-old man was stabbed multiple times with a pair of scissors allegedly by an inebriated person who was asked not to smoke cigarettes inside a barber shop in southwest Delhi, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred in southwest Delhi's Kishangarh village on Sunday and the accused has been arrested, they said.

Abhay Kumar had gone for a haircut when Mohit Mahlawat (22), the landlord's son, entered the barber shop. He was intoxicated and was smoking a cigarette. Kumar the shop, which sparked a quarrel between the two, a senior police official said. In a fit of rage, Mahlawat

asked him to smoke outside

stabbed Kumar multiple times with a pair of scissors kept in the shop. Kumar sustained nine injuries all over his body, including four on his chest, he said. The victim was rushed to a hospital and his condition was now stated to be stable, the official added. Based on the victim's

statement, a case has been registered under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code at Kishangarh police station and the accused was arrested, he

Worries over global Nuclear weapon modernisation race

SIPRI raises concerns over 9 nations, including India, Pak, expanding arsenals

The international community finds itself increasingly **L** concerned as the Stockholm International Peace **L** concerned Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual report on Monday, shedding light on the ongoing modernisation of nuclear weapons by nine nations. According to SIPRI, the nine nuclear-armed States, including the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel, continue to enhance their nuclear arsenals and have introduced new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2022.

The report emphasised that both India and Pakistan appear to be expanding their nuclear stockpiles and actively developing new types of nuclear delivery systems. While Pakistan remains the primary focus of India's nuclear deterrent, India is placing increasing emphasis on longer-range weapons, including those capable of reaching targets in China. China's nuclear arsenal has also seen growth, with the number of warheads increasing from 350 in January 2022 to 410 in January 2023, and further expansion is expected. The



highlighted that the United States

and Russia each possess over

1,000 warheads previously retired

from military service, which

they are gradually dismantling.

nuclear arms control and disar-

mament diplomacy suffered sig-

nificant setbacks following

Russia's full-scale invasion of

Ukraine in February 2022.

Bilateral strategic stability dia-logue between Washington and

Moscow was suspended, and

Russia announced its suspension

of participation in the New

START nuclear treaty in

and sharing information on the

placement of intercontinental

and submarine-based ballistic

missiles are critical aspects of the

New START treaty, signed by for-

Inspections of weapons sites

February.

The institute noted that

report warned that depending on how China structures its forces, it could potentially possess as many intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) as the United States or Russia by the end of the decade. SIPRI Director Dan Smith raised a cautionary flag, stating, "We are drifting into one of the most dangerous periods in human history." He stressed the need for global cooperation among governments to alleviate geopolitical tensions, curb arms races, and address the worsening consequences of environmental breakdown and rising world

As per SIPRI's estimates, out of the total global inventory of 12,512 warheads in January 2023, approximately 9,576 were held in military stockpiles for potential use, marking an increase of 86 compared to January 2022. The report also and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev in

SIPRI's assessment, both countries' deployed strategic nuclear forces remained within the New START limits as of January 2023. Hans M Kristensen, Associate Senior Fellow with

2010. However, according to

SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme and Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), stated, "China has started a significant expansion of its nuclear arsenal." The report revealed that out of the estimated 12,512 warheads globally in January 2023, around 9,576 were held in military stockpiles for potential use, indicating an increase of 86 compared to January 2022.

Among these warheads, an estimated 3,844 were deployed with missiles and aircraft, and 2,000, mostly belonging to Russia and US, remained in a state of high operational alert, meaning they were fitted to missiles or stationed at airbases hosting nuclear bombers, according to SIPRI.

It said Russia and the US together possess 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons. The sizes of their nuclear arsenals seem to have remained stable in 2022, although transparency regarding nuclear forces declined in both countries, the report said.

Opp parties for probe into CoWIN data breach claims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Opposition parties have called for an inquiry into allegations of a data breach involving citizens registered on the CoWIN platform and urged the Government to take decisive

Congress leaders have raised concerns about what they deem to be "criminal negligence" on the part of the Government and questioned why there has been a delay in enacting a data protection law. Party MP Karti Chidambaram expressed his dismay over the Government's alleged disregard for citizen privacy, citing the public availability of personal data, including his own, of every Indian who received the COVID-19 vaccination. He demanded answers from Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw

Saket Gokhale, the national spokesperson for the Trinamool Congress (TMC), also criticised Vaishnaw's handling of the situation. Gokhale highlighted the seriousness of the matter, especially given that Vaishnaw holds key portfolios related to electronics, communications, information technol ogy, and railways. He questioned the Prime Minister's tolerance of Vaishnaw's perceived incompetence.

Meanwhile, Congress spo-kesperson Shama Mohamed



alleged that the personal information of all Indian citizens who registered on the CoWIN portal has been leaked on Telegram. She claimed that this included sensitive details such as phone numbers, Aadhar card, and PAN card information. Mohamed accused the Modi government of compromising the secu-rity and privacy of Indians, labeling it as criminal negligence. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) dem-

anded a comprehensive investigation into the matter, stressing that the privacy of Indian citizens is a fundamental right protected by the Supreme Court. The party called for the identification of those responsible for the data breach and the implementation of appropriate deterrent measures.

Gokhale further asserted that the leaked personal data includes information belonging to opposition leaders such as Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool

Congress, former Union minister P Chidambaram, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal, and Rajya Sabha members Sushmita Dev, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, and Sanjay Raut. He also mentioned several journalists among the affected individuals. Gokhale questioned why the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Modi government were seemingly unaware of the breach and why

informed. The CoWIN platform, owned and managed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is currently under scrutiny. The Health Ministry clarified that individual-level vaccinated beneficiary data can only be accessed at three authorized levels and requires an OTP (One-Time Password). The ministry emphasized that without an OTP, vaccinated beneficiaries' data cannot be

the Indian public had not been

PM to give 70K job letters to new recruits today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute appro-ximately 70,000 appointment letters to newly-inducted recruits on June 13 viá video conferencing. The Rozgar Mela will be held at 43 locations across India, facilitating recruitments in both Central Government Departments and State Governments/ UTs. The new recruits, selected from various parts of India, will be joining different Government departments, including the Department of Financial Services, Department of Posts, Department of School Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Defence, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Railways, Department of Audit and Accounts, Department of Atomic Energy, and Ministry of Home Affairs, among others. The Rozgar Mela aims to

prioritise employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities for the youth to participate in national development. In addition to the appointment letters, the new appointees will also have the chance to enhance their skills through Karmayogi Prarambh, an online module available on the iGOT Karmayogi portal. The portal offers more than 400 e-learning courses in a flexible learning format that can be accessed from anywhere and on any device.

Little prospect of global economic recovery: EAM



PNS NEW DELHI/VARANASI

xternal Affairs Minister S Ejaishankar expressed concerns about the prospects of global economic recovery amidst the ongoing Ukraine conflict. Speaking at the G20 Development Ministers' conclave in Varanasi, he highlighted the challenges posed by supply chain disruptions, prolonged debt crises, and pressures on energy, food, and fertilizer security. Jaishankar emphasized the need for a united global approach to address these issues effectively.

During his address, Jaishankar emphasized India's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and presented an ambitious sevenyear action plan aimed at accelerating progress towards the

The plan encompasses a comprehensive and inclusive roadmap for G20 actions, focusing on digital public infrastructure, data-driven development, women-led development, and energy transition to protect the

The world today faces unprecedented and multiple crises-from the pandemic to disruptions in supply chains, conflicts, and climate events. Our era is becoming more volatile and uncertain by the day," Jaishankar remarked. He also noted the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress towards the SDGs, stating that pre-existing gaps have further widened.

The SDGs, formulated by

the United Nations in 2015, aim to eradicate global poverty, protect the planet, and ensure the welfare and prosperity of all individuals. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of solidarity among nations in addressing these development challenges and highlighted the potential of current decisions to contribute to an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future.

The external affairs minister also drew attention to the disproportionate impact of climate change on the least developed countries and small island developing states. He criticized the fragmentation of international priorities, stressing the need for comprehensive commitment to all SDGs instead of cherrypicking certain goals.

India, as the current chair of the G20, presented a coordinated and integrated seven-year action plan for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. Jaishankar emphasized the transformative action required in fostering data-driven development, investing in women-led development, and ensuring globally just transitions for the

survival of the planet. The ongoing conclave of development ministers from G20 member nations, hosted by India, focuses on global supply chain disruptions, food and energy security challenges, and the impacts of climate change. The decisions taken during the event are expected to contribute to the upcoming UN summit on SDGs in September.



Help identify Indian mission vandals in UK: **NIA** to public

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¬he National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday sought the help of the general who held violent protests and attempted to vandalise the Indian High Commission in London in March this year.

The official spokesperson of the agency posted links to five videos of the incident that occurred on March 19 on its Twitter handle and urged the people to provide any information regarding the people seen in the footage to the NIA.

The agency took over the probe from the Special Cell of the Delhi Police which had registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act as it involves illegal activities carried out by certain people holding Indian nationality abroad.

Pro-Khalistani protesters tried to vandalise the Indian High Commission in London and pulled down the national flag while holding protests outside the High Commission complex on March 19. It happened a day after Punjab Police launched a crackdown against radical preacher Amritpal Singh

Priyanka promises sops as Cong launches MP poll campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Mon-day kickstarted the party's election campaign for the forthcom-ing Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections by announcing a series of incentives similar to those implemented in Karnataka. Buoyed by the successes in

Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls, Priyanka Gandhi said if the Congress comes to power in Madhya Pradesh, it will prioritise the wel-fare of women by providing them with Rs 1,500 per month, offering LPG cylinders for Rs 500, granting 100 units of free electricity, implementing the old pension scheme, and waiving off farm loans. While addressing a rally in

achievements of Congress Governments in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, mentioning the fulfillment of key promises made during their respective election campaigns. Priyanka Gandhi underscored the importance of replicating these successful ini-



Sabha MP Vivek Tankha. Priyanka Gandhi took the opportunity to criticize the incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, accusing it of corruption and failure to

dhya Pradesh

President Kamal Nath, party

General Secretary in-charge of

the state JP Agrawal, and Rajya

generate employment opportunities. She pointed to alleged irregularities in the Vyapam scam, ration distribution, mining activities, e-tenders, and the management of the COVID-19 crisis.

dents represent only a fraction of the 225 "scams" that have occurred during the Bharatiya Janata Party's 220-month rule in the state. Privanka Gandhi also raised concerns over the government's response to the recent damage inflicted on idols in Ujjain's Mahakal Lok corridor, suggesting a lack of proper oversight. Mocking the BJP's claims of a "double-engine government" that fosters development. Priyanka Gandhi stated, "We have witnessed numerous double and triple-engine governchal Pradesh and Karnataka have given a resounding response in the elections."

The term "double-engine Government" refers to the BIP's assertion that having the party in power at both the State and central levels leads to effective governance and progress.

'2014-2023 an era of cultural rejuvenation'

Meghwal accuses Cong Govts of neglecting icons like Patel, Ambedkar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Bharatiya Januar (BJP) asserted on Monday ¬he Bharatiya Janata Party actively worked towards reversing the suppression of Indian culture and heritage that was prevalent during the Congress dispensation. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, who is the new Law Minister and a junior Minister in the Culture Ministry, highlighted the Government's efforts towards cultural rejuvenation during a Press confer-

Meghwal said it was "no coincidence that a grand Ram temple is being constructed while the current Government is in power." He also mentioned notable initiatives such as the development of the Kashi-Vishwanath corridor and the Mahakal corridor in Ujjain, the inauguration of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, and the celebra tion of the 550th and 350th birth anniversaries of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh.



He further highlighted the retrieval of 231 stolen idols from various countries since 2014, contrasting it with the retrieval of only 13 idols between Independence and the BJP government assuming power nine years ago. Meghwal attributed this to the speed and scale of the government's work.

Accusing previous Congress Governments of neglecting icons like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and BR Ambedkar, Meghwal commended the Modi Government for honoring them. He noted the construction of the Statue of Unity, commemorating India's first Home Minister, as well as the development of the panch-teerth' associated with the architect of the Indian Constitution.

Monsoon deficiency touches 55%

Rain may be patchy in India's interiors till July first week: Skymet

PNS NEW DELHI

s monsoon deficiency has Atouched over 55 per cent so far, a private weather forecaster Skymet on Monday said southwest monsoon which arrived a week late, is struggling to fulfill the stipulated objective conditions and rains may be patchy in the interiors of the country till the

first week of July. The private weather forecaster further predicted that light rains may occur in Delhi,

Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and Friday under the influence of Cyclone Biparjoy which is gaining steam in the Arabian Sea. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also predicted light rain and generally cloudy sky on June 15 and June 16 in Delhi. Biparjoy is the only third 'extremely severe' cyclone to develop in the Arabian Sea in June in 58 years. The season has so far accu-

Raiasthan, Uttarakhand and west

mulated a deficiency of over 55 per cent between June 1 and 12. There has been a 54 per cent rain deficiency in the country since June 1 with 53 per cent deficiency over south peninsula; 80 per cent deficiency over central India; 10 per cent deficiency over northwest India and 53 per cent deficiency over east and north-



east India. "Skymet Extended Range Prediction System (ERPS) is projecting a dismal outlook for the next 4 weeks, between June 9 and July 6. Agriculture heartland is looking rather cracked and parched. This coincides with the crucial time of sowing or at least preparing the field, with the hope of impending decent rains. Inadequate rains over the central and western parts, the core mon-

soon zone will find it difficult to absorb the drying effects, rather early in the season. It is likely to leave the poor farmer in a state of indecisiveness choosing between the type of crop and the crop cycle," Skymet said in a statement on Monday. "At present, visible manifestation of monsoon surge is limited to the Northeast India and West Coast. Weather systems in the Bay of Bengal are considered the main drivers of monsoon," Skymet said. "The cyclone in the Arabian Sea, after making landfall on June 15, may bring scattered unsea-sonal rains over Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand and west Uttar Pradesh in the third week of June," Skymet Weather said. However, it clarified that these will not be typical monsoon rains and may not even benefit agriculture operations due to their untimely nature.

Kuldeep Śrivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said Delhi may get light rainfall under the influence of a fresh western disturbance and moisture-laden southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea which will reach the city after crossing Rajasthan and south

BrahMos gives India strength to promote global peace: AS Pillai

PNS NEW DELHI

The culmination of the 'Silver Jubilee Year' celebration of the India-Russia joint venture entity, BrahMos Aerospace, took place on Monday, with the presence of the company's founder CEO and Managing Director, AS Pillai.

Addressing a gathering of BrahMos scientists, engineers, and staff members, Pillai proudly stated, "With the Brahmos program, we have demonstrated to the world that India was the first country to possess

a supersonic cruise missile system. India has thus shattered what former President and "Missile Man" of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, referred to as the "Fifth Nation Syndrome." Kalam, the founder CEO of BrahMos, played a crucial role in the military-technology partnership program between India and Russia



Reflecting on the numerous milestones achieved by the joint venture since its establishment on February 12th, 1998, followed by the success ful maiden launch of the supersonic Brahmos on June 12, 2001, Pillai emphasised that the thought process behind creating an organisation like BrahMos was entirely unique.

In light of the current geopolitical volatility, Pillai likened Brahmos to the "Brahmastra" of the 21st century and stat-

ed, "In a democracy, only a strong nation can advocate peace. And a powerful weapon like Brahmos provides strength to India in promoting peace Pillai also commended the efforts of BrahMos

Aerospace in developing more advanced variants of BRAHMOS, including the BRAHMOS Next-Generation (NG) and hypersonic BRAH-

Centre puts stock limit on wheat till March 31

Govt will release 1.5 million MT of grain in open market to bring down soaring prices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

s the prices of wheat have increased by 8 to 10 per cent in the last month, the Centre on Monday imposed a stock limit up to March 31, 2024. The last stock limit of wheat was implemented in 2008.

The stock limit on wheat for all States and Union Territories been fixed for Traders/Wholesaler at 3,000 Metric Tonnes (MT); retailers at 10 MT for each retail outlet, and big chain retailers at 10 MT for each outlet and 3,000 MT at all their depots. An order of this effect was issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD). The last stock limit of wheat was implemented in 2008. The Centre will also release around 1.5 million MT of wheat in the open market from its stock to further cool down prices.

As per the order, the stock limit has been imposed on traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors till March 31, 2024. The stock limit on wheat for processors has been fixed at 75 per cent of annual

Annamalai's cold

shoulder to actor

Shekhar has not

gone down well

with community

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Things have reached a point of no return in Tamil Nadu

BJP as the Brahmin communi-

ty has turned against the State

president K Annamalai alleged

ly over the raw deal given to S Ve Shekhar, filmstar-turned-

been going on between the fac-

tions led by Shekhar and that of

Annamalai though the latter

remains tight-lipped over the

issue. Shekhar is the fourth or

raised a banner of revolt against

fifth Brahmin leader v

A war of statements has

politician.



TROUBLE BREWING FOR SAFFRON PARTY IN TAMIL NADU Brahmins turn against BJP chief

installed capacity or quantity equivalent to monthly installed capacity multiplied by remaining months of 2023-24, whichever is less.

