OPINION 6

OPP MUST SUPPORT

MODI'S GLOBAL AGENDA

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WORLD 8

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EVEN IF CONVICTED

MONEY 10

STATE GST COLLECTIONS GROWTH TO

MODERATE TO 12-14% IN '24: CRISIL

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SMITH HAPPY TO BE BACK AT **EDGBASTON** 11 SPORT

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

9 killed as Manipur violence rages on

3 go missing after gunfight as assailants surround Kuki village; curfew in 11 dists



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL/NEW DELH

Avillage in the Khamenlok area of Manipur was targeted in a violent attack by suspected miscreants, resulting in the deaths of at least nine people and leaving 10 others injured. The armed assailants surrounded the Kuki village located on the border of Imphal East district and Kangpokpi district and initiated the assault around 1 am, leading to a fierce gun battle with casualties

on both sides Three persons have been reported missing in the aftermath of the attack. The region is known for its ethnic strife between the Meitei and Kuki

communities

In response to the escalating violence, the district authorities have imposed curfews in several districts of Manipur. The curfew relaxation 5 am to 9 am in Imphal East district and Imphal West district, while curfew remains in force in 11 out of the 16 dis-

Internet services have also

CAPSULE

LAW COMMISSION SEEKS VIEWS ON UCC

New Delhi: The Law Commission

on Wednesday said it has decided

to look at the need for a Uniform

Civil Code (UCC) afresh and seek

the views of various stakeholders,

including members of the public

78 DEAD IN ATHENS AS FISHING VESSEL SINKS

Athens: At least 78 people have

died and dozens are feared

missing off the coast of southern Greece after a fishing boat carrying migrants capsized

and sank, authorities said

Wednesday. A large search and

rescue operation was launched

in the area. Authorities said 104

people have been rescued so far

following the nighttime incident

some 75 kilometres southwest

INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMAN STABBED TO DEATH IN UK

London: A 27-year-old Indian-

to death in north London and

Scotland Yard on Wednesday

said that two men have been

origin woman has been stabbed

of Greece's southern

Peloponnese region

and religious organisations. **P4**

been suspended throughout the northeastern State. These measures aim to restore peace and normalcy in the aftermath of the recent wave of ethnic violence, which has claimed the lives of over 100 individuals and left 310 injured.

The clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities first erupted on May 3 when a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. The Meiteis, who constitute about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and predominantly reside in the Imphal Valley, have been aged in conflicts with the tribal communities, including Nagas and Kukis, who account for 40 per cent of the population and inhabit the hills.

In the midst of the ongoing violence and its aftermath, the Congress has criticised Prime his government for their perceived inaction and failure to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accused the prime min- also asked. ister of being a "mute specta-

tor" and highlighted the absence of a meeting chaired by him to address the situation in the violence-hit State.

Kharge further asserted that the measures announced by Home Minister Amit Shah were insufficient and had not produced tangible results on the ground. The Congress party raised questions about the BJP government's inability to bring peace and normalcy to Manipur, suggesting that the party's divisive politics may be fueling the tensions between

ethnic groups for political gain. "Shri Narendra Modi has remained a mute spectator. Modi ji has not even had the time to chair a meeting on Manipur. But, the Congress party shall keep questioning Modi Government's rank incompetence," he said on

"Why has the 'double engine' BJP Government failed in Manipur? Is it because the BJP intends to widen the fisrestore peace in Manipur. sures between ethnic groups for its cheap political gains?" he

Continued on Page 2

TN Min held in ADMK-era **PMLA** case



Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji reacts in pain while being taken to a government hospital after his arrest in connection with a money laundering case, in Chennai on Tuesday night

PNS CHENNAI

Amajor controversy erupted in Tamil Nadu following the arrest of Minister V Senthil Balaji by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a cash for jobs scam in the transport department. The 47-year-old DMK leader from Karur district, who is part of Chief Minister MK Stalin's Cabinet, has become the centre of a heated debate as he becomes the first Minister to face scrutiny from a Central

Stalin has expressed his

arrested in connection with the murder. The incident took place probe agency. It has sparked outrage and

at a residential property in Neeld Crescent, Wembley on Tuesday. While the murder victim is yet raised questions about the motives behind the arrest. to be formally identified by police in the UK, reports from India indicate that it was concern over the prolonged investigation despite Balaji's Kontham Teiasvini – a vound professional from Hyderabad assurance of full cooperation.

TN WITHDRAWS GENERAL

CONSENT GIVEN TO CBI The Tamil Nadu Government on Wednesday withdrew the general consent to the CBI to carry out probe in the State.

Stalin has questioned the necessity and justification for what he deems as "inhumane action' by the ED officials.

During the period under investigation (2014-15), Balaji was with the AIADMK and held the position of Transport Minister. However, after his formal arrest early on Wednesday, the DMK leader complained of chest pain and was admitted to Government hospital. Medical professionals have advised him to undergo imme-

diate bypass surgery.