There has been an uptick in wheat prices in the past month. There has been an increase of close to 8 per cent at the mandi level. Though wholesale and retail prices have not gone up that much, the Government has imposed stock limit on wheat...", Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said. He further said there were no plans to tweak wheat import policy as ample stock is available in the country. "Farmers and traders are holding the stock and there

are also unscrupulous elements holding the stock. We are not looking at import as enough stock available in the country, he added.

On June 2 this year, the Government had announced a similar move to control prices of tur and urad dals. The retail prices of the two pulses have shot up due to a projected fall in production during the current financial year.

Besides wheat, the Government has decided to offload rice under the OMSS and the quantity would be finalised later, he added. The official also said that there is no proposal to allow fur-

chances of Shekhar joining the

DMK have brightened as he has

not uttered a single word against

the Dravidian major during the last six months. "Shekhar has

been praising Stalin while the

latter and his half-sister

Kanimozhi have been compli-

Bengal burning under Mamata, says Thakur

Violence continued in panchayat poll-bound State on third day of filing nominations; Cong slams BJP Min

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

While Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday alleged that under Mamata Banerjee, Bengal was burning, the Chief Minister's men down there in the middle tended to spare no effort to prove the BJP leader right. This, even as alleged "TMC-sponsored violence" continued in the panchayat poll-bound State for the third consecutive day of filing nominations.

Senior Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh however, slammed Thakur wondering whether this was the same leader who had "made himself famous for his infamous Goli Maro ... slogans." He said, "we don't want to be lectured by leaders who ask their men to shoot the opponents," Ghosh said.

Alleging that "violence and corruption has become a new normal" in Bengal under Mamata Banerjee, the Union Minister while addressing a rally at Kangra reported, how incidents of "violence has increased ahead of the forthcoming panchayat elections."

The name of the State that had once produced great men like Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and others was today getting sullied for the corruption and violence being

perpetrated by the ruling Trinamool Congress, he said.

Saying that sweeper's jobs were being sold for Rs 4 lakh and that of a clerk for Rs 5 lakh, Thakur said, the only difference between the regimes of Mamata Banerjee and convicted former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Yadav was, while the former gave jobsfor-cash the latter did it for land."

Thakur's claim found immediate support from Bengal Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari who alleged that not only were the TMC goons stopping Opposition candidates from filing nominations but also the senior police officers were "planning from behind the whole 'bash-BJP' plan."

"I have reports how the SPs of Basirhat and Diamond Harbour have been asking the TMC goons to carry out a threat campaign during the nights to force the BJP candidates to withdraw their nominations," Adhikari said, attacking the new State Election Commissioner, for his alleged partisan ways.

Meanwhile violence was reported throughout the day from Chopra in North Dinajpur district, Raninagar in Murshidabad, Shaktigarh in East Burdwan, Minakhan in North 24 Parganas, Bhangar and Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas and Belda in West Midnapore.

vice president Dilip Ghosh went to the place he too was foul mouthed by the TMC workers, sources said

At Bhangar in South 24



Gehlot kicks off ₹2,500 cr canal project in Banswara

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Parganas near Kolkata, Afsa

Khatun an Indian Secular Front

candidate had to hide inside the

BDO office for four hours and

had to be rescued by the police

from the backdoor as the TMC

to kill me," she said after coming out of the BDO office.

hearing a petition filed by the Opposition BJP and Congress

advised the SEC to extend the

time of filing nomination and

consider deploying central

forces. The Court is likely to pro-

nounce its judgment on Tuesday

cerned about the extension of

the timing of nomination ...

rather we want our candidates to

be given adequate security so that they can file their nomina-

tion ... the situation in Bengal

is very tense there is no democ-

racy in the State it is only goon-

"We are not more con-

Elsewhere the Calcutta High

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a siphon on the Anas river in Lankai and a Rs 2,500 crore canal project in Magarda of Banswara district. Officials said the Upper High-Level Canal project will

provide water for irrigation in 338 villages of six tehsils in the

Addressing a function on the occasion, Gehlot also announced that the gram panchayat chhoti sarva in Banswara district will be upgraded to a panchayat samiti.

He said the canal project will play an important role in the socio-economic upliftment of

Gehlot said the project will provide irrigation facilities to a 42,000-hectare area of 338 vil-

According to a statement, the chief minister said his government has left no stone unturned in developing tribaldominated districts. The amount of the Tribal Development Fund has been increased from Rs 100 crore to Rs 500 crore, he said, adding a provision of Rs 100 crore has been made for the develop-

ment of the Beneshwar Dham. Gehlot said the state government is working to provide relief to cattle herders through various schemes. In case of the death of milch cows due to lumpy disease, an assistance of Rs 40,000 will be distributed to the cattle herders on June 16.

He said that under the Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Pashu Bima Yojana, two milch cows and buffaloes are also being insured free of cost at Rs 40,000 per animal.

Geĥlot also referred to various public welfare schemes of his government.

Water Resources and Indira Gandhi Canal Project Minister Mahendrajit Singh Malviya, Water Arjun Singh Bamnia, and Kushalgarh MLA Ramila Khadia were also present at the

While the TMC goons attacked vehicles of Congress and CPI(M) candidates at Chopra and abducted at least four of them at Minakhan hundreds of TMC men gheraoed a men threatened her with dire consequences if she filed the CPI(M) party office preventing their candidates from going to nomination. "I am fearing for my life as they have threatened file nomination. In the melee

At Kakdwip CPI(M) and Congress candidates were chased away from the local BDO office where they had gone to file nomination whereas at Shaktigarh in Burdwan Left and TMC men clashed with brickbats and sticks. The local Officer in-charge was injured in the incident.

Soma Paul a CPI(M) State com-

mittee member got a fractured

At Belda the BJP candidates were prevented from filing nomination and when national party



 $T_{\text{questioned Tamil Nadu BJP}}^{\text{he AIADMK on Monday}}_{\text{questioned Tamil Nadu BJP}}$ chief K Annamalai's intention to criticise the party despite being in the alliance, and said it will be forced to rethink its ties with the

saffron party if Annamalai is not restrained. Taking strong exception to Annamalai for his alleged criticism of the AIADMK and its leader J Jayalalithaa, the party's former State Minister D Javakumar accused the BJP leader of creating confusion in the alliance and sought to know

if the Delhi leaders approved his actions. "Is it Annamalai's intention to see that the AIADMK-BJP alliance does not win a seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and that Narendra Modi should not become Prime Minister again? Are not his activities oriented in this direction?' Jayakumar asked while speaking to mediapersons here. His criticism is unacceptable, Javakumar said and wondered why Annamalai, who is fond of talking about corruption, is silent on corruption allegations involving the BJP in Karnataka. "Did the BJP win in Karnataka doesn't he talk about the corruption allegations in Karnataka during the Assembly election," Jayakumar asked. Indicating that the BJP on its own is nothing in Tamil Nadu, Jayakumar said

the 2021 Assembly election. "After a gap of 20 years, the BJP made an entry into the State Assembly with four MLAs today because of the AIADMK. Will Annamalai deny this? The BJP will get an identity only when it remains in the

AIADMK alliance," the former Minister said. He warned that the AIADMK would be

forced to rethink its alliance with the saffron party if Annamalai continued to needlessly crit icise the party and if the BJP central leadership did not restrain an "immature" Annamalai, who wants to project himself, "Annamalai should hold his tongue and follow alliance dharma," he said and pointed to the smooth ties in the ruling DMK camp where the Congress remained restrained despite the DMK always raking up the troubles it faced during the Emergency imposed by the Congress government in 1975. Asked if he wanted a change in BJP state leadership, Jayakumar replied, "That's not our demand. We want him to be restrained. Remember the AIADMK is like a huge banyan tree and the BJP O Panneerselvam flayed the BJP chief and said Annamalai's alleged remarks on former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa showed his "political

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex

Ficici Home Finance Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: 1st floor, no.159/20, Sudha Complex, Atlas Road, Near Subhash Chowk, Sonipat- 131001

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower falled to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of property/ Date of Possession Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) Branch Rao Phool Chand Shiksha And Khel Samiti Third Floor, Dda Lig, Sector-g-8, Pocket-3, Block- E-3 Narela Pincode 110091" 25-03-2022 (Borrower), Dharmpal (Co-Borrower), Vikram Singh (Co-Borrower), Jyoti Kumari (Co-Borrower), Virender Singh (Co-Borrower), LUSND001209429, pat-B 10,04,917/-Delhi Delhi 110040 / Date d LHSNP00001298426

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : June 13, 2023 Place: Narela

Authorized Officer ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rachna Dang/ Ashwani Dang/ LBDEL00002441707	Plot No-56, Block E,Second Floor, Without roof rights, Lajpat Nagar-2, Delhi/ 07 June 2023	February 25, 2023/ Rs.66,80,306/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Rekha Gupta/ Sujeet Kumar/ LBDEL00005517381	Plot No. 280, Sector-6, Pkt B-3, Block-B, Rohini, Rohini Delhi/ 08 June 2023	February 25, 2023/ Rs.62,80,556/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Tarlochan Singh Badyal/ Paramount Powders Private Limited/ LBNOD00002073033	Flat No 3122, 12th Floor, Tower-3, Type- C, Ats Tourmaline, Sector-109, village Babupur, Gurgaon./ 08 June 2023	February 25, 2023/ Rs.1,46,96,910/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Dipankar Saikia/ Mamta Saikia/ LBDEL00002075423	Flat No-2081, 8th Floor, Tower-2, ATS Triumph, Village Dhanwapur, Sector- 104, Gurgaon/ 08 June 2023	February 25,2023/ Rs.1,71,10,881/-	Delhi/ NCR

Date: June 13, 2023 Place: Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

the BJP leadership Annamalai is ignoring me for mentator based in Chennai. Shekhar, a known party months," said Shekhar. There is also a move by the Insiders in the BJP say that hopper, is disappointed because Brahmin community in the Mumbai cops try to train noisy city with 'No Honking Day'

has time for me while frequently," said a political com-

of the cold shoulder he received from the BJP leadership. He told

The Pioneer that though he was

trying to patch up with

Annamalai, the latter has not

given him any appointment despite many requests. "I am

surprised over the fact that even

In an effort to create awareness about noise pollution and its adverse effects on environment and human health, the city's traffic police on Monday announced a 'No Honking Day' on Wednesday to check the trend of avoidable honking by motorists across the country's commercial Three years after it activated "punishing sig-

nals" — traffic signals linked to decibel meters at major traffic junctions in the metropolis, the Mumbai police said that on the 'No Honking Day' they would initiate action against those who indulge in needless blaring of their vehicle horns as per the MV Act and also the Environment Protection Act, 1986. "We urge the drivers and riders in the

Mumbai city, except ambulances, fire brigades and other vehicles on emergency duties, not to honk the horns of their vehicle on 14th June 2023 and other days as well," a senior traffic police official "Motorists are advised to ensure that the horns

of their vehicles are as per the guidelines laid down in Rule No. 119 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules of 1989. Action will be taken against those who are honking unnecessarily under Section 194 (F) MV Act, CMVR 119(2)/177 MV Act and Environment Protection Act 1986," the traffic police said in a statement issued separately Welcoming the decision of the traffic police,

Anti-noise pollution crusader Sumaira Abdulali of Awaz Foundation said: "The traffic police started observing 'No Honking Day' for the first time in 2006. Unfortunately, this kind of awareness has not much of an impact on the levels of noise pollution caused by the blaring of horns by motorists. It is good that the police have announced that they will act against the motorists who - through honking — violate the norms prescribed under the Environment Protection Act, 1986"

"As an awareness campaign, 'No Honking Day' is a good concept. But they should enforce noise control norms all through the year.....Motorcycles are the worst noise polluters on the roads, causing noise levels as high as 110 decibels, while most other vehicles are in the range of 90-100 decibels. Noise levels generated by all kinds of vehicles.... Since the fine for honking a



use of the law," Sumaira said.

Incidentally, Mumbai has 43 lakh vehicles comprising two-wheelers, three-wheelers, cars light and heavy motor vehicles, goods carriers, etc.

It may be recalled that on January 31, 2020, the Mumbai traffic police — in an effort to reduce noise pollution levels in the country's commercial capital, had rolled out a novel "Punishing Signal" campaign - centred around "Honk more, wait more" theme — to discipline Mumbaikars who love to honk needlessly even when the traffic signal is red.

A video clip released by the Mumbai police ahead of the introduction and activation of "punishing signals" at major traffic junctions in the metropolis like the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Marine Drive, Pedder Road, Hindmata Cinema Dadar and Bandra, had gone viral on the social media then.

As part of the "Punishing signal" campaign, the city police had connected decibel monitors to traffic signals at major traffic junctions in the metropolis.

When the cacophony triggered by needless honking exceeds the dangerous sound level of 85decibels, the signal timers get reset, entailing a double waiting time for all vehicles! And a "punishing" message 'Honk more, wait more', comes on the digital display board installed near the traffic junctions.

However, the "punishing signal" does not seem to have helped the traffic police in bringing down noise pollution caused by unnecessary honking by motorists across the metropolis.

Gaunders and the Thevars have the AIADMK. So what is wrong in the Brahmins forming a separate political outfit," asked Meanwhile in Kerala also the BJP is fast emerging as a house divided. B Gopalakrishnan and Sandeep Warrier,

State (constituting two per cent

of the population) to float a political party. "The Vanniyars have the PMK, the Mudaliyars

have the DMK and the

leaders who sounded critical of the Yaga held last month by party's State chief K Surendran made a vault face on Monday and said that they do not have anything against the BJP. "We remain in the BJP come whatever. I did not attend the Yaga as I was not aware of the same," said Gopalakrishnan while according to Warrier, he was the one who always looked ahead of times. "More than divine blessings, I ple through good deeds," he said. The going is not easy for the BJP in both the southern States.

Four boys feared drowned in Mumbai sea; Navy chopper begins search

Four boys, aged between 12 to 16 years, are feared drowned after they ventured into the rough sea at Juhu in Mumbai on Monday while their friend has been rescued, officials said.

A civic official said a Navy chopper has been launched at 8.20 PM and a search operation is in progress. A Defence spokesperson said diving teams are on standby but they are not being deployed now due to adverse sea conditions. The incident occurred at

Juhu Koliwada in the western suburbs, where a group of five boys, in the age group of 12 to 16 years, ventured into the sea around 5.30 PM, he said. Authorities have already

warned people and fishermen against venturing into the sea because of the rough conditions ahead of the landfall of cyclone 'Biparjoy' on the Gujarat coast on June 15 Civic authorities had initial-

people had entered the Arabian

sea at Juhu, but later it was con-

firmed that the group com-prised five boys, the official said. The boys had walked half a kilometre from the seashore when they started drowning, he

"One of the boys was rescued by a fisherman before the fire brigade arrived at the scene, while four others are still missing and a search operation is underway for them," the official

staff of Mumbai civic body and ambulances have been dispatched to the scene, he said. Fire Brigade personnel are facing difficulty in the search

The fire brigade, police,

operation because of high tide, the official said, adding that divers from the Navy and Coast Guard have also been requested to join the operation. He said the boys are resi-

Santacruz. The missing boys are idenly received information that six

(12), Shubham Yogesh Oganiya (15) and Dharmesh Valji Faujiya (16), the official said.

tified as Jay Roshan Tajbariya (15), Manish Yogesh Oganiya

dents of Vakola area in suburban The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Kudos to his mettle

Djokovic's 23rd Grand Slam victory is a testament to his exceptional talent and mental fortitude

n an extraordinary display of talent, perseverance, and unwavering determination, Novak Djokovic has reached a remarkable milestone in his tennis career, securing his 23rd Grand Slam title with a magnificent victory at the French Open. This exceptional achievement not only solidifies Djokovic's status as one of the greatest players in the history of the sport but also places him ahead of his formidable rival Rafael Nadal in terms of Grand Slam titles won. The French Open final witnessed Djokovic's sheer brilliance on the court as he overcame all challenges with his exceptional skills, mental fortitude, and unwavering focus. His victory against a highly formidable opponent showcased his unparalleled ability to thrive under immense pressure. Djokovic's ability to adapt to different surfaces and excel in all conditions has been a hallmark of his illustrious career, and it was on full display during this historic moment. By securing his 23rd Grand Slam title, Djokovic surpasses the remarkable record set by Rafael Nadal, an achievement that solid-



ifies his place among the tennis greats. It is a testament to his incredible work ethic, dedication, and talent that he has been able to consistently perform at the highest level and break records that were once considered untouchable. Djokovic's journey to this record-breaking moment has been nothing short of extraordinary. Throughout his career, he has faced numerous challenges, setbacks, and intense competition from his peers, but his resilience and mental strength have always been his greatest assets. His ability to bounce back from defeats and learn from his mistakes has propelled him to the pinnacle of the sport. What sets Djokovic apart from his contemporaries

is not just his ability to win Grand Slam titles but also his consistency across all major tournaments. His unwavering focus and hunger for success have propelled him to an astounding total of 23 titles, with victories across the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. This remarkable feat underscores his versatility and adaptability, as he has conquered every Grand Slam tournament. Djokovic's dominance over the past few years has been truly remarkable. His relentless pursuit of excellence has seen him achieve unprecedented success, and his ability to maintain his form and peak physical condition year after year is a testament to his dedication to the sport. As Djokovic continues to etch his name in the annals of tennis history, his achievements serve as a reminder of the incredible talent, hard work, and sacrifice required to reach the pinnacle of any sport. Novak Djokovic's record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title victory will be remembered for generations to come. It is a testament to his exceptional talent, mental fortitude, and sheer willpower. As he continues to push the boundaries of what is possible on the tennis court, Djokovic serves as an inspiration to all athletes, reminding them that with unwavering dedication and a burning desire to succeed, the impossible can be achieved.



Visitors at the India Gate lawns alongside Kartavya Path on a hot summer day, in New Delhi

Engage children in environmental issues



Schools should incorporate environmental education into their curricula, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age

plastic bottle to decompose?" asked the teacher to a class full of children and parents at a monthly parent-teacher meeting. The answer: 500-700 years left everyone startled and gave each other a look of shock. The next question was, "How much plastic waste is generated in Delhi alone?" The answer: According to an assessment carried out by the Delhi government's environment department in 2020, Delhi generates 1,060 tonnes of plastic waste every day, explained the teacher. A group of parents and children stood up to commit to using cloth bags and reusable water bottles, along with motivating their peers to adopt sustainable practices as small as these.

Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of air pollution and environmental changes. They are also the ones who will inherit the planet, so we must listen to their voices and empower them to be agents of change. India's environmental challenges are extensive, encompassing air and water pollution, scarcity of food and water, inadequate waste management, and biodiversity loss.

One promising avenue lies in empowering children, who possess a unique perspective and untapped potential to contribute to environmental solutions. As future custodians of the planet, they will bear the burden of environmental degradation. By involving children as stakeholders in decision-making processes and policy discussions, their creativity, innovative thinking, and passion can be harnessed to shape a sustainable future. However, empowering children goes beyond tokenistic gestures; it requires meaningful participation, genuine inclusion of their perspectives, and the protection of their rights. Adoption of innovative approaches is needed to engage children in the journey to build their stewardship for the planet and do what is best for tnemseives, their nomes, and the community around them.

Through initiatives like 'Mera Planet Mera Ghar,' children have actively engaged with environ-



mental concerns to adopt sustainable practices and influence the community and policymakers, thus exemplifying a paradigm shift in recognizing children's agency in environmental stewardship. This initiative is making significant strides in empowering children and amplifying their voices on environmental concerns in their communities. Through surveys, interactive activities, science-based experiments, workshops, and community events, the initiative provides children with a platform to build environmental stewardship, express their views, and develop a deep understanding of environmental challenges and their implications. However, genuine empowerment requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses educational reforms, policy changes, and collaboration among media, civil society organizations, the government, and, most importantly, the citizens of India. Along with this, there is an acute need to engage children where they are and empower tnem to take immediate steps so that they can make sense of their environment and adopt sustainable behaviour as a lifelong practice. By incorporating



INCORPORATING **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INTO CURRICULA AND PRIORITISING** CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN **DECISION-MAKING** PROCESSES, INDIA CAN BUILD A **SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

environmental education into curricula, prioritizing children's participation in decision-making processes, and creating platforms that amplify their voices, India can unlock the full potential of empowering children and building a sustainable future. To fully realize the potential of empowering children as environmental stakeholders, broader systemic changes are necessary. Educational institutions should incorporate environmental education into their curricula, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age to enable the adoption of behaviours for sustainable practices.

Campaigns like 'Mera Pla-net, Mera Ghar' have shown tremendous potential in engaging children in environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices. Through science-based experiments, interactive workshops, and multimedia content, the campaign educates children about the environment and empowers them to become agents of

The involvement of local leaders, parents, and NGO partners ensures that children's voices are heard, and their demands are taken seri-

Slash rates of petroleum products

ously. The campaign's success in reaching millions of people through social media platforms and generating significant engagement highlights the importance of collaborative efforts between various stakeholders. While empowering children and incorporating environmental education into the curriculum are important steps, it is crucial to acknowledge the limitations and potential drawbacks of such approaches.

Decision-making processes should balance children's involvement with their ageappropriate understanding of complex environmental issues. Short-term campaigns may fail to bring about lasting behavioural change or significant policy shifts. Environmental challenges require sustained and systemic changes that go beyond awarenessraising and educational initiatives. Therefore, it is crucial to complement these efforts with comprehensive policy reforms, investment in infrastructure, and stronger regulations to address the root causes of

(The writer is Managing Trustee, of Sesame Workshop India Trust. Views expressed are the personal)

environmentai problems.

Millennials and their aspirational homes



The real estate market in India is experiencing a significant shift due to the influence of the millennial generation

ndia's millennial generation, which constitutes **▲**34% of the country's population, is redefining the real estate market. They are a moneyed lot with greater access to education and job opportunities than the previous generation and are more aspirational. Despite a culture of saving for the future, the millennial generation is investing heavily in real estate, with a recent survey indicating that nearly 75% of them plan to invest in real estate over the next three years.

One of the primary reasons for this trend is the Indian culture of valuing land ownership and viewing it as a matter of pride and an extension of one's personality. Millennials view owning a physical asset like land as a source of long-term security and a surety in times of unexpected calamities. Moreover, they spend large sums on education and marriages, which makes a physical asset like a piece of land a practical investment, considering that its value only appreciates with time. However, millennials' approach to land ownership and the concept of an

from that of their parents. The aesthetics of living space are

of paramount importance to them. They are open to experimentation and receptive to fads and trends, with a flexible budget to explore and adhere to values. They prioritize themes, a wide choice of raw materials, and an array of colour palettes, unlimited decor and furnishing options, which give them a wide range

The concept of a home is far more inclusive than earlier, and outer open space is as important as inner space. To ensure access to natural sunlight, fresh air, and maximum greenery, balconies, patios, and terraces are planned right at the design stage. A garden, a home theatre, a workout space, a study space, a reading space, a swimming pool, play area are just a few options 'ideal' home is vastly different that redefine the functional-

ity of a home. Millennials prefer apartment blocks with amenities within the complex itself, such as a gym, basketball/badminton courts, grocery and vegetable stores, mini theatres, medical stores, and even a clinic, as convenience is a mantra they swear by. They also expect the community living space to be pet-

Easy access to essentials, fashion, entertainment, and people is the primary driver for millennials. They are attracted to properties in good neighborhoods featuring open green areas and facilities such as hospitals, educational institutes, banks, shopping complexes, etc. within easy access. The residential and spending habits have changed the face of

The millennial preference covers the entire spectrum. While some go for quirky spaces, others go for contemporary elegance; some fancy smart homes, while eco-friendliness is the crux for others; apartment complexes for maximum security and community interaction is a choice, unbridled freedom, and complete privacy is also

a choice, not to forget the hybrid gated communities. They are also investing in farmlands, building farmhouses, and vacation homes. These changing preferences are making the real estate market a great opportunity for players in the space.

The new generation opts for spacious, bigger homes as they are spending more time in their homes with their loved ones. Also, with 'workfrom-home' becoming the new norm, they like to have a separate workspace. While millennials also crave experiences like travelling and pursuing hobbies, let's not forget that home itself has transformed into an experience even as we see a resurgence of family values.

The real estate market in India is experiencing a significant shift due to the influence of the millennial generation. This generation is actively investing in real estate, but their perspectives on land ownership and the definition of an 'ideal' home are considerably different from those of previous generations.

(The author is CEO and Founder of Legend Siroya

FIGHT PLASTIC POLLUTION

Sir — The human race is sadly disinterested in fighting plastic pollution The first man-made plastic was created in 1862. It has taken 150 years to wake up to its damage and maybe another 50 to stop its use. We explore and create new things but are not prescient enough about their outcomes and far less earnest to rectify in time. We split the atom only to terrorise each other with a deadly weapon. But man's genius would continue to drive his curiosity and innovation. We already are into human genetic intervention and modification. On a lesser time scale than the likes of plastics, we may meet bigger consequences with little idea as to where this exciting field takes us from which we may find it difficult to retrace or undo. Man though gifted with brilliance, is as cursed with lack of farsight. His eagerness to pander to his creativity overrides his sense of equilibrium. Govts have passed laws on plastics ban, but lack the willpower to implement them as their campaign to educate the public lacks impetus and the evangelical zeal required for a universal cause. We then leave it to future generations to suffer the consequences and to seek, remedies rendered harder over time, to devise and implement.

R. Narayanan | Mumbai

WOMEN WIN THE JUNIOR ASIA CUP

Sir — Once again the women folk has made the country proud by winning the Maiden Women, s Junior Asia Cup held in Japan,s Kakamigahara. They defeated South Korea 2-1 in a nail-biting finish. This maiden triumph has once again shifted the limelight to women,s hockey team. It is interesting to note that they have already secured a spot in the F.I.H women,s Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile by reaching the final here.

While Annu and Neelam stole the limelight by scoring one goal each, Indian captain Preeti captured the centre stage by winning the player of the match. In an International tournament dominated by

ndia imports about 85 per cent crude to meet



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

its requirements and spends huge foreign exchange. Recently, India has through its stepped-up imports of Russian crude-it bought a third of its from the sanctions-hit country in March-substantially buffered itself from any

appreciable adverse impact. India has sharply increased its purchase of crude from Russia the price India pays for the imported barrel of oil has been steadily declining. Still, the softening in crude purchase prices has not yet percolated to the Indian consumer.

It is not only that we have imported Russian crude at cheaper rates, but the prices of petrol and diesel in the international market are also down to about \$75 against \$116 per barrel in May 2022. But the pump prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged since. May 22. 2022. The Government must decide on the basis to reduce petroleum prices in the country by reducing the central government taxes on petroleum products

S.K. Khosla | Chandigarh

podium finish is a great achievement. This win is likely to boost their confidence in the upcoming challenges at the Junior World Cup later in the year.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

AUSSIES WIN THE TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Sir — Kudos to Australia for beating India handsomely (209 run thrashing) to win their maiden World Test Championship and the first team to win the full set of a total 9 number of ICC trophies. The Aussies played well and deserve a part for playing brilliantly the last 5 days. India showed up for two sessions on days 3 and 4 to make it a bit of a contest. Even India started the day needing 280 runs with 7wickets in hand, but then they proceeded to collapse in just 20.3 overs on a pitch that was still good for batting. Apart from some fielding lapses, the Aussies were the

better side. India has a serious mental problem with ICC knockouts and finals no matter what the format. I think this loss for India will hurt more than the last loss to New Zealand. What happened for India was along expected lines. An ill-prepared Asian stalwarts like Japan and China, a team, with four players (Rohit, Pujara,

Bharat and Umesh Yadav) whose best Test days were long over, a clueless and docile captain, and listless fielding. What was even more shameful was the meek surrender, without even a semblance of a fight for pride. Here at the Oval, the pitch was good, there were no atmospherics and conditions for batting were hot and perfectly excellent throughout. Yet Indian "God" batsmen failed to even pass 250 in the second innings. I think the coach and the other support staff have a lot to answer for. The grass and cloud cover sets the cat among the pigeons of the Indian team think tank and lo and behold - we bowl first, conceding 469 runs which are near- then our aggregate score of both innings. There is so much media hype and slick event marketing about our cricket players who are idolised with sky-high expectations but the fact is that these are only gullible illusions about reality! But it's possible, with proper team selection, practice and when our top order has stuck in with improving

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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FIRST COLUMN KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT OF GIVE AND TAKE CLEAR

Giving is a fabulous trait that brings blessings and abundance



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

hile money can't buy happiness, it certainly lets you choose your form of misery, said Groucho Marx-the great comedian of America. We all love money ...don't we? It's a fact that money makes the world go round because it can make the impossible possible and the unimaginable real. Hence, it won't be an exaggeration to say that money can do almost everything. But, as mentioned above, does money buy happiness? If this answer were Yes, in that case, all the millionaires would be immensely happy and the poor, who are the majority in the world, would be unhappy. Hence, we need to understand that the association of money with happiness depends not on how much we have, but on how we use it and how we relate to our resources.

Of course, a person of modest means will have many concerns, like paying bills and children's schooling, but then wealthy people often need to protect themselves behind walls and drive in armoured cars. So, in that sense, a nomad who lives in a tent in the desert can be very happy. Right? In Hindi, money means Dhan which is derived from the verb 'Dena', meaning to give. All of us just love to take everything and anything that comes our way, isn't it true? but when it comes to giving something, our face becomes grim and our heart sinks, why is it so? If we look at what is happening around us, we would realize that we have become a society of takers, and surprisingly when it comes to taking, none of us counts the cost, but when it comes to giving every tiny item is checked and calculated. In India, there has been a culture of donating or sharing one's wealth with others for many years. The whole idea



behind this has been that anything that one has in excess, it should be given to those who need it and in turn earn blessings and good wishes. Hence, we must realise the fact that money is merely a tool that has to be used wisely and without greed, attachment or selfishness to create happiness for all

An enlightened person would always use the money for the maximum good of the maximum number of people, whereas for a spiritually empowered soul, money becomes a tool to create good karma and a good destiny for the self and others. So, the moral of the story is that money has never made man permanently happy, nor will it. As takers, we try our best to gain as much as we can from others without providing anything back or providing just a little bit back in return. Those who are takers are not known as benevolent or generous people and will tend to have a mindset of 'what's in it for me?'. Such people are inclined to look for what they can gain from others, sometimes without considering the option of giving something to themselves. On the other hand, givers are those who are selfless and tend to give all they have or a lot of what they have and usually are not willing to take anything back.

Giving is a fabulous trait that brings blessings and abundance, as long as it is coming from a complete place and is used in the right dose. The universe responds very well to giving when it comes from a "pure" place and a true willingness to give. Unfortunately, the irony of today's time is that we have trained our current generation just to take.. take and take without giving their fair share. We have set up systems that encourage the attitude of giving a little and getting a great deal in return. However, in this whole act of smartness, we tend to forget that nothing in this world comes without paying a price, if not now then for sure it will be later. There is nothing for free, that is the Universal Law. If this simple law and all its deep implications could be understood and accepted, then our dealings with others would be based upon honesty. Those who learn to keep their account of give and take in balance can avoid

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

De-dollarisation is fast becoming a reality



The current escalation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine has given a boost to the de-dollarisation movement

n a startling mode, the BRICS group of countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa- is developing a new currency to compete with the US dollar. Moscow and Beijing are aggressively leading the charge toward de-dollarization. It is argued with this major development, the value of the dollar is going to lose its sheen very soon. Increased investment in BRICS countries would lead to an increase in spending and economic development. Consequently, it is predicted that if the BRICS nations follow forward with their plan and create a new currency, it might help stabilise their economies.

With no wonder, De-dollarization is the process of making the dollar less indispensable in international trade. Trading oil and/or other commodities, purchasing US dollars for the forex reserves, entering into bilateral trade agreements, and purchasing dollar-denominated assets are all examples of dollarization. Due to the dollar's extensive use, the United States enjoys disproportionate sway over other economies. The United States has traditionally employed the use of sanctions as a means to accomplish its foreign policy objectives. The goal of dedollarization is to protect national central banks from geopolitical dangers associated with the United States Dollar's position as the world's reserve currency. The term "de-dollarization" has gained popularity in recent years as countries work to lessen their reliance on the US dollar and assert greater control over their economies. The economic and geopolitical difficulties experienced by many nations as a result of US sanctions or influence have been a driving force behind this pattern.

The reasons behind the dawn of Dedollarization are many. However, the current escalation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine has given a boost to the Dedollarization movement. Russia's \$300 billion in foreign currency reserves have been frozen and Russian banks have been barred from the Swift international payments system as punishment for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The initiative gained momentum after Russian lawmaker Alexander Babakov, deputy chairman of the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly, was cited as claiming the BRICS countries were working on a new payment medium.

IMPORTANCE OF NEW PAYMENT **MEDIUM:** There are numerous equations about De-dollarization which are novering around in the sphere of money, power and international relations. De-dollarization advocates argue that doing so will lessen countries' reliance on the dollar and the US economy, making them more resilient to the effects of economic and political shifts in the United States. Followers of De-dollarization also claim that it can lessen the likelihood of financial crises in developing nations by protecting them from the effects of variations in the value of their currencies and interest rates.

States values India as a key partner and ally

THE DE-

DOLLARISATION TREND IS **GAINING MOMENTUM DESPITE** OBSTACLES. WHICH MIGHT HAVE SEVERE EFFECTS ON THE US ECONOMY

in the Indo-Pacific. Attempts by Russia and China to decrease dollar usage are seen as more ideological than practical by the Indian government, and the BRICS' mobilization to challenge the dollar's hegemony is not publicly supported by New Delhi. The two countries' recent military standoffs may also discourage India from backing China's goal to dethrone the dollar.

China has been a vocal challenger of the dollar's dominance. The deterioration of US-Chinese ties has drawn attention to the power of the US currency and its capacity to obstruct Chinese commerce and technology. These set-backs have prompted China to form a sphere of influence with the BRICS nations rather than participate in the US-dominated global order. Russia has long hoped to use the political might of the BRICS nations to forward the cause of dedollarization. While India is not bected to play a direct part in any BRICS strategy to lessen the US dol-lar's clout, it may assist minimize dollar dependency by backing efforts to increase the use of local currencies in international commerce and finance.

In light of China's hostility towards India and her support for Pak-sponsored terrorist activities, it is in India's best interest to align with the United States, a democracy, rather than China under the dicta-

At the same time, Russia is accumulating up to USD 1 billion every

month in Indian rupee assets that remain stranded outside the nation due to its unequal economic relationship with India. This adds to the stockpile of wealth it has accumulated overseas since the Ukraine war. Since the invasion, Russia has become India's primary source of petroleum imports. Because of the war, European consumers cut back on their spending, thus Russia had to accept a smaller percentage of commerce in home currency and shift goods to the East.