Continued on Page 2

Guj braces for Biparjoy ferocity

50K evacuated as extremely heavy rain likely after cyclone makes landfall today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD/MANDVI/

A s cyclone Biparjoy intensi-fies and heads towards the Gujarat coast, authorities have undertaken a massive evacuation operation, relocating 50 000 individuals from vul nerable areas. Disaster management personnel have been deployed to handle relief and rescue measures in the State, which is expected to bear the brunt of the second cyclone to hit Gujarat in just two years, officials reported Wednesday.

With the cyclone projected to make landfall near Jakhau port in Kutch district on Thursday evening, parts of the Saurashtra-Kutch region have already experienced heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel convened a meeting with senior officers to assess the situation. At the national level, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh separately reviewed the preparedness to tackle the cyclone's impact.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), cyclone Biparjoy is



expected to change its path on Wednesday and move northeastwards towards Kutch and Saurashtra. However, it is still anticipated to make landfall as a very severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds ranging from 125-135 kmph, gusting up to 145 kmph from morning to evening on Thursday.

has launched a massive evacuation operation, focusing on shifting people residing within a 10 km radius of the coast to temporary shelters, with special attention given to

The Gujarat Government

Kutch, which is expected to be the worst affected. The evacuation process is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed by Wednesday evening. State Commissioner of

Relief Alok Kumar Pandey stated, "The cyclone is presently around 290 km away from Kutch. As a precautionary measure, we have already relocated nearly 50,000 individuals from coastal areas to temporary shelters. The evacuation process is ongoing, and the remaining 5,000 people will be shifted to safer locations by this

Of the evacuated population, approximately 18,000 individuals have been relocated to shelters in Kutch district, while others have been evacuated from Junagadh, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Morbi, and Rajkot, as per Pandey's statement.

To tackle the situation effectively, authorities have deployed 18 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 12 teams of the State Disaster Response Force

State road and building department and the State electricity department across different coastal districts. The officials from the electricity and road & building departments have also reached designated locations to restore connectivity and power supply. Additionally, teams equipped with HAM Radio sets and satellite phones have been deployed in the coastal region to facilitate better communication.

Chief Minister Patel conducted a meeting with the State chief secretary and senior officers at the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) to review preparedness. Rajnath after reviewing the preparations of the armed forces, affirmed their readiness to provide assistance to civil authorities in handling any situation arising from the cyclone. Mandaviya inspected the preparedness measures in Kutch and visited the Bhuj Air Force station to assess the arrangements made by the "Garuda" Emergency Response Team of the Indian Air Force. He assured the public that the armed forces are fully prepared to ensure the safety of lives and properties

during the cyclone. Continued on Page 2

B'luru court summons Rahul, Sidda, DKS for '40% graft' defamation



PTI ■ BENGALURU

The BJP has filed a defama-Tion complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court here.

The special court exclusively to deal with criminal cases related to elected former and sitting MPs/MLAs has

Summons were ordered to be issued on Tuesday to all the

respondents in this regard. The private complaint alleging false claims in adver-

tisements tarnishing the image of the BJP was filed by the party's State secretary S Keshavaprasad on May 9.

According to the complaint, the advertisement released by the KPCC in major newspapers on May 5, 2023 in the run-up to the Assembly election claiming that the then incumbent BJP Government indulged in "40 per cent corruption" and had looted ₹1.5 lakh crore in the previous four years was "baseless, prejudiced and defamatory".

tion" became the key election plank of the Congress after allegations that officials in various ministries were seeking 40 per cent bribes

Wholesale inflation hits 7-year low

The wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) rate fell to a seven-and-half-vear low of (-) 3.48 per cent in May on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items, strengthening the case for the RBI to continue with the rate hike pause in the current fiscal.

This is the second straight the negative zone, mainly due to a higher base and falling prices of fuel and manufactured



closely tracked by the RBI to decide on monetary policy, dipped to a 25-month low of per cent in May.

Patna Opp meet to focus on ties, skirt talks on PM face



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/PATNA

The upcoming meeting of Opposition parties in Patna seeks to explore the broader contours of forming a unified alliance while refraining from any discussions on finalising a prospective candidate for the Prime Minister post. The gathering, scheduled for the next week, will bring together senior leaders, including Sharad Pawar, who will play a pivotal role in bridging gaps and charting a way forward to draft a common agenda for stakeholders such as the Congress

and Left parties. Amid speculation, sources associated with the conclave have firmly denied the inclusion of discussions regarding a prime ministerial candidate on the agenda. Instead, the primary focus will be on deciding a common minimum programme that facilitates collab-Continued on Page 2 oration among the parties in

the lead-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting has been convened at the behest of senior JDU leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, with coordination efforts from his party and alliance partners, the ŔJD.

While Nitish's recent endeavours, including reaching out to top leaders across States, sparked speculation about his ootential candidacy for the Prime Minister's post, both Nitish and his party have categorically denied harbouring such ambitions.

'The meeting is the first step. A common agenda will be finalised, addressing crucial issues such as inflation, unemployment, Government economic mismanagement, communal harmony, misuse of Government agencies, and subversion of democracy," revealed sources from several participating parties.