De-dollarization is of significance to India for reasons outside its trade policies. It has also been reported that the nation is interested in talking to Russia and China about finding an alternative to SWIFT. This might open the door for India to use its currency in commerce with nations that are subject to US sanctions. Russia's SPFS and China's CIPS will be integrated into India's local financial messaging sys-

India's developing economic relations with Russia and China also factor into the country's interest in de-dollarization. India is already one of Russia's biggest buyers of crude oil, and the two nations have been trying to expand their commerce in other areas as well. Both India and China have been increasing their economic cooperation in recent years, and they have agreed to double their trade to \$100 billion by and lessening its dependency on the

THE US AND AFTERMATH OF **DE-DOLLARIZATION:** The dedollarization trend is gaining momentum despite obstacles, which might have severe effects on the US economy. Because of its status as the world's primary reserve currency, the US dollar has long had access to favourable conditions such as lowinterest rates on loans, high trade deficits, and widespread sway. In contrast, the United States stands to lose economic and geopolitical clout if the dollar loses its status as a global reserve currency and medium of exchange to other cur-

If a new reserve currency or multipolar currency world is formed, it may threaten the US dollar's status as a haven asset and a global liquidity source, which could cause financial instability.

NEED OF THE HOUR: Amidst De-dollarization, India is mulling discussing the possible mechanism to cope with the changing situations.
Governments may encourage domestic currencies to be used in international commerce by offering tax breaks and other benefits to companies that do so.

For some imports of petroleum, oil, minerals, and military hardware from Russia, India has been making informal payments in rupees since 2019.

Governments can work together to create non-dollar-based payment systems, such as the Chineseled Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Governments may lessen their reliance on the dollar by forming economic relationships with other nations. Governments may invest in other currencies either to hedge against the risk of currency volatility or to challenge the United States Dollar's pre-eminence. Wait and watch this new medium of payment!

torial regime of Chinese President 2022. Considering these circum-INDIA'S POSITION AND RE-POSI-Xi Jinping. Experts argue that destances, it's not unexpected that dollarization by India is doable India is looking to strengthen its TION: India's position and re-position in the time of De-dollarization have sparked with the right policies in place. India commercial connections with needs to achieve a trade surplus or a current account surplus so that the scores of debates. China, Russia, Brazil, Russia and China and find alternatives to SWIFT. However, given the India, the ASEAN countries, Kenya, Saudi (The writer is HoD- Digital rupee may be used as a global trad-Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are dominance of the US currency in just some of the countries working toward Marketing and ing currency. That will lead to an the global financial system, it increase in demand for the rupee on Associate Professor at remains to be seen how effective de-dollarization. India, a longtime US India will be in encouraging the use partner, has joined China in advocating for the School of the currency exchange market, the use of the rupee as an alternative to the ending its steady decline. Management, of these other payment methods dollar in international trade. The United Presidency University

Bangalore)

M Karunanidhi: 'Thalaivar' who shaped Tamil Nadu

M Karunanidhi's autobiography 'Nenjukku Neethi' gives a glimpse of his life and struggle

Pormer Tamil Nadu chief minister M Karunanidhi was many things was many things to many people. He was "Thalaivar" to his cadres, a wily politician to his opponents and a visionary to his admirers. His autobiography 'Nenjukku Neethi shows his life and struggle.

Karunanidhi is among the half-a-dozen leaders who shaped Tamil Nadu. Considering his contribution to state, regional and national politics, it is only fitting for the state government to celebrate his birth centenary for a year from June 3. He died at 94 in August 2018. In his own words, Karunanidhi said, "I have written stories and dialogues for 75 films. I have used my career in films to dispel ignorance among the people in the lower rungs of society, to



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior

journalist)

light up their lives, to remove inequities in society, to spread socially reformative and progressive views and to make Tamilians aware of the antiquity, the sweep, the grandeur and the richness of their language." Karunanidhi was chief minister for five terms spread over 19 years. He was DMK chief ten times and legislator 13 times. Growing up amid the Dravidian movement of the 1930s, the multi-faceted Karunanidhi began his life as an activist and journalist. He later became a powerful scriptwriter who used films as a medium to spread the DMK message. He epitomized Dravidian politics, rooted in the Justice Party that emerged in the old Madras Presidency

gins and a champion of Dravidian politics, Karunanidhi joined politics at 14. When Annadurai launched the DMK in 1949, he was part of it. Karunanidhi became an MLA in 1957, a minister in 1967 and chief minister in 1969. He weathered many political storms. Indira Gandhi dismissed his government in 1976 when He opposed the Emergency. Prime Minister Chandrashekhar sacked his government in 1990. Meanwhile, his one-time friend M.G. Ramachandran split the party in 1972. He formed a new party Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Since then, the DMK and AIADMK have ruled the State. The DMK remained out of power from 1977 to 1987. MGR ruled till Rising from humble ori- he died in 1987. After the

assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, AIADMK leader J. Jayalalithaa won in alliance with Congress in 1991. Since then, the DMK and the AIADMK have alternated in power except from 2011 to 2021.

He also dabbled in national politics. During the 1969 Congress split, he supported Indira Gandhi. When Jayaprakash Narayan launched the Janata Party, the DMK was part of it. He had a cosy relationship with several national leaders. The DMK was part of all coalitions, including the 1989 National Front, United Front in 1996, NDA in 1999, and UPA in 2004. He declined to be the Prime Minister in 1997 when H.D. Deve Gowda stepped down. Karunanidhi asserted, "En uyaram enakke theriyum (I know my height)."

During the 1969 Congress plit, he supported Indira Gandhi. When Jayaprakash Narayan launched the Janata Party, the DMK was part of it.

À consummate politician, Karunanidhi could always gauge the public mood correctly. Just before the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, I asked him how he and other senior leaders like comrade Jyoti Basu accepted Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's (a novice compared to them) leadership. True to his prediction, the UPA defeated the Vajpayee government. He made and unmade

alliances based on electoral fortunes. He believed in no permanent enemies or friends in politics. Though Indira Gandhi got his government dismissed in 1976, he became an ally of Congress four years

later. They hobnobbed with political leaders virtually across the spectrum. Karunanidhi played a crucial role in Indo-Sri Lankan relations. While MGR supported the LTTE, Karunanidhi had links with Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, which LTTE finished. He criticized the Indo-Srilankan Accord. Karunanidhi's critics blamed him for his government's failure to take a decisive stand against the massacre of Sri Lankan Tamil in Sri Lanka in 2009. In the seventies, he also faced corruption charges, and the Sarkaria Commission partly acquitted him. The 2 G scam in 2010 also was a black mark during the UPA era.

On the plus side, despite consistent complaints that Karunanidhi had made the

party his family property, he kept the cadres with him. He prepared a smooth succession plan and made his son M.K. Stalin succeed him. As a good administrator, he built the basic infrastructure which became the basis for industrialization in the State. Establishing the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and a range of welfare boards enabled the State to attract investments. Karunanidhi outlived all his opponents. But his place in Tamil Nadu and national politics will be remembered forever. He was known for constantly fighting with the Centre on states' rights and Federalism. Karunanidhi will always be remembered as the most colourful and daring politician of his time. He has left behind a lasting legacy.

US to rejoin UNESCO to counter China 10 killed, 25 hurt in Aus bus crash

UNESCO announced on Monday that the United States plans to rejoin the UN cultural and scientific agency and pay more than USD 600 million in back dues — after a decade-long dispute sparked by the organisation's move to include Palestine as a member.

US officials say the decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters

Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a country that was once the agency's single biggest funder.

The US and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011

decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and man-

agement problems.
UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, has worked to address those concerns since her election in 2017, and that appears to have paid off.

"It's a historic moment for UNESCO," she said Monday. "It's also an important day for multilateralism.

US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma submitted a letter last week to Azoulay formalising the plan to rejoin. He noted progress in depoliticizing debate about the Middle East and reforming the agency's management, according to the hand-delivered letter, obtained by AP.

The decision is a big boost the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, known for its World Heritage program as well as projects to fight climate change and teach girls to read. While Palestinian membership in UNESCO was the the agency, its return is more about China's growing influ-

Undersecretary of State for Management John Bass said in March that the US absence from UNESCO had strengthened China, and 'undercuts our ability to be as effective in promoting our vision of a free world."

He said UNESCO was key in setting and shaping standards for technology and science teaching around the world, "so if we're really serious about the digital-age competition with China ... we can't afford to be absent any longer." The US decision doesn't

address the status of Palestine. While it's a member of UNESCO, on the ground, the Palestinians are further away from independence than ever.

There have not been serious peace talks in over a decade, wins next year's presidential election. "What's happened over and Israel's new government is filled with hardliners who oppose Palestinian independence.The Palestinian ambassador to UNESCO didn't comment on the US decision. The only envoy who wasn't gushing

sador, Jin Yang. He noted the for your own national interest.'

Under the plan, the US government would pay its 2023 dues plus \$10 million in bonus contributions this year earmarked for Holocaust education, preserving cultural heritage in Ukraine, journalist safety, and science and technology education in Africa, Verma's letter says.

The Biden administration has already requested USD 150 million for the 2024 budget to go toward UNESCO dues and The plan foresees similar

requests for the ensuing years until the full debt of USD 619 million is paid off. That makes up a big chunk of UNESCO's USD 534 million annual operating budget. Before leaving, the US contributed 22 per cent of the agency's overall funding. A UNESCO diplomat expressed hope that the return of the US would bring "more ambition, and more serenity" - and energise programs to regulate artificial intelligence, educate girls in Afghanistan and chronicle victims of slavery in the

Abus carrying wedding guests rolled over on a foggy night in Australia's wine country, killing 10 people and injuring 25, police said Monday.
The 58-year-old driver was

arrested and being held at a Cessnock police station and will be charged, Police Assistant Commissioner Tracy Chapman said. She would not detail the allegations, including whether speed was a factor, but told reporters "there is sufficient information ... for us to establish that there will be charges.

The crash happened just after 11:30 p.m. Sunday in foggy conditions at a roundabout on Wine Country Drive in the town of Greta in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales state north of

The guests had earlier attended a wedding at the Wandin Estate Winery and were heading for their accommodation in the town of Singleton, Chapman said. One guest told Seven News it had been a nice day and a fairytale



Emergency workers man a road block near the town of Greta following a bus crash in the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, Australia on Monday.

A motorist who drove past the crash scene, identified by Australian Broadcasting Corp. only as Alison, said the fog was so heavy she could not make out the colors of the flashing lights of police cars, ambulances and fire trucks.

"The fog was terrible," she told the ABC. "It was super foggy. You could barely see in front of you." Of the 25 people injured, 21 remained in hospitals late Monday morning and one was in critical condition,

the state government said. The conditions of the others were described as stable. Another 18 passengers were uninjured.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese thanked first responders and offered government support to victims and their families, saying the "mental scars of this will not go away."

"For a joyous day like that, in a beautiful place, to end with such terrible loss of life and injury is so cruel and so sad and so unfair," Albanese told

Biden to host Stoltenberg in race to replace him

Washington (AP): President Joe Biden is welcoming outgoing NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg to the White House for talks on Monday as the competition to find his successor to lead the military alliance heats up.

Stolenberg, who has led the NATO since 2014 and has had his tenure extended three times, said earlier this year he would move on when his current time expires at the end of September. The jockeying to replace him is intensifying as leaders of the 31member military alliance are set to meet next month for their annual summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. Last week, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made the case for U.K. Defense Minister Ben Wallace directly to Biden. The US president also met with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, another potential contender. Asked about the NATO job at a news conference with Sunak by his side, Biden called Wallace "very qualified" but noted that the conversation among NATO leaders to find a "consensus" pick to replace Stoltenberg was ongoing. Biden's opinion carries enormous weight

'One dead, many

Maryland home

hurt in shooting at

Annapolis (US): A Maryland

police chief said that at least

one person was killed and sev-

eral others wounded in a shoot-

ing Sunday at a house in the

Jackson told The Baltimore

Sun that several people were

shot and at least one of the vic-

Numerous police cars were seen in the residential area

where the shooting happened

south of the city center and

issued a news release confirm-

ing multiple people were hurt

and that one was flown to a trauma center. The release did

not elaborate further on the

that a suspect was in custody

and that there was no further

The police statement said

The police department

near the waterfront.

threat to the public.

Annapolis Police Chief Ed

state's capital city.

tims had died.



as the U.S. spends more than any other member in the alliance on

Frederiksen sought to play down her candidacy after she met with Biden last week. She declined to say whether she discussed the coming vacancy with him, telling reporters that she did not want to go "further in these speculations about NATO." The alliance has never had a female secretary-general. A British gov-ernment official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said ahead of Sunak's visit that the leader wants to be sure the next secretary general "carries on Stoltenberg's good work of modernization but also understands the importance of defense spending?

Israel's ex-PM testifies at Netanyahu's

CORRUPTION trial

Jerusalem (AP): Israel's opposition leader testified for the prosecution on Monday against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his corruption trial in Jerusalem. Yair Lapid, a former prime minister himself and a major Netanyahu riyal is and a major Netanyahu rival, is testifying in one of three cases against Netanyahu.

The indictment claims Netanyahu used his position of power to further Hollywood mogul Arnon Milchan's interests in exhange for gifts, representing a conflict between the premier's public duties and personal friendship.

Netanyahu did personal favors for Milchan, including asking US officials to extend Milchan's US resident's permit and extending Israeli regula-tions exempting Israeli returnees from declaring foreign income, according to the indictment. Netanyahu, denies claims of wrongdoing, saying he was not acting in Milchan's personal interests and even occasionally acted against them. He says the exchanges of gifts were just friendly gestures.

Trump, allies escalate attacks on criminal case

AP WASHINGTON

negative impact of the US

absence, and expressed hope

that the move means

Washington is serious about

international organisation is a

serious issue, and we hope that the return of the US this time

means it acknowledges the mis-

sion and the goals of the organ-

isation," the ambassador said.

who is Jewish, won broad praise

for her personal efforts to build

consensus among Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli diplo-

mats around sensitive UNESCO resolutions.

and Republicans in Congress to

explain those efforts. Thanks to

those bipartisan negotiations,

she expressed confidence that

the US decision to return is for

the long term, regardless of who

the last years meant that

UNESCO matters," she said

"And when you're absent from

that ... you lose something.

You lose something for your

She met with Democrats

UNESCO director Azoulay,

"Being a member of an

multilateralism.

Donald Trump and his allies are escalating efforts to undermine the criminal case against him and drum up protests as the former president braces for a history-making federal court appearance this week on dozens of felony charges accusing him of illegally hoarding classified information. Trump's Tuesday afternoon appearance in Miami will mark his second time in as many months facing a judge on criminal charges. But unlike a New York case some legal analysts derided as relatively trivial, the Justice Department's first prosecution of a former president concerns conduct that prosecutors say jeopardized national security and that involves Espionage Act charges carrying the threat of a significant prison sentence in the event of convic-

Ahead of his arraignment, Trump ratcheted up the rhetoric against the Justice Department special counsel who filed the case, calling Jack Smith "deranged" and his team of prosecutors "thugs" as he repeated without any evidence his claims that he was the target of



a political persecution.

He called on his supporters to join a planned protest at the Miami courthouse Tuesday, where he will be arraigned on the charges."We need strength in our country now," Trump said, speaking to his longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone in an interview on WABC Radio. "And they have to go out and they have to go out and they have to protest peacefully. They have to go out."Look, our country has to protest. We have plenty of protest to protest. We've lost everything," he went on.He also said there were no circumstances "whatsoever' under which he would leave the

dominating the Republican pri-

mary.
Other Trump supporters have rallied to his defense with similar language, including Kari Lake, the unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial candidate in Arizona who pointedly said over the weekend that if prosecutors "want to get to President Trump" they're "oring they're "oring". President Trump," they're "going to have to go through me, and 75 million Americans just like me. And most of us are card-carrying members of the NRA." Trump's calls for protest

echoed exhortations he made ahead of a New York court appearance last April, where he faces charges arising from hush money payments made during his 2016 presidential campaign, though he complained that those who showed up to protest then were "so far away that nobody knew about 'em," And just like in that case, he plans to address supporters in a Tuesday evening speech hours after his court date.

Trump is expected to depart for Miami on Monday and will spend the rest of the day in Florida, huddled with advisers. After his court appearance, he will return to New Jersey, where

2024 race, where he's so far been he's scheduled a press event to publicly respond to the charges.

Trump supporters

were also planning to load buses to head to Miami from other parts of Florida, raising concerns for law enforcement officials who are preparing for the potential of unrest around the courthouse. Mayor Francis Suarez was expected to announce additional details Monday about the preparations though there was little police presence near the courthouse as late as Sunday afternoon and barricades hadn't yet been erected nearby, a stark contrast to New York City where police planned for protests for weeks even though no violence ultimately happened. The Justice Department unsealed Friday an indictment charging Trump with 37 felony counts, 31 relating to the willful retention of national defense information. Other charges include conspiracy to commit obstruction and false statements.The indictment alleges Trump intentionally retained hundreds of classified documents that he took with him from the White House to his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, after leaving the White House in January 2021.

Sweden extradites **Turkish man for** drug offenses

Stockholm (AP): The Swedish government decided Monday to extradite a Turkish citizen resident in Sweden who had been convicted in 2013 of drug crime in Turkiye. The move came as NATO-member Turkiye continued to hold up Sweden's bid to join the military alliance.

The man, who had served his prison sentence and was living in Sweden legally, claimed the real reason for his extradition was that he was active in a pro-Kurdish political party and supported a group Ankara considers to be terrorists.

Sweden's Supreme Court said there were "no obstacles" to his extradition, and that the man was under investigation in Turkiye for posting online manipulated photos of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which is

punishable under Turkish laws. Ankara has accused Stockholm of not doing enough to crack down on members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and others whom it considers

extremists. The military alliance wants to admit Sweden before a summit next month in Vilnius,

All existing NATO members must ratify a candidate country's accession protocol before it can join the trans-

Atlantic alliance. The Swedish Justice Ministry which didn't identify the man, confirmed to The Associated Press that the government in Stockholm had endorsed last month's ruling by

dite him. It was not clear if the man

Sweden's highest court to extra-

Last month, Sweden tightened its anti-terrorism laws. Swedish lawmakers included a prison term of up to eight years for individuals convicted of participating in an extremist organisation in a way that is intended to promote, strength-

June 1. The man told the Swedish court that in 2019 and 2020, "he expressed approval" on Facebook of posts critical of the Ankara regime.

Iraq urges countries to repatriate citizens from camp of ISIS

AP BAGHDAD

Iraq urged countries on Monday to repatriate their citizens from a sprawling camp in Syria housing tens of thousands linked to the extremist Islamic State group, saying it has become a "source for terrorism." The statements were made during a conference in Baghdad discussing al-Hol camp in northeast Syria. Iraqi officials, the UN representative in Iraq, some members of the international coalition fighting IS and ambassadors of several countries were present.

Al-Hol Camp — named after a town near the Iraqi border - is an open wound left by

Syria's 12-year conflict. Tens of thousands of people were taken to the facility after the extremist group's defeat in Syria in March 2019.



Iraqi National Security Advisor Qassim al-Araji, left, and U.N. special representative to Iraq Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, attend a conference about Al-Hol camp in Syria which hosts families of IS members, in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday.

The camp holds about 51,000 people, the vast majority women and children, including the wives, widows and other family members of IS militants,

mostly Syrians and Iraqis. There are also around 8,000 women and children

from 60 other nationalities

who live in a part of the camp

known as the Annex.

They are generally considered the most die-hard IS supporters among the camp residents. There have been concerns that children at the camp were being taught extremist ideology by their mothers.

Experts have warned that a future generation of IS fighters

could emerge from al-Hol.

"Ending the issue of al-Hol
camp has become a top national interest for Iraq," said Ahmad Sahhaf, Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman, according to the

country's state news agency. Sahhaf called on the international community to urge all countries that have citizens at the camp "to repatriate them as soon as possible in order to eventually close the camp" because it has become "a dangerous epicenter" for IS gath-

Mexico's governing party to decide its presidential nomination by polling

President Ándrés Manuel López Obrador's governing Morena party decided on Sunday that a series of five polls over the summer will decide the party's nomination for the June 2024 presidential election. All of the four Morena con-

tenders will have to resign their government posts by Friday, including Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, who is considered the frontrunner. That is meant to prevent primary candidates from using their posts to gain an unfair advantage. Each can campaign throughout the summer. The party is desperate to avoid splits and accusations of manipulated polls that have marked past primary races in Morena. The four contenders joined hands and chanted "Unity! Unity! Unity!" after the

Mexico's top diplomat, Marcelo Ebrard, has already said he will resign this week. Rounding out the field is Senator Ricardo Monreal and Interior Secretary Adán López, who is no relation to the president. Two allied parties, the

Green and Labor parties, will

personal popularity, and López

Obrador has not managed to

forge it into a cohesive force.

also field one primary candidate apiece for the coalition's nomi-Morena has risen to national domination quickly following López Obrador's election in 2018. He cannot run again, and has said he will retire completely from politics after his term ends in September 2024. But the Morena party revolves largely around the president's

is among a group of people Turkiye wants extradited.

en or support the group.

The revisions took effect

Silvio Berlusconi, scandal-scarred ex-Italian leader, dies at 86

Cilvio Berlusconi, the boast-Sful billionaire media mogul who was Italy's longest-serving premier despite scandals over his sex-fuelled parties and allegations of corruption, died on Monday, according to his television network. He was 86.

Mediaset announced his death with a smiling photo of the man on its homepage and the headline: "Berlusconi is dead.

Berlusconi was admitted to the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan on Friday, his second recent hospitalisation for treat-

ment of chronic leukemia. He also suffered over the years from heart ailments, prostate cancer and was hospitalized for COVID-19 in 2020.

A state funeral will be held Wednesday in Milan's Duomo cathedral, according to the Milan Archdiocese.

A onetime cruise ship crooner, Berlusconi used his television networks and immense wealth to launch his long political career, inspiring

both loyalty and loathing.

To admirers, the threetime premier was a charismatic statesman who sought to elevate Italy on the world stage.

To critics, he was a populist who threatened to undermine democracy, wielding political power as a tool to enrich himself and his businesses.

His center-right Forza Italia political party was a junior partner in the government of current Premier Giorgia Meloni, a far-right leader who came to power last year, although he held no position. His friendship with Russian President Vladimir

Putin put him at odds with Meloni, a staunch supporter of Ukraine. Meloni remembered Berlusconi as "above all as a "He was a man who had

never been afraid to defend his beliefs. And it was exactly that courage and determination that made him one of the most influential men in the history of Italy," Meloni said on Italian

Former Premier Matteo Renzi recalled Berlusconi's divisive legacy on Twitter. "Silvio

Berlusconi made history in Many loved him, many hated him. All must recognize



boasted of his libido and entertained friends and world leaders at so-called "bunga bunga" parties his villas. "I love life! I love women!" he said in 2010. In 2013, guests included an underage Moroccan dancer

whom prosecutors alleged had sex with Berlusconi in exchange for cash and jew-Áfter a lurid trial, a court

initially convicted Berlusconi of paying for sex with a minor and using his office to try to cover it up. Both denied having sex, and he later was acquitted. The Catholic Church, sometimes sympathetic to his

conservative politics, was scandalised by his antics, and his second wife of nearly 20 years divorced him. Berlusconi was unapologetic, declaring: "I'm no saint." As he aged, some derided his perpetual tan, hair transplants and decadesyounger girlfriends. For many years, however, Berlusconi seemed untouchable despite

Berlusconi in death draws tributes even from critics

Rome (AP): Adored, scorned, impossible to ignore in life, Silvio Berlusconi in death drew tributes even from critics, and ever more lush praise from admirers, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pope Francis.

Following word of Berlusconi's death on Monday in a Milan hospital, where he was being treated for chronic leukemia, reaction poured in from around the world, from national leaders to Pope Francis to announcers who burst into

tears on one of his TV networks, for the populist threetime premier and media mogul. Russian President Vladimir Putin in a condolence telegram hailed Berlusconi as a "patriarch" of Italian politics and a true patriot who has improved Italy's standing on

the world stage.
"I have always sincerely admired his wisdom, his ability to make balanced, far-sighted decisions even in the most difficult situations," Putin said in the telegram released by the

with his incredible vitality, optimism and sense of humour." Berlusconi hosted Putin twice at one of his Sardinia Emerald Coast villas, and the Russian reciprocated, including with a stay at Putin's dacha. For Berlusconi's last birthday in September, Putin gifted him bottles of vodka, even as the Italian government staunchly backed Ukraine in the war against the Russian invasion.

Kremlin. "During each of our

meetings, I was literally charged

Ukraine 'recaptures' fourth village | UK panel to conclude Boris 'partygate' probe

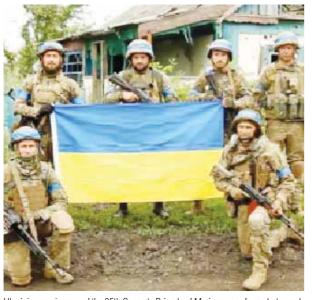
Ukrainian military officials said Monday their troops have retaken another southeastern village from Russian forces, among the first — small successes in stepped-up counteroffensive operations as the war drags on into its 16th month.

Western analysts and military officials have cautioned that an effort to rid Ukraine of entrenched, powerfully armed and skilled Russian troops could take years, and the success of any Ukrainian counteroffensive is far from certain.

Despite their small size, capturing the villages is an incursion into the first line of Russian defences and could allow Ukrainian forces to try a deeper thrust into occupied

Russian forces now control land totalling about one-fifth of Ukraine's total territory, though that's far less than they before blistering Ukrainian counteroffensives last year that retook the northern city of Kharkiv and southern city of Kherson. On Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said "counteroffensive, defensive actions are taking place" with-out specifying whether it was an all-out counteroffensive, a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted that the counteroffensive had started and Ukrainian forces were taking "significant losses." He did not elaborate, and Ukrainian authorities have not publicly specified losses among their troops

Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar wrote on Telegram that Ukraine's flag was again flying over the village of Storozhov. A day earlier, Ukrainian officials said they had taken three other småll villages — Blahodatne, Makarivka and Neskuchne south of the town of Velyka Novosilka in the eastern Donetsk region. The small villages - Blahodatne, for example, had a pre-invasion population of about 1,000 people are located in the so-called "Vremivka salient," a section of the front line where the Russian-controlled area protrudes into territory held by Ukraine. While it is just a few



Ukrainian servicemen of the 35th Separate Brigade of Marines pose for a photograph with the Ukrainian flag in the liberated village of Storozheve, in Dontesk region Ukraine, in the still image taken from a social media video released on Monday.

kilometres deep, the area has become one of several epicentres of intense fighting. Ukrainian forces have focused on other patches of the vast front line, including in the Zaporizhzhia region, and near the devastated city of Bakhmut to the north in Donetsk.

Vladimir Rogov, an official with the Moscow-appointed administration of the Zaporizhzhia region at the west end of the front line, said "heavy battles are raging" in the salient on Monday, involving Russian artillery, mortars and air power.

Russian authorities have said their troops have largely held their ground along the more than 1,000-kilometre arc of front line across southern and eastern Ukraine. The Russian Defence Ministry hasn't confirmed the Russian retreat from the villages.But Semyon Pegov, a prominent Russian military blogger who goes under the nickname WarGonzo, acknowledged Russian troops had withdrawn from Blahodatne, Neskuchne and Makarivka, and said Ukrainian forces were trying to push forward along the banks of the Mokri Yaly river on Monday. Alexandet Kots, military correspondent for Russian daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, said Ukrainian forces were attempting to advance, despite heavy losses, toward the town of Staromlinovka, which sits on a strategic highway leading to the key city of Mariupol. Russian forces captured the Azov Sea port city over a year ago, after Ukrainian forces held out for several months in a grueling and desperate defence.

Separately Monday, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said least four civilians were killed and 16 others have been wounded by Russian shelling over the last 24 hours. In Donetsk, Russian

shelling hit nine towns and villages and left one civilian killed and two others wounded. Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko osted images of apartment buildings and a cultural centre damaged by Russian strikes in the town of Avdiivka.

In Kharkiv, to the north, Russian forces pummelled several settlements with artillery, mortar and rocket fire, injuring at least three people, regional state administration chief Oleh Synehubov wrote on Telegram.

The reported Ukrainian advance comes as authorities on both sides of the front line pressed on with rescue and relocation efforts for civilians in the Kherson region driven from their homes by flooding from the breach of the Kakhovka dam last week.

Russia improves its weaponry in Ukraine

krainian troops are probing Russian defences as spring gives way to a second summer of fighting, and Kyiv's forces are facing an enemy that has made mistakes and suffered setbacks in the 15-month-old war.

But analysts say Moscow also has learned from those blunders and improved its weapons and skills.

Russia has built heavily fortified defences along the 1,000kilometre (600-mile) front line, honed its electronic weapons to reduce Ukraine's edge in combat drones, and turned heavy bombs from its massive Cold-War-era arsenal into precisionguided gliding munitions capable of striking targets without putting its warplanes at risk.

The changing Russian tactics along with increased troop numbers and improved weaponry could make it challenging for Ukraine to score any kind of quick decisive victory, threatening to turn it into a long battle of attrition.

US Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Mark Milley said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday that while Ukraine's military is well-prepared, as time goes on, "this will be a back-and-forth fight for a considerable length of time."

Most attention last week focused on catastrophic flooding in southern Ukraine caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam that both sides blame on each other.

At the same time, however, Ukrainian troops have unleashed a series of attacks in several parts of the front that so far have made only marginal gains against multilayered Russian defences.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that counteroffensive and defensive actions are underway against Russian forces, asserting that his commanders are in a "positive" mindset about its success. Ukrainian authorities have stopped short

of announcing the start of a fullblown counteroffensive.

A day earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that it had begun, but that Ukraine failed to make any headway and suffered "significant" losses.

Sir Richard Barrons, a retired general who led the UK Joint Forces Command, said the Russian military has built "textbook" defensive lines and adjusted its tactics following its hasty retreat from wide swaths of the Kharkiv and Kherson regions last fall under the brunt of a swift Ukrainian campaign. He pointed at the improved Russian ability to both counter and use drones and also noted that Moscow has learned to keep key assets like command headquarters and ammunition dumps out of artillery range.

And they have sharpened up how they can fire at Ukrainian artillery and tanks when they spot them," he told AP. "So if you add all that together, everybody knows this will be a harder fight than for Kherson or Kharkiv in the autumn of last year. "People are still using those two successes, and they were successes, as benchmarks, which I think is unfair, unreasonable in the circumstances," he said.

Russia has fielded more troops to protect the long front line, even though many of them could be poorly trained,

At the start of the war, Russian military convoys stretched for miles to become easy prey for Ukrainian artillery and drones during a failed attempt to capture Kyiv, in what was seen as a major blunder. Ukrainian missiles then sank the Russian cruiser Moskva, the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet, in a major blow to Moscow's pride; Kyiv's rockets pummelled Russian ammunition depots and command headquarters; and Kremlin forces hastily pulled back from large areas in the east and the south in the fall.

UK parliamentary com-Amittee is meeting on Monday to conclude its inquiry into whether former Prime Minister Boris Johnson misled lawmakers over parties at his Downing Street office that breached COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Members of Parliament's Privileges Committee have pledged to continue with the investigation into Johnson's conduct after he unexpectedly quit as a lawmaker on Friday and angrily accused political opponents of driving him out a "witch hunt."

The committee is expected to finalise its highly-anticipated report Monday. British media report that the findings could be published in the coming days. Johnson, 58, said the



Privileges Committee told him he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament over "partygate," a series of boozy parties and gatherings in his office that broke strict pandemic restrictions that his government had imposed on the

mittee, which has members from both government and opposition parties, of bias and called it a "kangaroo court."
In response, the committee

said that Johnson "impugned the integrity" of Parliament with his attack.

While Johnson has quit Parliament and will no longer be affected by any decision to suspend him, the committee could choose to apply other sanctions like barring him from entering Parliament's grounds.

Revelations that Johnson and his staff held office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" in 2020 and 2021, at a time when millions were told not to see loved ones or even attend family funerals, angered many Britons and con-

Sunak hits out at UK ex-PM on honours list controversy

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday slammed former premier Boris Johnson for asking him to overrule a panel vetting his resignation list appointments to the House of Lords, saying it was "something I wasn't prepared to do".

The British-Indian leader's comment at a public function stemmed from a long-running row over Johnson's honours list, and specifically the list of people he wanted to award peer-Johnson's long-awaited

honours list, approved nine months after he resigned as prime minister, included 38 honours and seven peerages. The resignation honours list is a tradition that allows outgoing prime ministers to nominate people for honours.

As a departing prime minister, Johnson has the right to nominate people for seats in the House of Lords, and for other honours such as knighthoods. By convention, current prime



nominees to the House of Appointments Commission (HOLAC).

The list of new peerages did not include many of the former Conservative party leader's nominees. Just three hours after its publication, Johnson stepped down as an MP late on Friday and furiously attacked Sunak's agenda. In his first public response

to the row, Sunak on Monday accused Johnson of asking him

No. AD/RSC-II-21-23/2014/1303

dipport.gov.in .

Dt. 12/06/2023

disputes etc.

PPA/PR/22/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mr. Sunil Kumar** who is purchasing the Residential Plot

No. 33, admeasuring 83 sq. yards., out of Khasra no. 336, Ved Residency, Part-4, Village Roza Jalalpur, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. from **Mr. Mani Ram** S/o Mr.

Chunni Lal, who had owner through Khataun Record, and same to be financed & mortgaged

by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said property, may inform in

writing, at the address mentioned below, about

his objections, within 07 days from today, failing

which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien,

B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2, Noida, UP - 201301, Contact # 0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucem Legal LLP

Appointment Commission and wave through the rejected nominees.

Sunak said Johnson asked

him to override their recommendations, or "make promises to people". But Sunak said he refused,

adding it was "something I was n't prepared to do".

"I wasn't prepared to do that, I didn't think that was right. And if people don't like that, then tough," he told a tech conference in London. The intervention marks a

new point in an escalating war of words over Johnson's controversial resignation honours list, the BBC reported.