Continued on Page 2

Tuesday's development had

Shinde placates BJP with new advert after ad-venture

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Aday after the rusped aling ally BJP the wrong with way by sharing space with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a full-page advertisement and claiming that he was ahead of his deputy Devendra Fadnavis in the chief ministerial race for the 2024 Assembly polls, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena on Wednesday resorted to a "damage-control" exercise by giving due credit to Fadnavis and other ruling alliance leaders in another full-page ad.

Having ticked off his party's ally BJP in Maharashtra through the "Rashtramadhe Modi, Maharashtraath Shinde" (Modi for India, Shinde for Maharashtra) advertisement



papers on Tuesday, Shinde sought to make amends by putting up another ad that showed him and a grinning Fadnavis waving at people. Unlike Tuesday's advertisement that had only the photographs of just Modi and



Sena leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and late Shiv Sena leaders Balasaheb Thackeray, as well as his own "political guru" Anand

Wednesday's ad carried the

'Bow-and-Arrow" and the BJP's "Lotus," which were missing in Tuesday's advertisement. The latest ad carried punch-lines saying "People's choice only for Shiv Sena-BJP alliance" and "We bow our heads to the people, Long Maharashtra."
Tuesday's ad blitzkrieg, unleashed to project himself as

symbols of both the Shiv Sena's

the chief ministerial material for the 2024 Assembly polls, ignoring the claims of Fadnavis for the top post in the 2024 state Assembly polls, boomeranged on Shinde as the BJP leaders picked holes in the data of the pre-polls survey conducted by a television channel and said the data relating to him (Shinde) came mainly from his home district of

come less than a fortnight after Shinde — who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Deputy Chief Minister Fadnavis in New Delhi on June 4 — claimed that the Shiv Sena led by him and the BJP would contest all the forthcoming elections — Lok Sabha, State Assembly, and local body polls — all together on a development plank. In Tuesday's advertisement,

the ruling Shiv Sena had quoted an election survey and said that, as per the survey done for the chief minister's post, 26.1 percent of people in Maharashtra "desire" Shinde to be the next chief minister of the state, while 23.2 percent of the people "wish" to see Fadnavis as the next CM.

Continued on Page 2

taken cognisance of the offences under Sections 499 Terming the allegations "baseless" and "defamatory," goods. Food prices also eased. A negative WPI inflation (defamation) and 500 (punthe BJP alleged that it was means that overall wholesale because of such campaigns it ishment for defamation) of the prices have been falling yearlost the last month's state elec-Indian Penal Code and posted on-year. The WPI comes withthe case for recording the tion in Karnataka. in days after the government data showed retail inflation, The "40 per cent corrupsworn statement on July 27.

TN Govt cancels general consent to CBI for probe



PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu govern-drew the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out probe in the state, joining a list of non-BJP ruled states who have done so earlier.

The move comes on a day when state Electricity and Prohibition and Excise Minister V Senthil Balaji was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, a central probe agency, in a money launder-

A Home Department release here said that according to a specific provision of the the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946

(Central Act XXV of 1946) the CBI has to secure prior permission from the state government concerned before going there to conduct a

"The Tamil Nadu government has today issued orders withdrawing the general consent given to certain types of cases in 1989 and 1992 under the aforesaid rule. Accordingly, the CBI has to henceforth get the Tamil Nadu government's prior approval for conducting investigation in the state," it

The release pointed out that West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala, Mizoram, Punjab and Telangana have already issued

Conversion: Baddo found to have 30 Pak numbers in his phones: UP Police



man accused of running a Aman accused or ranning a religious conversion racket has allegedly been found to have 30 Pakistani contacts saved in his phones, police here

said on Wednesday. Shahnawaz Khan alias Baddo has also been found to have been operating at least six email ids, one of which with a few emails from Pakistan in the inbox, they said.

Police have seized Khan's two mobile phones and also his CPU for further investigation. He was operating six email ids, two of which he purchased

for online gaming, DCP city Nipun Agarwal said. Khan was sent to a 14-day judicial custody on Tuesday by a Ghaziabad court where he

was produced after being brought from Maharashtra's

Thane on a transit remand. The DCP said the police's cyber crime cell is scrutinising the 30 phone numbers to find out more details about them. He said police will invoke National Security Act against Khan if anything incriminating comes up against him in connection with the phone num-

9 killed **Manipur** violence..

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Wednesday.

A Greater Noida group housing society issued a dress

code for its residents, advising them not to wear 'lungis' or 'nighties' within the complex, only to withdraw the diktat on

The dress code was issued via a notice by the residents' body of Himsagar Apartments on June 10 following a com-

plaint about "objectionable dressing" by some residents.

take care of your behaviour and

dressing when venturing out in

the society so that nobody gets

a chance to raise any objection.

Your children also learn from

you. Hence, it is requested to

you that lungi or nighty, which

are worn inside homes, should

not be used outdoors," the

notice issued by the secretary

divergent reactions from the

residents and apparently "hurt"

the sentiments of some,

prompting the society to with-

"The notice related to the

draw it after four days.

However, the move drew

of the residents' body stated.

"All of you are expected to

From Page 1

Kharge said news reports of "NDA's NEDA chairman and Assam chief minister and RSS' national executive member taking the help of insurgent groups" to fight previous elections are clearly saying so.

"Why hasn't the Prime Minister not called an All-Party meeting to deliberate political solutions? It is high time the Modi government take responsibility for their crimes perpetrated on the people of Manipur and becomes accountable," he

Housing society issues 'dress code'

dress code on June 10 was

issued on the basis of a com-

plaint raised by some resi-

dents. Nobody was forced for

this nor the decision imposed

on anyone. The society does

not intend to hurt anyone's sen-

timents," the notice issued on

Society residents' body

resident C B Kalra said that

the June 10 notice stands with-

drawn. He said the notice was

issued after some women com-

plained about a co-resident

doing yoga in the park wearing

after the notice and so far not

one resident of the society has

"We got positive feedback

Wednesday said.

for residents; no lungis, nighties



Fire in Kolkata airport, none hurt



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Afire broke out near a departure gate of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday night, creating chaos and panic among passengers, officials

No casualty was reported. The fire was noticed at around 9.10 pm and it was doused within half an hour, officials said adding that no arrival flight was affected.

They added that the check-

in process was suspended for some time as eight fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the blaze.

The entire area inside the airport was engulfed with thick black smoke after the fire broke out at the 3C departure

gate.
"There was a minor fire & smoke on the check-in area portal D at 2112 pm and fully extinguished by 2140 pm. All passengers are evacuated safey and check-in process sussmoke in the check-in area,"

pended due to presence of the airport tweeted.

Guj braces for Biparjoy...

In Delhi, talking to reporters Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said cyclone Biparjoy is expected to alter its trajectory on Wednesday, moving northeastwards towards the regions of Kutch and Saurashtra. The cyclone is predicted to make landfall on

PUBLIC NOTICE

That the Original Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip and NOC for Water and Electricity connection, issued by DDA vide File No. F-23(359)84/TP/NP/MIG issued by Asst. Director(H) DDA, New Delhi, in respect of Flat No. 102-B, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar, Phase-T, Delhi-110091, in the name of Mr. BALKRISHNA SHARMA son of Shri KANHAYA LAL SHARMA, Share, been lest and not treasable in this have been lost and not traceable, in this connection Ms. RUCHIKA BHARDWAJ lodged NCR vide LR No. 145494/2023, on date 13.02.2023, with Crime Branch, Delhi.

If anyone find please return to above said address B 45 Retreat apartment plot No 20 patparganj IP extension Delhi 110092



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abdullah S/o. Rozan Kazi, R/o. 311/C-1, Gali No. - 22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have declared that my name has been wrongfully mentioned in my son's school record as MOHD ABULLAH and my son's AAZAN. My correct name is Abdullah and my son's correct name is AAZAN KHAN

WATER AFFECTED APPROX. 20,410.60 KG OF 23 MICRON BOPET FILM

Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Wate Affected Approx. 20,410,60 Kg of 23 Micron Bopet Film" on "Per Kg" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is", Whatever there is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Aakash Polyfilms Ltd. The subject materials can be inspected at M/s. MKS Shri Enterprises, Plot no.17, Sec 23, Phase -3, HSIIDC, Sonipat, Haryana between 15-06-23 to 22-06-23 between 10 AM to 5 PM only. Kindly contact Mr. Sunil Sharma at 9350412915 for

E-AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON 23.06.23

Kindly contact Mr. Shamsher Singh a 9709709992 to obtain the form containing terms & conditions of e-Auction or download from website https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/.

Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at Shop No. 148, Pocket 2, Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF FOR & EMD DEMAND DRAFT IS 22-06-23

Thursday evening near able boats, as well as basic

Jakhau port. Moĥapatra noted a significant change in the cyclone's movement, stating, "For the past six hours, it has become very slow, practically stationary. This is an indication that the direction of the movement of the cyclone will change now. We are expecting that it will move towards the northeast and it will hit Saurashtra, Kutch, and adjoining Pakistan between Mandvi and Karachi, near Jakhau Port."

cyclone Biparjoy has slightly weakened, it is still anticipatrange from 125-135 kmph, gusting up to 145 kmph from morning to evening on Thursday.

To ensure effective relief and rescue operations, the NDRF has designated a total of 33 teams for Gujarat and Maharashtra, as announced by officials in New Delhi.

In Gujarat, 18 NDRF

teams have been deployed, with an additional team stationed in the neighboring Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Meanwhile, Maharashtra, five out of the total 14 NDRF teams have been positioned in Mumbai, while the remaining teams

remain on standby. Each of these teams consists of 35 to 40 personnel and is equipped with essential tools such as tree and pole lated extremely heavy rainfall cutters, electric saws, inflat-

medicines and relief items.

Shelter homes have been established in Government schools and offices across coastal districts, providing accommodation along with arrangements for food, drink, and medicine. Officials have ensured the availability of adequate medical staff and adequate medical staff and necessary supplies, including medicines, in nearby health centers, government hospitals, and private hospitals.

While the intensity of clone Bipariov has slightly at it will move towards the region has already experienced heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds. The same and the strong winds and private medical staff and necessary supplies, including medicines, in nearby health centers, government hospitals.