When Johnson, 58, resigned from office last September, he left a list of nominations for Damehood, Knighthoods etc, as well as people he wanted to award seats in the House of Lords, the lower house of the UK's Parliament. The government customarily submitted the list to the House of Lords Appointment Commission.

CYCLONE BIPARJOY

Evacuation of low-lying areas begins in Sindh

Karachi (PTI): Pakistan on Monday started evacuating thousands of people from the low-lying coastal areas in the southern Sindh province as the fast-approaching severe Cyclone Biparjoy is likely to hit the coastline later this week.

All concerned authorities have been put on high alert after Cyclone Biparjoy, located over the Arabian Sea, turned into an extremely severe cyclonic storm on Sunday.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah conducted an aerial inspection of the coastline and asked authorities to evacuate an estimated 80,000 people to safety as Pakistan Meteorological Department said the cyclone came roughly 600 kilometres within the range of Karachi on Monday.

Shah was informed that Biparjoy - which means disaster or calamity in the Bengali language - will hit the coast of Sindh on June 15, but its intensity will subside by June 17 to 18. The first severe cyclone of this year is likely to hit Pakistan as the cash-strapped country is yet to recover fully from the unprecedented floods last year.

Karachi's Seaview Road was blocked for traffic on Monday to prevent people from heading out into the open sea as Bipar-joy was classified as an "extr-emely severe cyclonic storm". Section 144 has been enforced in Karachi, and entry to the port city's beaches is banned.

The residents of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), one of the upscale areas in Karachi, have been advised to take precautionary measures as Bipariov moves closer to the metropolis

A top official of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said that the authorities have started moving people from the low-lying coastal areas in Sindh to temporary shelters in government schools and offices as the cyclone is expected to make its landfall in Keti Bandar and its adjoining areas. Keti Bandar is one of the oldest ports in Sindh.

No hurdle left in IMF deal: Sharif

PSharif has expressed his optimism that Pakistan, which has fulfilled "all the preconditions" of the IMF, will still be able to sign a staff-level agreement with the global lender to revive the stalled bailout programme for the cash-strapped country.

Sharif's remarks came as many believe that Pakistan's chances for the revival of the current USD 6.5 billion IMF programme have almost diminished before it expires on June 30. Out of the USD 6.5 billion package, the IMF has not yet disbursed \$2.6 billion to Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony here on Sunday, Sharif still appeared optimistic about that deal with the global lender and while referring to the government's plan B, said, "If the agreement with the IMF is (further) delayed, then I will

address you." The International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a deal in 2019 to provide USD 6 billion to Pakistan on fulfilment of certain condi-

several times and the full reimbursement is still pending that Pakistan should complete all formalities.

"Pakistan has fulfilled all the preconditions and is hopeful that the agreement with the IMF will be signed during the current month," Sharif said.

"There is no need to be nervous... We have met all conditions of the IMF, removing obstacles in finalising an agreement with it," he said but added a note of hope that he had talked with the IMF chief who assured that the agreement will be signed this month.

He also said that "no hurdle is now left" in signing of a staff-level agreement between Pakistan and the IMF. "If the IMF agreement is delayed, I will appeal to the people of Pakistan," he added, without elaborating.

Sharif blamed the previous government for the current economic crisis, saying that former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government violated the agreetions. The plan was derailed ment with the IMF.

Pak NA adopts motion for action in May 9 violence

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's adopted a resolution demanding speedy action against a political party involved in the May 9 violence and its leader under the stringent Army Act, in another blow to former prime minister Imran Khan and his party.

The resolution - presented by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif - was approved by a majority vote in the lower house, the National Assembly's official handle tweeted. According to the resolution, a political party and its leaders crossed all limits on May 9, launching attacks on military installations, causing irreparable damage to state institutions and the country. Therefore, the resolution, without naming Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, demanded that action be taken against all such elements in accordance with the law and the Constitution. There should be no delay in taking action against the culprits, it said, adding that even the party's workers and leaders were distancing themselves from the May 9 violence.

Imran's party can fit in rickshaw: Maryam

I premier Imran Khan can fit in a rickshaw following large-scale defections from Pakistan's main opposition party in the aftermath of the May 9 violence, the ruling PML-N's senior leader Maryam Nawaz has said, in a jibe at the former prime

minister. "Today he is the president, general secretary, chief organiser and spokesperson of the party and the only candidate of his party," Maryam, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President, said while addressing a youth convention in Shujaabad in Punjab province on Sunday.

Now the entire opposition party can fit in a "Qingqi rickshaw" following defections in the wake of the May 9 violence, she said, referring to a type of imported rickshaw in Pakistan.

Over 20 military installations and government buildings including the military headquarters in Rawalpindi were damaged or torched during the violent protests by the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers following the arrest of the paramilitary Rangers last month. Khan was later released on bail.

Maryam said that Khan talked about his so-called political struggle of 26 years. "Let me tell you... his 26-yearlong struggle took only 26 minutes to be dismantled. Now he will sit all alone in Zaman Park and all those leaders who quit him have gone from where they had come," she said.

"Imran Khan tried his best to make the Pakistan Army surrender to his will after being removed from power through a parliamentary vote of no-confidence (in April last year) but his attempt backfired and now he is facing the music," said Maryam, the daughter of three-time premier Nawaz Sharif.

She said Khan had revolted against the Pakistan Army by attacking its institutions on "The chapter of chaos and

anarchy has ended and now the journey of progress will begin," the PML-N leader

To be known to all that my client, smt. Neelam Kaushal, W/o Sh. Hemant Kumar Kaushal, R/o LIG Flat No.23-C, First Floor, Block-IP, Pitampur a, Delhi 10034, Purchaser/owner Valid Agreement To Sell Dated 22/05/1998 Property Bearing DDA LIG Flat No.23-C, First Floor, Block-IP, Situated at Pitampura, Delhi, Vide DDA File No.5.5(822)83/HB/NP has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original document. Demand Letter issued by the DDA of the above flat have been lost. An FIR/NCR/LR to this effect has lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, New Delhi, vide NCR/FIR/L.R.No.465743/2023 dated 21/05/2023. Any person(s)claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, June write/contact with above named person at above address/phone 9810499229 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to by Director(LAB)H or Director (H)-1,D Block, 3"Floor, VACCE. PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concerned that My client namely Anjali Lamba W/o Lt. Sanjiv Lamba R/o B-224, Greater

Kailash-1, New Delhi 11048, is in an agreement to sale with the owner and collaborator for the property bearing No. S-341 Second Floor S-Block Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi-110048. Anyone creating any third party right/lien/claim/title on the property bearing No. S-341 Second Floor S-Block Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi 110048 will be at his/her own risk and consequences, my client will not be responsible for the same. If anyone has already created any right/title/lien on the above said may please put forward the same with strict evidence to undersigned within 3 days of publication of notice failing which it will be deemed that no one except my client have any right/ title/claim/lien on the above said property. Sajal Dhamija (Advocate) S-265, L.G.E, Greater Kailash-1

Ú/0 V Rule 20-(1-A) of C.P.C.)

Sd/- Asst. Secretary,

Paradip Port Authority

THE HIGH COURT OF

JHARKHAND, AT RANCHI.

(civil Miscellaneous appellate

Jurisdiction)

Miscellaneous appeal No. 449 of 2018

(Substituted Service of Notice

Reliance General Insurance Company Limited.

∖ppellant..

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ashoda Devi and others . Respondents No.4

aspal Singh(Owner of Truck No. HR-38J-6994, S/o Jogindra Singh, R/o- G.5/6 P Model Town, Delhi, A/P R/o, 542 Sector 59, P.O. + P.S, Sector 59 District- Faridabad,

WHEREAS, the appellant Reliance General Insurance Company Limited has filed the aforesaid M.A. No. 449 of 2018 in this Hon'ble Court, arising out of Title (M.V.) Suit No. 45 of 2013, passed by Shri Kumar Dinesh, earned District Judge-11-cum-M.A.C.T., Giridih vide order dated 14.02.2018 in which you have been made party as Respondent No.-4.

WHEREAS the service of notice issued by this Court under ordinary process notice and also through registere post, but it has not been found possible to secure service of notice upon you as such by publication of notice in this news paper, you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by an advocate on or before the 15th day of June 2023, at I 0.30. a.m. to answer the same, failing which the appeal will be heard and decided Ex-parte, in your Given under my hand and seal of

the Court on this 9th day of May 2023.

By Order of this court Assistant Registrar Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi

Fukushima N-plant begins tests of wastewater release plan water with large amounts of seathousand tanks at the plant, on Saturday when he visited Monday against the plan to

needs to be removed to prevent

The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant began tests on Monday of newly constructed facilities for discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea, a plan strongly opposed by local fishing communities and neighbouring countries.

The tests at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant use fresh water instead of the treated water, operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings said.

Plant workers examined pumps and emergency shutdown equipment at the newly constructed seaside facility, which will dilute the treated

water. The diluted water then enters an undersea tunnel and is released into the ocean about 1 kilometre from the coast. The undersea tunnel and other key facilities are near completion. TEPCO says the voluntary tests are expected to continue for about two weeks ahead of mandatory pre-operation checks to be conducted by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, possibly in early July. Japan's government announced plans in April 2021

to gradually release the treated

but still slightly radioactive

water following its dilution to

what it says are safe levels.

Japanese officials say the water,

currently stored in about a

accidental leaks in case of an earthquake and to make room for the plant's decommissioning. The plan has faced fierce protests from local fishing communities concerned about safety and reputational damage. Nearby countries, including South Korea, China and Pacific Island nations, have also raised safety concerns. Japan's government has set

a fund to promote due to safety concerns.

Fukushima seafood and provide compensation in case sales fall Fishing officials said they remain opposed to the plan when they met Industry

Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura

Fukushima and the neighbouring prefectures of Ibaraki and Miyagi.
"We stand by our opposi-

tion," Tetsu Nozaki, head of the Fukushima prefectural fisheries association, told Nishimura. Nozaki, however, said the association supports progress in the plant's decommissioning and hopes to continue the dialogue. "At the moment, our positions remain wide apart." Nishimura told reporters

that he hopes to gain the understanding of fishing communities while working to prevent reputational damage.

In South Korea, fishermen staged a rally in front of the National Assembly in Seoul on

release treated radioactive water. Japanese officials say the diluted water will be released into the ocean over decades, making it harmless to people and marine life. Japan has sought support from the International Atomic Energy Agency to gain credibility and ensure safety measures meet international standards. Some scientists say the

impact of long-term, low-dose exposure to radionuclides is unknown and the release should be delayed. A massive March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and releasing large amounts of radiation.

Sensex, Nifty close marginally higher in range-bound trade

enchmark indices Sensex and Nifty cut Short two days of losses and settled with marginal gains in a range-bound trade on Monday as IT, oil and gas and telecom shares advanced amid optimism in the global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 99.08 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 62,724.71. During the day, it gained 179.26 points or 0.28 per cent to 62,804.89.

The NSE Nifty advanced 38.10 points or 0.21 per cent to end at 18,601.50.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Infosys, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Nestle, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers. Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti, Titan, HDFC Bank, Wipro, HDFC and ITC were among the laggards.

'The domestic indices are moving with caution as investors step up to a data-loaded week both in domestic and global markets. However, the expectations are optimistic, like the Indian CPI is forecast to moderate and the Fed & Bank of Japan (BoJ) are expected to maintain their policy rates.

"Other major events on the centre stage are domestic IIP, WPI inflation, and policy announcements from European Central Bank (ECB)," said Vinod Nair, Head of

Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Markets traded dull but managed to end marginally in the green, thanks to firm global cues, Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

The movement on the sectoral front kept traders busy wherein IT and realty posted



TOP GAINERS 2.69 HCL Tech 2.05 Infosys 159 NTPC Adani Enterpris TOP LOSERS Power Grid -0.98 L&T

-0.96 - Cipla

-0.82 Titan

decent gains while banking and financials remained under pressure, Mishra added.

"Markets were extremely range-bound to end with a positive bias on the back of firm global markets, as investors were cautiously optimistic ahead of the US FOMC meeting later this week. "Although there are indications that the Fed may pause on rate hikes this time, any uptick in key rates could fuel pessimism over global growth and trigger a short-term correction," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.72 per cent and midcap index gained 0.54 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.48 per cent and IT climbed 1.47 per cent while teck (1.42 per cent), telecommunication (1.06 per cent), oil & gas (1.05 per cent) and energy (0.80 per cent) also advanced.

Power emerged as the only laggard among the indices.

"Nifty broke a two-day losing streak and ended mildly in the positive. Global stocks were largely up on Monday ahead of key inflation data as investors cautiously await several interest rate decisions this week," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Seoul and Shanghai settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2.54 per cent to USD 72.91 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 308.97 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Rupee rises 4 paise to close at 82.43 against US dollar

The rupee gained 4 paise to settle at 82.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by easing crude oil prices and a positive

trend in domestic equities.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.45 against the US dollar and settled at 82.43 (provisional), up 4 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.40 and a low of 82.48.

On Friday, the rupee closed at 82.47 against the US curren-

The rupee traded on a flat to positive note on Monday on positive domestic markets and weakness in US Dollar. Weak crude oil prices also supported the domestic unit, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

However, FII outflows

capped sharp gains.
Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 308.97 crore, according to exchange data.

The US dollar declined on rising expectations of a pause in a rate hike in the June FOMC meeting. This has also led to

RUPEE vs DOLLAR

positive sentiments in global markets

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies,

fell 0.26 per cent to 103.28.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 2.31 per cent to USD

73.06 per barrel.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on risk-on sentiments in global markets and weakness in US Dollar. Sharp fall in crude oil prices may also support the domestic currency," Choudhary

Choudhary further noted that traders remained cautious ahead of the release of domestic Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers.

gramme, JLR said its Range

Rover is "the vanguard of our EV

transformation and profit gen-

eration" while the Jaguar brand

will transform into a "radical, modern luxury EV brand in



Industrial production grows 4.2% in April

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production growth rose to 4.2 per cent in April from 1.7 per cent in March 2023, mainly due to good performance by the manufacturing and mining sectors, according to official data released on Monday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 6.7 per cent in April

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.9 per cent in April 2023 against a 5.6 per cent expansion a year ago.

Power generation declined 1.1 per cent in April 2023 compared to a growth of 11.8 per

Mining output, however, rose by 5.1 per cent during the month under review against a growth of 8.4 in the year-ago As per use-based classifica-

tion, the capital goods segment recorded a 6.2 per cent growth in April compared to a 12 per cent expansion a year ago.

Consumer durables output during the month declined by 3.5 per cent against a 7.2 per cent

growth a year ago. Consumer non-durable goods output grew 10.7 per cent against a contraction of 0.8

per cent a year earlier. Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 12.8

per cent compared to a four per cent expansion in the same period a year ago.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods

the year-ago period. The intermediate goods output in April grew by 0.8 per

growth during the correspondng month last year.

For fiscal 2022-23, the growth in IIP works out to be 5.2

Earlier last month, the company had stated it would invest logged 1.9 per cent growth in the month against 10.3 per cent in 15 billion pounds over five years in its electrification and digital transformation. The company's Halewood plant in the UK would become cent compared to a 7.1 per cent an all-electric manufacturing

cent in the preceding year.

भारतीय रिवर्ग के RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RBI permits banks to undertake compromise settlement of wilful defaults, fraud accounts

 $I^{
m n}$ order to ensure maximum recovery from distressed assets, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to go for compromise settlement of fraud accounts and wilful defaults.

will be required to put in place board-approved policies for undertaking compromise settlements, with the borrowers as well as for technical write-offs laying down the process to be followed for all compromise settlements and technical writeoffs, with specific guidance on the necessary conditions precedent, the RBI has said in a notification

Conditions would include minimum ageing, deteriora-tion in collateral value etc., it

The policies would also put in place a graded framework for the examination of staff accountability in such cases with reasonable thresholds and timelines as may be decided by the board.

REs may undertake compromise settlements or technical write-offs in respect of accounts categorised as wilful defaulters or fraud without prejudice to the criminal proceeding underway against such debtors.

"In respect of compromise settlements, the policy shall inter alia contain provisions relating to permissible sacrifice

for various categories of exposures while arriving at the settlement amount, after prudently reckoning the current realisable value of security/collater-al, where available," as per the

18,563.40

The methodology for arriving at the realisable value of the ity chall also form the policy. The objective would be to maximise the possible recovery from a distressed borrower at minimum expense, in the best interest of the Regulated Entity (RE).

The compromise settlements and technical write-offs would be without prejudice to any mutually agreed contractual provisions between the RE and the borrower relating to future contingent realisations or recovery by the RE, subject to such claims not being recognised in any manner on the balance sheet of REs at the time of the settlement or subsequently till actual realisation of such receivables," it said.

Any such claims recognised on the balance sheet of the RE would render the arrangement to be treated as restructured as per the extant guidelines, it added. In respect of borrowers subject to compromise settlements, the notification said, there would be a cooling period as determined by the respective boardapproved policies before the REs can assume fresh exposures to such borrowers.

Jaguar Land Rover plans annual investment of 3 billion pounds by FY26 egy, which was designed to On its electrification pro-

ata Motors' owned Jaguar Land Rover plans an annual investment of 3 billion pounds while targetting revenue of over 30 billion pounds by FY26, according to an investor presen-

tation by the company.