The Saurashtra-Kutch region has already experienced heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds. The

panied by strong winds. The IMD has predicted that the ed to make landfall as a very intensity of rainfall will escasevere cyclonic storm. The late as the cyclone approachplaces in the districts of Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Jamnagar are likely to witness extremely heavy rainfall during this period. Additionally, several areas in Porbandar, Rajkot, Morbi, Junagadh, and other districts of Saurashtra and the north Gujarat region are expected to receive heavy to very heavy

rainfall on Thursday. Ahmedabad Director Manorama Mohanty stated, "As the cyclone crosses the Guiarat coast on Thursday evening, isolated places in Porbandar, Morbi, Rajkot, Jamnagar, and Kutch will experience heavy to very heavy rainfall, with isolated instances of extremely heavy rainfall. Devbhumi Dwarka may witness heavy to very heavy rainfall, including isoon Wednesday

International patients' lounge at RGCIRC



(RGCIRC) in Delhi has opened an International Patients' Lounge to cater to the growing number of foreign patients seeking cancer treatment. The lounge provides a seamless experience from admission to discharge, reducing the hassle for patients and their attendants. "The lounge has been designed to work on a single window concept. Typically 7-10 per cent of our patients are from abroad at any point of time, majority from neighbouring countries including Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan," said RGCIRC CEO DS Negi, IAS.

Patna Opp meet to focus on... CPI (ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya.

bothered about it," the retired

announcement also found its

way on social media, where

users had varying opinions

over the decision, with some

backing it for "decency" while

others criticising the "regres-

sive" and "anti-South India"

not have any residents belong-

ing to south India and added

that many people in north

Indian states like Bihar and

Uttar Pradesh also wear a lungi.

Kalra said the society does

The society's dress code

government officer said

From Page 1 Additionally, the issue of a caste-based census, which has garnered support even from Bihar's BJP leaders, is expected to feature on the agenda. The Opposition parties are hopeful of garnering wide-spread support for this matter at the national level.

The list of attendees includes Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Other leaders who have consented to participate in the meeting are Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, CPI general secretary D Raja, CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, and

However, the Telanganabased Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha, and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will not be attending the meeting due to differences with the

There will be no discussion on any prime ministerial candidate. The meeting is aimed at coordinating among the Opposition parties for the next general election, marking the initial step," confirmed sources from the RJD, JDU, Congress, and NCP.

Čongress sources revealed that main on the agendas is to form a team of senior leaders who will visit different States, engage with local leaders, and hold meetings and conferences to mobilise support for the Opposition. While a formal alliance between the Opposition parties seems unlikely, the idea is to work on a formula that ensures one winnable Opposition candi-

date in each constituency.
The Patna conclave holds great significance as it provides a platform for influential leaders to deliberate on crucial matters and reach consensus on key policy issues. By deliberately sidelining discussions on the prime ministerial candidate, the Opposition demonstrates its commitment to collective decision-making and strategic collaboration, presenting a strong, alternative vision to the Indian electorate.

'There will be no discussion on any prime ministerial candidate. The meeting is aimed at coordinating among the Opposition parties for the next general election, marking the initial step," confirmed sources from the RJD, JDU, Congress, and NCP.

Shinde placates BJP with new advert after.

From Page 1

of Maharashtra wish to see a strong alliance between the BJP and Shiv Sena for their state's leadership," the advertisement added.

Interestingly enough, the Sena advertisement had sought to sell the concept of "Modi for India, Shinde for Maharashtra. The dream team is loved by all." The initial paragraphs of

the advertisements thus: "The commendable teamwork of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has secured the highest position in Maharashtra through their recent welfare schemes.'

"According to the election surveys, 30.2% of citizens of Maharashtra prefer BJP, while 16.2% of citizens of Maharashtra prefer the Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde). These numbers show that a total of 46.4% of people of

Maharashtra trust the BJP & chief minister of Maharashtra, 'Thus, it is an undeniable Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena while it made its own leader

> Understandably enough, the BJP said that the state BJP leadership was miffed with Shinde for going all out to project himself as the chief ministerial candidate for the 2024 Assembly while undermining the claims of Fadnavis for the top post in the state.

It may be recalled that the then Opposition BJP had joined hands with Shinde, then a senior Shiv Sena leader, who rebelled against the then chief minister and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, walked out of the party along with 40-odd MLAs in June 2022, leading to the collapse of the government Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), a grand alliance comprising Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress.

Given that Shinde had played a bigger role than it, the BJP let Shinde become the

ister of the state - much to the discomfort of the latter who was the chief minister of the state for five years from October 31, 2014, to November 12, 2019.

The Shinde advertisement has resulted in strains in the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP alliance in the state. Given its electoral strength, the ruling BJP is not expected to let Shinde play the role of a dominant partner in the 2024 State Assembly polls.

In the 2019 State Assembly when it contested in alliance with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, the BJP had polled 25.75 percent of votes, while the Uddhav-led Sena had polled 16.41 percent of votes. Similarly, in the earlier 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had polled 27.84 percent of votes, while the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena had mustered 23.5 percent of votes.

TN Min held in ADMK-era PMLA.

court seeking permission to be transferred to a private hospital for further treatment. He has also requested interim bail. The court has ordered his judicial custody until June 28 but is yet to make a decision on his bail application and the ED's plea for police custody.

Amidst the unfolding drama, a habeas corpus petition has been filed in the Madras High Court, urging the court to intervene and ensure the Minister's fair treatment.

Stalin paid a visit to his Cabinet colleague at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, expressing his discontent with the protracted investigation and conlegally.

In response to the arrest, the DMK has alleged that prophas denied these allegations.

tenure as the Transport Minister in the AIADMK Government from 2011 to 2015. It is alleged that Balaji, along with his brother R V Ashok Kumar, conspired with managing directors of state transport undertakings and other officials to accept illegal gratification from job applicants in exchange for recruitment in various positions within the transport corporations. The ED has accused Balaii of orchestrating fraudulent appointments based on lists provided by his associates.

paid money for jobs have Following his hospitalisa- claimed that they did not refunds as promised by Balaji and the others involved. Based on three FIRs registered by the Tamil Nadu Police in 2018 and subsequent years, the ED initiated a money laundering investigation in 2021.

The recent actions taken by the ED were authorized by the Supreme Court in a May 16 order, granting permission for both the police and the ED to conduct investigations into the

Meanwhile, State Minister PK Sekar Babu has raised concerns about Balaji's health, claiming that the minister has shown signs of being "tortured." Balaji is currently in the intensive care unit and has undergone a coronary angiogram, which revealed triple vessel disease. Doctors have recommended immediate bypass surgery

The DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance has announced plans for a massive public meeting in Coimbatore on Friday to protest against the alleged interference of the BJP in the matter. The alliance has criticised the BJP-led NDA Government, accusing it of neglecting the interests of the people during its nine-year tenure.

While the TN BJP Chief K Annamalai has denied any vindictive action and stated that the ED's actions are a result of a five-year probe into the cash for jobs scam, AIADMK Ćhief Palaniswami has criticized Chief Minister Stalin over the raids. Palaniswami demanded Balaji's resignation on moral grounds and accused him of mishandling liquor stock and allowing illegal bars to operate, resulting in losses to the state exchequer.

Wholesale inflation hits 7-year low

The decline in the WPIbased inflation rate is usually reflected in the retail inflation

data with a time lag.
"Decline in the rate of inflation in May 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in onion was (-) 18.71 per cent prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas and chemical & chemical products," the commerce and industry min-

istry said on Wednesday. This is the lowest WPI inflation eased to (-) 9.17 per inflation print since November 2015, when it was (-) 3.7 per

In May 2022, WPI inflation was at 16.63 per cent. Last

month, it was (-) 0.92 per cent. Inflation in food articles

eased to 1.51 per cent in May from 3.54 per cent in April. Vegetables saw a decline in inflation at (-) 20.12 per cent, while the same in potato and

tively However, inflation in pulses saw a sharp uptick at 5.76 per cent, and in wheat, it was 6.15 per cent. Fuel and power basket

and (-) 7.25 per cent, respec-

cent in May against 0.93 per cent in April. "Indeed, India has doubled

its imports of low-cost Russian

oil over the past year. This has

helped keep the cost of energy manageable and helped to tame its high inflation," Moody's Analytics Chief APAC Economist Steve Cochrane In manufactured products,

the inflation rate was (-) 2.97 per cent in the month under review against (-) 2.42 per cent in April. Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said the

negative trajectory in wholesale prices should help the overall input cost in the value chain. "While we expect the trend to continue, we need to watch

tured goods," Sood said. Icra, in a note, said the

WPI deflation is likely to print at 2.5-3.5 per cent in June 2023, supported by an elevated base in the year-ago month. Barclays MD and Head of

EM Asia (ex-China) Economics Rahul Bajoria said wholesale prices fell further last month as pressures eased across food, fuel and core. Falling commodity prices are reducing input costs for producers, but delayed passthrough to retail prices means the gap between CPI and WPI inflation has widened.

"We expect retail inflation out how monsoon plays out as to be on a moderating trajecfood prices are influenced a lot more by rains than manufactory in the near term, which

suggests the MPC is likely to be on hold for the rest of fiscal 2023-24," Bajoria said, adding that the "RBI will want to see headline (and ideally core) CPI inflation moving towards the 4 per cent target on a durable basis, before considering rate

IDFC First Bank, in a research note, said for the full fiscal, WPI inflation is tracking at 0.4 per cent against 9.6 per cent in the last fiscal, with negative inflation prints persisting till the September quarter.