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR),
which makes SUVs such as Range Rover, Defender and Discovery under the Land Rover brand and Jaguar luxury cars, expects to have revenue of over 28 billion pounds in FY24.

Tata Motors shared the presentation to be made by JLR on

stock exchanges. Under its 'Reimagine' strat-

ing its business, JLR had aimed to become a more agile business, with a simplified manufacturing operation and an ambition to achieve positive cash net-ofdebt by 2025.

address the key challenges fac-

In its 'Investor Day 2023' presentation, JLR said, "Reimagine will deliver" and its investment target is 3 billion pounds per annum.

Further, the company is looking at free cash flow of 2 billion pounds by FY24 and "continuing to be significantly positive thereafter'

In terms of revenue, the company said its target is over

the previous fiscal.
"FY24, our hope is EBITDA

coming out of core business will

be more than enough to cover

all investments and overall, as a

company, we should be PAT

positive for the full year. What

we want is Rs 1,000 crore PAT

by FY27. Three years from now.

should be able to wipe out our

accumulated losses. Between, FY

27-28, we should be able to wipe

"In another four years, we



28 billion pounds in FY24 and over 30 billion pounds in FY26. In the fiscal ended March 31, 2023, JLR had clocked rev-

more than 10 per cent by FY26.

enue of 22.81 billion pounds. The EBIT margin will also improve from over 6 per cent in FY24 to

facility and over 11,300 employ-

ees and partners have been per cent, down from 11.4 per reskilled for electrification with a further 11,625 in training.

Nasdaq to buy financial software company Adenza in \$10.5 billion cash-and-stock deal

AP NEW YORK

Nasdaq is buying Adenza, a company that makes software used on Wall Street, for USD 10.5 billion in cash and stock. In a cashand-stock deal valued at USD 10.5 billion.

The acquisition from owner, an investment company includes USD 5.75 billion in cash and 85.6 million shares of Nasdaq common stock. Nasdaq CEO Adena Friedman has been pushing the company further into tech, expanding beyond its roll as a marketplace for trading that is reliant largely on trading volumes to thrive

"From fast-evolving global regulations to rapidly increasing pressures to modernise



infrastructure, our clients are seeking trusted partners equipped to support them in this challenging environment," Friedman said in a written statement. "Nasdaq aspires to be that partner every day, and with Adenza we

PB Fintech to wipe out accumulated losses in next four year

can offer an even broader range of missioncritical solutions that enhance the liquidity, transparency, and integrity of the world's financial system." Adenza was created through the combination of Calypso and AxiomSL. Calypso serves capital markets participants with end-to-end treasury, risk, and collateral management workflows, and AxiomSL supports financial institutions with

leading regulatory and compliance software. Nasdsaq said Monday that the acquisition complements its marketplace technology and anti-financial crime solutions and enhances its offerings across a broader spectrum of regulatory technology, compliance, and risk management solutions.



empower smallholder farmers

in India with digital solutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global life sciences firm Bayer on Monday said it has signed an agreement with for the company would be a new US-based food major Cargill business, renewal revenue and to empower smallholder bringing down fixed cost, he farmers with digital solutions, said, adding new business gives scale not profitability. Talking including comprehensive information on market prices, weather forecasts, and pre- to annual run rate on the renewal

post-harvest insights. Drawing upon the capabilities of innovative plat-forms such as Cargill's 'Digital Saathi' - a mobile-first, AIdriven service platform tailored to hyper-localised

needs, and Bayer's Better Life Farming Centres that supports over 5,00,000 smallnolder farmers, this strategic partnership is dedicated to improving market access for smallholder farmers, it said in a statement.

"This partnership between Bayer and Cargill endeavours to connect with 3 million farmers across India within the next five years. Initially, the partnership will be implemented in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and subsequently expand to other regions," the company added.

POCO India eyes 75-80% business growth in 2023

 $P^{\text{B} \, \text{Fintech}, \, \text{the parent firm of}}_{\text{Policybazaar, expects to wipe}}$ out accumulated losses in the

next four years on the back of revenue growth, a top official

said. The total revenue of the company increased to Rs 1,710

crore in FY23 from Rs 1,200

crore in the preceding fiscal. As

a result, the loss narrowed to Rs

488 crore from Rs 833 crore in

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Smartphone player POCO India expects a 75-80 per cent year-on-year jump in business in 2023, mainly due to demand for its handsets in the medium and economy segment, a top company official said on Monday.

POCO India Country Head Himanshu Tandon told PTI that as per market research firm Canalys, the overall smartphone market in India has declined 10 to 15 per cent and online sales dropped 20 per cent, but Xiaomi's sub-brand has emerged as the fastest growing online label, with a 68 per cent jump in sales for the March 2023 quar-

The launch of three models in the C-series under Rs 10,000 and X5 Pro in the price range of Rs 20,000-25,0000 segment fuelled the company's growth in the first quarter of 2023, he "It's the start of the year, and

we have taken very aggressive targets. From a YoY perspective, we want to have 75 to 80 per cent growth compared to last year," Tandon said.

He said the first quarter has been on track with 68 per cent growth, and preliminary numbers for the second quarter are even higher than the first quar-

According to Tandon, loyalty and upgrade along with 60 per cent of repeat customers contributed to the growth of the company sales

We have also started focus-



appointed four distributors in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. That is also giving us a certain growth. From an overall growth point of view, I think few of the big brands have vacated certain space in the online space and it was an opportune time for us to grab

that share," he said. According to a market research firm, International Data Corporation's (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker report smartphone shipments dipped to a four-year low of 31 million in the first quarter and the overall smartphone market is expected to see a flat growth

this year.

The decline in smartphone shipment has been mainly due to the weakness of demand in the sub-Rs 10,000 segment.

out losses," PB Fintech chairman and group CEO Yashish Dahiya

told PTI. The breakeven will be

reached only after accumulated

losses are wiped out. This year,

he said, the company would be

Rs 400-500 crore cash positive

and therefore, there may not be

any need for additional capital

infusion. Capital required would

be through internal accrual for

existing business and new business, he added. The focus area

POCO claims that the Cseries smartphones in the sub-Rs 10,000 filled the void that was left with the exit of several players from the segment.

"We saw a lot of brands, especially vacating that space. We are trying to focus on the under Rs 10,000 segment. We are trying to build a 5G portfolio around the Rs 10,000 price band. In the coming four months also In the coming few months also, we are trying to bridge our Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 price bracket by bringing affordable 5G devices, which will also make sure that our growth remains intact," Tandon said.

Workshop on innovation, entrepreneurship organised

PNS NEW DELHI

Amaravati: The Quality Assurance Cell of APSCHE organised a Regional Workshop with VIT-AP University on June 9.

about the financial, he said the

income is now Rs 388 crore,

which was Rs 265 crore last year

in the same quarter, this typical-

ly operates at about 85 per cent

margin and is a significant

source of profit growth.

The workshop aimed to develop a roadmap for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Startup Centres (EISCs) in Andhra Pradesh. The event aimed to expand

the EISC network, promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students and fac-ulty, and boost the economy. The workshop brought

academicians together to discuss the future of EISCs in the



Vice-Chairman of APSCHE, delivered a keynote address emphasising the importance of a well-defined roadmap and action plan for successful EISC implementa-

delivery executives PNS NEW DELHI

Decline in demand for

WorkIndia, a leading tech platform for blue-collar recruitment in India, has reported a decline in demand for delivery executives in 2023 after a surge in 2022. In 2022,

Chandigarh, and Jaipur experienced significant growth rates, but in 2023, all these cities saw a decline in job openings. Kolkata had the highest degrowth rate at -83.05 per cent, followed by Lucknow and Hyderabad. WorkIndia predicts a grad-ual recovery and stabilization of

the delivery industry in the coming year, said Kunal Patil, Co-Founder and CEO, WorkIndia.

Disrespectful to say I'm greatest: Djoker

ovak Djokovic insists it is "disrespectful" to hail him as the greatest player of all time after clinching a record-breaking 23rd men's Grand Slam title on Sunday.

The 36-year-old Djokovic defeated Casper Ruud in straight sets in the French Open final, breaking the tie of 22 majors he shared with longtime rival Rafael

A third Roland Garros title added to his 10 Australian Open trophies, seven Wimbledons and three at the US Open.

He is the only man to win all four Slams on at least three occasions and on Monday he will return to the world number one ranking and start a 388th week on top of the pile.

"I don't want to say that I am the greatest, because I feel it's disrespectful towards all the great champions in different eras of our sport that was played in completely different way than it

is played today," said Djokovic.
"So I leave those kind of discussions of who is the greatest to someone else. I have of course huge faith and confidence and belief in myself and for everything that I am and who I am

and what I am capable of doing." However, despite becoming



the oldest ever French Open champion, he warned he is far from finished. When asked if he could win 24 or 25 majors, he replied: "Why not?" Eleven of his Grand Slam titles have been

secured since he turned 30. Retirement is a long way off for a man who has already seen Roger Federer hang up his racquet with 20 majors to his name while 37-year-old Nadal, sitting out the rest of the season with injury, has already said 2024 will

be his last as a professional. "Of course the journey is still

not over," said Djokovic. "I feel if I'm winning Slams, why even think about ending the career that already has been going on for 20 years

"So I still feel motivated, I still feel inspired to play the best tennis in these tournaments. Those are the ones that count I guess the most in history of our sport. "I now look forward to Wimbledon," added Djokovic

where he will look to equal Federer's record of eight titles.

Djokovic's coach Goran Ivanisevic hailed the Serbian star for being able to install special "software" every time a Grand Slam tournament rolls around.

"It's fascinating to see, because sometimes you think, okay, now you have 23. But he's gonna find, again, some kind of motivation to win 24, maybe 25, who knows where is the end, said Ivanisevic.

Novak returns to ATP No. 1

"He's keeping his body great,

he's in great shape. He's unbe-

lievable, and he's still moving like a cat on the court. He's there, like

However, the former Wimbledon winner admitted Djokovic is "not an easy guy" such is his intensity to make history.

"Especially when something of a ctrain his year. But you

thing's not going his way. But we

are here to put our back and to

get beaten, we are here for him

to feel better, for him to perform

Sometimes it's very complicat-

ed. But overall, this is for what

you live, you know, the tourna-

ments like this, the finishing like

having endured a mediocre clay

court season, failing to get

beyond the quarter-finals of

any of the three events he played.

of the recurrence of a longstand-

ing wrist injury.
"The day we arrived here, he

was better, he was more motivat-

ed, he was more hungry. Every

day he played better and better,

said Ivanisevic who believes

Djokovic's victory over world

number one Carlos Alcaraz in

the semi-finals was key in his

title push.

There was the added worry

Djokovic arrived in Paris

"Sometimes not easy.

Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos Alcaraz there, after winning the French Open for a men's-record 23rd Grand Slam title.

"So, of course, when you talk about history, people mostly talk about the Grand Slams won or the amount of time you spent at the No. 1 rankings," Djokovic said.

"I have managed to break the records in both of these statistics, which is amazing."

Iga Swiatek, the women's champion at Roland Garros, kept her spot atop the WTA rankings, where she has been for more than a year. She could have been overtaken by No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, depending on the results in Paris. Djokovic had been No. 3 going into the year's second major tournament, but winning it for the third time after exiting in the quarterfinals a year ago provided the points boost he needed to jump up to No. 1. Alcaraz dropped to No. 2, Daniil Medvedev slid one place to No. 3 after a firstround exit in Paris, while

Nadal hasn't played since January because of a hip injury and so was unable to defend his title at the French Open. The inactivity sent him out of the Top 100 on Monday, to No.

website: "When Kevin joined us

on loan in January, we agreed

with Freiburg that the move

would become permanent this

summer if certain conditions

were met, which included

Brentford remaining a Premier

We have all been pleased

League team for next season.

with Kevin's contribution so far,

both on the pitch and his pro-

fessionalism off it, so to have

him with us now until 2028 is

fantastic for the club.'

French Open runner-up Casper Ruud tipped Novak Djokovic to break the all-time Ruud remained at No. 4. record for Grand Slam titles after the Serb claimed his 23rd major on Sunday by winning at Roland Garros for the third

> Slam triumphs, drawing level with Serena Williams and to within one of Margaret Court's record of 24.

He is the first man to win all four majors at least three times and is once again halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969.

and these stats that are just ridiculous," said Ruud, the 24year-old Norwegian who lost . 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-5 to Djokovic.

be up for the challenge.

I'm sure he will aim for even more if I know him the right way."
"He's not done yet, I

think," added Ruud, who has yet to take a set off Djokovic in five meetings. "He's one of the biggest

legends of our sport, and hopefully one day I can beat him. But at the Grand Slam level, it's

losing in the final to Rafael it one day.'

Djokovic not done winning Grand Slams: Ruud

AP ■ PARIS

Djokovic, 36, moved out in front of Rafael Nadal as the man with the most Grand

"He holds all the records

"Just shows how complete of a player he is. He can win on any surface, anywhere, any balls that we play with. He will

"And now it's probably the most significant record that he breaks of 23 Slams. But

going to be tough, for sure."

Nadal, Ruud finished as runner-up for the third time in five Grand Slam tournaments after also being defeated by Carlos Alcaraz at the 2022 US Open.

"Anyone you play in a Grand Slam final is going to be a good player," said Ruud.
"But the three players I've

played is just Rafa going for, at the time, the record for 22, and then Carlos who was just on fire in New York, and then here, Novak, going for 23. I played very tough players."

"I can't just sit and make excuses," he added.

"I think this is maybe the most important final that I reached. Here I sort of proved that whatever happened last year is just not like a one-time Ruud will head to

Wimbledon with limited expectations having won just one match in three visits to the All England Club.

He went out in the first round in 2019 and 2021 before falling in the second round a year ago as the third seed.

But he hopes his latest run in Paris will further boost his standing within the sport and eventually help him go all the way at a Grand Slam.

"Probably going to plant some respect in my opponents' eyes and hopefully I can build on that, and one day I'm gonna try to obviously aim for a slam title," said Ruud.

"That's my biggest goal, my biggest dream in my career and in my life. It's been close, but close but no cigar, so I'm going

De Ligt ruled out League final four

AP ■ AMSTERDAM

of Nations

The Netherlands will be without Matthijs de Ligt for the Nations League final four after the Bayern Munich center-back sustained a calf injury.

The Dutch soccer federation said on Monday that De Ligt picked up the injury during a training session ahead of Wednesday's semifinal against Croatia. Spain takes on Italy in the other semifinal.

The Netherlands is hosting the tournament, with the match for third place and the final taking place on Sunday in the cities of Enschede and Rotterdam?.

The Dutch federation said it has asked UEFA to replace De Ligt with Daley Blind, who also plays for Bayern and is on a standby list.

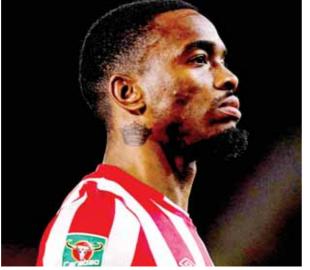
The Netherlands are bidding for their first major title pean Championship.

Toney speaks of pain of missing out on WC

Brentford and England striker Ivan Toney says missing the World Cup was a bigger blow than the eight-month ban he is serving for breaking betting

Toney, who admitted to 232 breaches of Football Association regulations, was charged in November and missed out on a place in Gareth Southgate's squad for the 2022 World Cup.

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham said Toney was left out of Southgate's squad on "footballing grounds". Toney was the Premier League's third-highest scorer last season with 20 goals and helped Brentford to a ninth-place finish. The 27-yearold said it was painful to miss out on the tournament in Qatar, where England reached the quarter-finals. "Even though I'm missing eight months of football, I feel like that was a bigger punishment, missing out on the he told the Kick Game YouTube Ukraine in March, having recei-



channel. "I believe in myself and hopefully I'll be at the next

Toney won his first England cap as a substitute in the 2-0

ved his first call-up to Southgate's squad last September.

The striker, who was given a reduced ban because of a diagnosed gambling addiction, can

Brentford sign Kevin Schade for club-record fee Brentford director of football Phil Giles told the club's

Brentford have completed the permanent signing of Germany forward Kevin Schade for a club-record fee reported to be around £20 million (\$25 million). Schade joined the Premier League club on loan from Bundesliga side Freiburg in January and has now signed a five-year contract.

The 21-year-old made 19 appearances for Thomas Frank's team, who finished ninth in the English top-flight.

play again until January. Brentford have vowed to help Toney while England manager Gareth Southgate said it was important to support the play-

"I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me but I'm just going to focus on when I come back training," said Toney. "I'm going to be a different animal when I it's going to be frightening.

Prannoy to lead India's charge at Indonesia Super 1000



second round.

Double Olympic medallist

PV Sindhu and 2021 world

championships silver medallist

Kidambi Srikanth will also look

for impressive starts to their

campaign, though they haven't

been in the best of form this sea-

PTI JAKARTA

In-form HS Prannoy will be in the spotlight as India's top shuttlers gear up for some tough opening round matches at the Indonesia Open, a BWF Super 1000 tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

Prannoy, who claimed the Malaysia Masters Super 300 title last month, looks promising to go deep into the tournament, where the creme-de-la-creme of world badminton is set to compete this week.