The RBI, in its policy review last week, kept benchmark interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent on account of easing inflation.

demning the actions of the ED as "cruel intentions." He assured Balaii of the Government's legal support and pledged that the party would also face the case

er arrest procedures were not followed, raising concerns about the transparency of the investigation. However, the ED The case against Balaji and his associates dates back to his

Candidates who allegedly

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DU begins admissions for 2023-24 DDA takes key decisions to

Common Seat Allocation System portal for registration launched

elhi University (DU) on Wednesday launched its admission policy for the academic year 2023-24. With the launch of the admission portal (Common Seat Allocation System portal) for registration, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh announced that the admission process for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD (UG, PG, PhD) courses has started. The Vice-Chancellor also

announced that from this year three new B.Tech programs are being started with students to be admitted based on their JEE Mains 2023 score, in which each of the 360 enrolled students will be reimbursed up to Rs 50,000 by the university on the purchase of a laptop. "Candidates whose parents' income is Rs 4 lakh or less will be given a 90 per cent fee waiver at the time of admission. Candidates whose parents' income is more than Rs 4 lakh and less than Rs 8 lakh will get a 50 per cent fee waiver at the time of admission," he said.

"The University has now launched its Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS(UG) -2023) document that elaborates on the procedures that will be adopted for admissions. Admission to all these pro-



grammes and colleges is based on the merit score obtained from the Common University Entrance Test (CUET (UG)-2023," he said.

The university is offering 78 undergraduate programmes in 68 colleges. Besides, there are 198 BA programme combinations. There are 71,000 seats across the DU colleges. Like last year, the admissions will be done on the basis of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores. About 1,550 unique programmes and other college combinations are offered by the University of Delhi. The classes for the upcom-

ing academic session are likely to start on August 16, DU Vice Chancellor announced. This is likely to bring the academic calendar, which has been disrupted for the last three years due to the Covid pandemic, back on track. The registration fee is Rs 250 for unreserved and Other Backward Classes (OBC) can-

(PwD) candidates. Singh said that so far, B.Com (Hons) has emerged as the most sought-after UG course with around 1.3 lakh students showing their interest in it dur-

didates and Rs 100 for Scheduled

Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Person with Disability

plete the Preference-Filling.
Along with this, he also launched the portal of undergraduate admissions of the School of Open Learning (SOL) and NCWEB.

From the academic year 2023-24, admission to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in the College of Art will also be made through the CSAS platform of the University.

The eligibility for this program includes scores obtained in

gram includes scores obtained in CUET and a Practical-based test to be conducted by the College of Art. Delhi University Dean of Admission Haneet Gandhi said that the University has taken umpteen steps to make the CSAS portal student-friendly. "A provision to seek clarification, if any, has been incorporated into the system through which the Colleges can interact with the candidates. During the online approval process, if a college wishes to seek more clarity/ information from the candidate, it may raise a query to the Candidate," she said.

The University of Delhi has identified 26 Games/Sports under its Sports Supernumerary Quota and 14 categories (including NSS and NCC) under the Extra Curricular Activities supernumerary quota

clear inventory, help allottees



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday took some important decisions including launching of the Phase IV of DDA's Online First Come First Serve (FCFS) Housing scheme and a facilitation package to the owners/allottees for the redevelopment of Signature View Apartments. The decisions were taken in a meeting chaired by Lieutenant-Governor (LG) VK Saxena, who is also Chairman, DDA.

These decisions come after series of interventions at the behest of the LG, who has been earnestly pursuing the disposal of the unsold housing inventory of the DDA as also taking a proactively people-friendly stance with respect to the trau ma and hardship caused to the allottees of flats in Signature View Apartments, in view of its

For the first time, DDA is offering MIG flats in Dwarka and Narela and HIG flats in Jasola, apart from LIG and EWS flats in Rohini, Narela, Siraspur and Loknayakpuram, under FCFS scheme. The Authority further examined requests of the allottees/owners of the Signature View Apartment and has approved two options for the owners/allottees of Signature View Apartments, of buy back and re-

The Authority also approved proposals to allot flats to the adjoining JJ Clusters as per eligibility in the flats constructed at Kalkaji and Jailorwala Bagh thus rehabilitating more slum dwellers in a much more hygienic, safe and comfortable environment. The Authority Meeting was attended by Vice Chairman, DDA and other members.

development.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra's vision of Housing for All, the Authority gave approval

of launching of Phase IV of DDA's Online First Come First Serve (FCFS) Housing scheme with facility of booking flat of one's choice in preferred locality and floor by paying token

booking amount. Besides, there is no conditionality of owning any plot or house in Delhi for booking these flats thereby facilitating ownership of multiple houses by members of an extended family for improved urban living. The scheme is to be launched on June 30,2023.

For the first time, DDA is offering MIG flats in Dwarka and Narela and HIG flats in Jasola, apart from LIG and EWS flats in Rohini, Narela, Siraspur and Loknayakpuram under FCFS Housing Scheme.

Initially, approximately 5,000 flats of different categories will be offered and more flats will be added as per the demand from time to time.