The world number 8 Indian will be up against Kenta Nishimoto of Japan and a first round win is likely to pit him Lakshya Sen showed sparks of regaining some form when he reached the semifinals at Thailand Open. The 2021 world championships bronze medallist will open his campaign against world number 10 and eighth seed Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia.

Commonwealth Games champion and world number 5 men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will face nemesis Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Saniava Sukamulio of Indonesia in the opening round. Satwik and Chirag had

claimed the Swiss Open title this season and will have to dig deep into their reservoir to get the better off the Indonesian pair, whom they have never beaten in 11 meetings.

Kapila too will have a tough ask as they face eight seeds Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in the men's dou-In another clash, former

MR Arjun and Dhruv

world number 1 Saina Nehwal is pitted against seven seeded Chinese Wang Zhi Yi. Women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri

Gopichand Pullela will square off against Japan's Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi in the opening round. The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super

Sindhu made first round 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. exits from the last two events, while Srikanth had a couple of quarterfinal finishes at Malaysia One other category of tournament, the BWF Tour Super and Spain and they will have 100 level, also offers ranking their task cut out against points. The Super 1000 is a Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Grade 2 (level 2) event in the Tunjung and China's Lu Guang BWF tournament ranking sys-Zu respectively in the opening tem, offering highest points and

Squash WC: India open campaign against Hong Kong



PTI ■ CHENNAI

The experienced Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa will spearhead the Indian challenge as the fourth edition of Squash World Cup begins here on Tuesday with the hosts in with a chance to strike gold in the mixed team event.

Ghosal and Joshna are part of a four-member Indian team that will go up against the likes of Hong Kong, China, South Africa and Japan in the league stage in Pool B. Abhay Singh and Tanvi Khanna are the other members of the home team.

India will begin their campaign against Hong Kong in an evening match on the first day of the revamped tournament.
"We have a good chance.
But we are focussing on one

match at a time. Hopefully, we will all execute our plans well and win every match," said Ghosal. The tournament, to be played in the all-glass show court inside the Express Avenue Mall, will also feature teams

from Egypt, Australia, Malaysia and Colombia. Incidentally, the last edition

of the World Cup was also held in Chennai, way back in 2011. With the season-ending PSA World Tour finals sched-

uled in Cairo from June 20, the

top players have decided to give the World Cup a miss. The second-seeded Indian team is expected to face the toughest challenge from Egypt,

the top seed. Though most participating teams would be without their leading stars, there are some in the top-100 who would be seen in action. In the group stage, In action. In the group stage, India's challenge is likely to come from Japan, which includes Satomi Watanabe, ranked world No. 18 in the women's section and quality male players like Ryunosuke Tsukue and Tomotake Endo.

The Egyptian squad comprising Fayrouz Aboelkheir, Kenzy Ayman, Karim El Hammamy, Aly Abou Eleinen starts



Serie A giants Milan pay tribute to 'unforgettable' ex-owner Berlusconi

 A^{C} Milan, the football club which won a host of domestic and European titles under Silvio Berlusconi's ownership, called him "unforgettable" in a tribute after his death aged 86 on Monday.

"Thank you, Mr President. Always with us," the club said in a statement, adding it was "grieving the passing of the unforget-table Silvio Berlusconi".

Tomorrow, we will dream of new ambitions, create new challenges, and seek new victories. Which will represent the good, the strong, and the true that lies inside us, in all of us who shared this adventure of binding our lives to a dream called

Berlusconi reigned supreme at Milan from 1986 until 2017, during which time the club

Milan," the statement continued.

won 29 trophies, including five Champions League and eight Italian league titles. Carlo Ancelotti, who won

two Champions League titles as a player for AC Milan in 1989 and 1990 before then coaching the club to two more European successes in 2003 and 2007, led the tributes to the former club president. "Today's sadness doesn't

erase the happy moments spent together," Ancelotti, the current Real Madrid manager, tweeted along with a photo of him standing beside Berlusconi.

"There remains infinite gratitude to the president, but above all to an ironic, loyal, intelligent, sincere man, fundamental in my adventure as a football player first, and then as a coach.

Thanks President. AC Monza, the club Berlusconi and his long-stand-

Galliani bought in 2018 after he sold AC Milan, said the former Italian prime minister's death left an unfillable hole. "Adriano Galliani and AC Monza mourn the passing of president Silvio Berlusconi," the

ing business partner Adriano

club said in a statement. "A gap that will never be filled, forever with us. Thank you for everything presidente.'

When Berlusconi purchased Monza in 2018, the club was in the third tier of Italian football.

Berlusconi vowed to take Monza to Serie A and with the help of Galliani the team based near Milan reached the top flight for the first time in their history last season.

Monza will play in the Italian top flight again next season after finishing the justcompleted campaign in 11th

RINKU, JITESH SET TO GET T201 CALL-UP

here might not be a kneejerk reaction to India's second successive World Test Championship final defeat but senior players Cheteshwar Pujara and Umesh Yadav's places could come under the scanner before the team travels to West Indies for a two-Test

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Mukesh Kumar are in contention to replace the duo as the selection committee starts preparing the next batch of players for tougher assignments.

India will have a monthlong tour of West Indies where they would start with two Test matches starting July 12, followed by three ODIs and five T20Is in which a completely new team under Hardik Pandya's captaincy will be plying its trade with IPL performers likely to be rewarded.

While another WTC final defeat will hurt the team, there is a strong feeling that the Shiv Sunder Das-led selection committee and head coach Rahul Dravid will be looking at some options going into the next WTC cycle, which starts with the series in the Caribbean.

The two weak links as of now seem to be Pujara and Umesh, who haven't been up to the mark for a long time. "You need to strike a bal-

ance. Selection is a process of elimination but you need that blend of youth and experience. The idea should be long-term and you have to look at two-year cycle now.
"I believe Yashasvi Jaiswal is

ready for international cricket. He has scored double hundreds in Ranji, Irani and Duleep Trophy. Looks solid in terms of temperament and could be groomed while being given enough chances to grow," former



national selector Devang Gan-

Another former national selector, who refused to be quoted, was critical of the BCCI not having any A Tour programme since the tour of Bangladesh last December.

"Look, Umesh is at the business end of his career but with no A tour programme, you don't know who all are ready. There was a time we had Mayank Agarwal, Rishabh Pant, Hanuma Vihari, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini ready through consistent A tours and

"Now you don't know. I presume only form bowler is Mukesh Kumar but he is a

seamer and not an express pacer," the selector said.

WILL ROHIT PLAY TEST?

While one can't put a date on KL Rahul's comeback from a thigh surgery, he is no longer in leadership contention. Will skipper Rohit Sharma, considering his current form and fitness, continue to play Test cricket for two more years and complete the next cycle, when he would be nearly 38? That's a million dollar question at the

Another question is who is a better bet as vice-captain in next one year if Pujara is phased out considering that the West Indies is one Test team against

whom a youngster would have easy initiation.
"The problem is that you

give a West Indies Test series to Pujara and if he scores, you have got to persist with him for one more year as there are no Tests after this till December. So do you do that or straightaway get a youngster and get him ready for bigger battles," the former selector questioned.

For many, Shubman Gill at 23 is at the correct age where he can be prepared over time for a leadership role. A short-term solution could be to hand it over to a sure-shot all-format player like Ravindra Jadeja.

However, Gandhi asked why not someone like R Ashwin,

the participating countries for feedback

before a final schedule is put out early

next week," ESPNCricinfo reported on

ment will begin on October 5 with reign-

ing champions England taking on last

edition's runner-up side New Zealand in

Ahmedabad, which will also host the final

who has a fantastic cricket

"Why not Ashwin? And if you say that he is not a certainty overseas, then I would say even Rahane, despite being a vice-captain, was dropped from playing XI at one point. So even Ashwin can be considered or Rahane for a short time before Gill cements his place in Test XI," Gandhi opined.

RINKU, JITESH FOR T20S

One format where there won't be any ambiguity is T20 Internationals where Hardik Pandya will lead India, including in next year's T20 World Cup in the Americas (West

The T20I team would be purely based on IPL performers and one can expect the likes of Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma to make the cut in the final squad, as teams in the past lacked finishers.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's come-back and Yashasvi Jaiswal's inclusions also look imminent while Mohit Sharma could earn a well-deserved comeback after his 27 wickets in last IPL.

While Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are being phased out of the shortest format, the likes of Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj could be rested considering their workload and the upcoming ODIs before

India to play Pakistan in ODI WC



WTC: Team India players lose 100% match fees, Gill penalised additional 15%

ndian players have been fined their entire match fees for maintaining a slow over rate while opener Shubman Gill was docked an additional 15 per cent for criticising the umpire's decision to rule him out in a debatable call during the World Test Championship final. The Australian players were

also fined 80 per cent of their fees for maintaining a slow over rate during the marquee-clash, which they won by 209 run in London on Sunday.

"It was confirmed shortly after the conclusion of the match on Sunday's final day that India will lose all of their match fees for their slow over rate, with Australia also docked 80 percent of their match fees.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, players are fined 20 per cent of their match to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement on Monday. The fines were imposed after India were ruled to be five overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, while Australia were found to be four overs short. Indian players, who are part of the playing XI earn Rs 15

lakh per Test while the reserve players get Rs 7.5 lakhs each.
Gill was found guilty of "breaching article 2.7 which relates to public criticism or inappropriets comment in relation to propriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in an international match.'

During India's second innings, television umpire Richard Kettleborough had adjudged a catch by Cameron Green to remove Gill had been taken cleanly. However after the day's play, the youngster had posted a TV screen grab of the replay in which the ball seemed to be



Australia hailed for 'momentous' WTC title but told: now win Ashes

ustralia's World Test Cham-Apionship triumph was hailed on Monday as "momentous" - but warned it will quickly be forgotten if they do not win the Ashes.

Pat Cummins' side crushed India by 209 runs in the final at The Oval in a show of strength ahead of the Ashes against archrivals England starting on Friday. The Sydney Daily Telegraph

said Australia "deserve praise" for routing Rohit Sharma's team, but warned: "Deep down they know that the main prize is still to be won.

"Because the brutal truth is this fine accomplishment from Pat Cummins' men will soon be forgotten if Australia doesn't win the Ashes," said the tabloid.

"The good news is, performing in the pressure of a Test Championship final seems a pretty good way to warm up for

England." Australian selectors now face a major decision on whether to stick with seamer Scott Boland for the first Test at Edgbaston or bring back pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood, who is returning from injury.

After Boland's secondinnings exploits at The Oval, including the prize scalp of Virat Kohli on Sunday on his way to figures of 3-46 in 16 overs, local media agreed it would be almost impossible to drop him.

Australia's victory was the culmination of a two-year programme of Tests that saw them win 12 out of 20 matches, with five draws and three defeats.

Local media said there had been "turbulence and reinvention" after former skipper Tim Paine stepped down over a sexting scandal in late 2021 and acrimonious circumstances

Andrew McDonald now in charge and Cummins growing into his role as skipper, national broadcaster ABC said Australia had morphed into "a more balanced, rounded and complete side".

Not every decision has been right, not every situation perfectly handled, but as Cummins wrestled that (WTC) mace in front of a team that is now unequivocally his, it's hard to argue against them," it said.
"Now comes the chance to

prove it, once and for all, in the biggest Test series of a generation." The Sydney Morning Herald praised Cummins and McDonald for "creating an environment in which individuals could find their best paths to cul-

minate in team success. "Preparation and planning Justin Langer quit as coach in has been very much tailored to each player, with some formida-



The venues for the semifinals, which

and 16, are yet to be decided. Hosts India, who last won the ODI World Cup in 2011 at home, will play their league phase matches across nine cities, including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New

Delhi and Bengaluru. They will take on Pakistan on October 15. Pakistan, meanwhile, will play their league matches across five cities. "Pakistan are slotted to meet the two teams progressing from the Qualifier on

October 6 and 12 in Hyderabad, and then Australia in Bengaluru (October 20), Afghanistan (October 23) and South Africa (October 27) in Chennai, Bangladesh in Kolkata (October 31), New Zealand in Bengaluru (November 5, day match) and England in Kolkata (November 12)," the report read. Australia's match against Trans-

Dharamsala on October 29 and against England in Ahmedabad on November 4 are some of the other big fixtures.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the tournament. Out of these, eight India vs South Aafrica, Nov 5, Kolkata

main tournament via the qualifiers. With a little over four months left for the marquee event to begin, there has been an unprecedented delay in releas-

teams have already been decided and

while two other teams will qualify for the

ing the schedule. The schedule of the last two editions of the tournament — 2015 and 2019 —

was finalised over a year in advance.

INDIA'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

India vs Australia, Oct 8, Chennai India vs Afghanistan, Oct 11, Delhi India vs Pakistan, Oct 15, Ahmedabad India vs England, Oct 29, Lucknow

India vs Qualifier, Nov 2, Mumbai

Smith-Head 285-run stand was the difference: Finch

Monday.

 Γ ormer Australia white-ball skipper Aaron Finch believes the 285-run first innings partnership between Steve Smith and Travis Head made the difference in the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval.

"What an achievement to be crowned World Test Champions. I think Travis Head and Steve Smith's partnership was the difference in the game, but that's just something Steve Smith does," Finch told 'SEN Radio'.

"When he (Smith) turns up to England he seems to walk out and get 100s at will. It was a brilliant performance and I'm very happy for the

Following the bitter loss, India captain Rohit Sharma has called for a three-Test WTC final, while also questioning the lack of preparation time for the marquee clash as it was scheduled just after the IPL. But Finch begs to differ.



"I think it's just the reality of the scheduling and the time constraints on fixtures at the moment," he said.

"I've got no issues with it, I think if it's drawn out over three Tests, what happens if a team gets annihilated? It becomes a bit of a waste of time. 'We all play sport for the wins and the loss-

es. I don't have any issue with it at all.

PTI ■ LONDON

One of the finest pacers of the current generation, Mitchell Starc keeps away from the franchise cricket, including the IPL, despite the handsome money on offer as he wants to be at his "best" playing for Australia.

For Starc, playing Test cricket for Australia is paramount, a path he hopes many youngsters will follow in future.

Several colleagues of Starc have appeared in various T20 leagues across the globe such as IPL, Big Bash, but the left-arm pacer has managed to stay away from the lure.

"I enjoyed it (IPL), likewise I enjoyed my time at Yorkshire 10 years ago, but Australia will always sit at the top. I don't regret any of it, money will come and go but I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had," Starc told 'The Guardian'.

"Over a hundred years of Test cricket and there's been less than 500 men who have played it for Australia, that in itself makes it very special to be a part

"The traditionalist in me still hopes there is a generation of boys and girls who want to represent their country in Test cricket. But the easy money is in franchise cricket, it's the fast track to notoriety," he added.

The 33-year-old, who last played franchise cricket back in 2015 for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, is clear in his mind that Test cricket will remain his priority for the foreseeable future.

"I'd certainly love to play in the IPL again, but my goal for a long time has been to be at my best for Australia, no matter the format," Starc asserted.

"There's nothing I love more in cricket than to sit back with my teammates at the end of a Test win and reflect on the success we've had that week. To be able to pull on the baggy green with a lot of my close mates, guys I've grown up in the game with," Starc said.

"Franchise cricket is great, but you can be bought or sold or traded in 12 months, where

as this is an opportunity (Playing Tests) that I've been fortunate enough to have over 10 years now...To be able to pull on the baggy green with a lot of my close mates, guys I've grown up in the game with."

ghanistan confident ahead of Bangladesh Test tain, Shakib Al Hasan, who has

fghanistan skipper Hash-Amatullah Shahidi is confident of his side's chances against Bangladesh in their return to Test cricket after more than two years, despite resting key leg spinner Rashid Khan.

"Expectation is high, we are here to play good cricket and want to win the game," Shahidi told reporters in Dhaka on Monday

Afghanistan take on their hosts in a one-off Test series on Wednesday, their first Test match since facing Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi in March 2021.

"We had a lot of gaps," Shahidi said. "We play domestic first-class games and lots of players are involved in that." The Afghanistan team

from a country still feeling the after-effects of decades of conflict and the 2021 Taliban takeover - have won three of six Tests since being granted Test status in 2018. Those wins include their

only previous Test against

Bangladesh.
Rashid has played in five of Afghanistan's six Test matches, picking up 34 wickets at an average of 22.35, but is being rested for the game after a gruelling campaign in the Indian Premier

His exploits include 11 wickets in the Test against



224 runs in Chittagong in 2019. "It will be challenging," Shahidi said. "We all know that

Rashid is one of the main bowlers. He did very well in the past in Test matches. Still, we have another option like wrist spinners and they will perform well, inshallah (God willing)." Shahidi, who scored an

unbeaten 200 in the Zimbabwe Test, said the 2019 win over their hosts would inspire the side to do well again here. "It inspires us, because we

of confidence," he said. Bangladesh will be without their main all-rounder and cap-

played only one Test here and we won that. So that gives us a lot

been nursing a finger injury. Stand-in skipper Liton Das said they would take Afghanistan seriously despite Rashid's 'We will take Afghanistan

the same way we would have taken them if Rashid Khan was present," said Rashid. "We also had a gap in Tests
-- we last played a Test match in
April and had to switch to
white-ball cricket. But I think we

are at least ahead of them, as we have been playing Test cricket regularly for many days," he said. Bangladesh defeated Ireland

in their last Test match, but have lost eight of their previous nine

Playing Test cricket for Australia more important than IPL money: Starc