Cracks in Munak canal in Hry leave Delhi parched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

t least one third of the Anational Capital's population suffered from acute water crisis due to the cracks in carrier lined channel (CLC) of Munak canal near Sonepat in Harvana even as the mercury in Delhi-NCR touched 44 degree Celsius at certain spots. Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said there is a shortseven water treatment plants in Delhi and over 30 lakh people are affected. The Harvana Government's Irrigation depart ment said that it will take 48 to

72 hours to repair the CLC. Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday informed the carrier lined channel (CLC) of Munak canal car rying raw water to water treatment plant of Delhi Jal Board got broken between Khubru and Kakroi regulator near Sonipat Harvana. CLC is a major carrier for Raw water to Delhi from Harvana. The CLC and Delhi Sub Branch (DSB) supply the Raw water to seven water treatment plants including Bawana, Dwarka, Nangloi, Haiderpur, Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla. The Haryana government's Irrigation department said that it will take 48 to 72 hours hours to repair the CLC.

Bharadwaj said that matter is being pursued with the Haryana government and their Irrigation department for restoration of CLC on war footing basis. "Presently there is deficit of around 20 percent in raw water supply from Haryana to Delhi. Though DJB is trying to do water rationalisation but being the peak summer, it will lead to inconvenience to a large population in Delhi," said.

CPI supports AAP's bid to defeat Ordinance

After meeting the Communist Party of India (CPI) leader D Raja to garner support against the Government's measure, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday the Centre's Ordinance on control of services in Delhi will be among the key issues that will come up for discussion at an upcoming meeting of Opposition parties.

The CPI leader extended support to the AAP on the Ordinance issue, and said, "It is not just about the Delhi Government, it can happen to any other Government?

Addressing a joint Press conference with Raja, Kejriwal said, "The 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023' gives bureaucrats the power to overrule decisions made by Ministers, and gives Centre control over bodies like the Delhi Jal Board and Delhi Transport Corporation".

"If we were to sum up this



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal joins hands with Communist Party of India (CPI) General Secretary D Raia and CPI National Secretary K Narayana while seeking their support against Centre's ordinance over control of services in the national capital, in New Delhi Ranian Dimri/Pioneer

Ordinance in one line, it would be, "From now on, Arvind Kejriwal will no longer be the CM of Delhi: the new CM of Delhi will be Narendra Modi and he shall take all decisions regarding Delhi Government,"

"Delhi is only their pilot test; if this Ordinance is not defeated, then it will be replicated in every State where a non-BIP government is elected. Today it

is Delhi, tomorrow it will be Raiasthan, day after it might be Punjab, Tamil Nadu or Kerala. The democratic rights of the people of Delhi are being trampled upon; people of Delhi deserve to have the right to empower their elected leaders to govern the State without any interference from the Centre," he said. Keiriwal underscored the BIP's desperation to stifle the governance system, citing their

B.Com (Pass) with 1.26 lakh stu-

dents expressing their interest in the course. MA (Political

Science) is the most sought-after

The CSAS (UG) registration is divided into two phases. The first phase, launched on

Wednesday, is a registration

process wherein the candidates

will have to fill in their person-

al details and academic scores

CSAS (UG) process will com-

mence with the declaration of

the CUET (UG) results in the second week of July. To partic-

The second phase of the

obtained in Class XII.

PG course.

successive defeats in Delhi in Assembly elections and MCD

Kejriwal arrived at Ajoy Bhawan, the CPI headquarters in the national capital along with MPs Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh to meet with CPI General Secretary D Raja on Wednesday. "This is my first time visiting the CPI building after becoming the CM. It brought back a lot of memories of the past. I'd also like to thank all the CPI leaders for their warm hospitality," he said. Extending support to the AAP, Raja said CPI has been demanding complete statehood for Delhi as well as Puducherry.

'What the Union Government has done with regard to the Delhi government is atrocious, and it violates all principles of federal governance in our country. It is in a way undermining the fundamentals of our Constitution. We oppose the ordinance with all might we have at our command. Whenever it comes in Parliament our party will oppose the ordinance," Raja said.

Bharadwaj files police plaint against Rajasekhar

Min accuses Spl Secy (Vigilance) of making false claims

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Services Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday filed a police complaint, alleging a conspiracy behind Special Secretary (Vigilance) YVVJ Rajasekhar's claim that sensitive files and documents were removed from his

The Minister demanded registration of an FIR against Rajasekhar and Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar accusing them of hatching a conspiracy. There was no response from Kumar and Rajasekhar to Bharadwaj's allegations. Earlier this month, the Delhi Police registered an FIR against unidentified persons plaint that "sensitive files and documents" were removed from

According to Rajasekhar, the alleged incident occurred on the intervening night of May 15-16, after he was removed from his duties as Special Secretary (Vigilance) by Saurabh Bharadwaj. He said the files and



handed over to another officer. The FIR was registered against unidentified persons at IP Estate police station.

In his complaint to police on Wednesday, Bhardawaj accused Rajasekhar of "blowing the incident out of proportion" and leaking "false, frivolous and concocted information to media" and filing a "false complaint" with police. Bhardawaj in his complaint

said that he had issued a note on Rajasekhar be taken in custody by vigilance secretary.

Rajasekhar later alleged "some person had illegally entered into his office in the intervening night of 15 May 2023 and 16th May 2023 and taken copies of sensitive files, and potentially even bugged his room", the complaint reads.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Govt school buildings to be made more accessible

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Making washrooms accessible, constructing tactile paths, ramps and installing signage boards with Braille are some of the features that will be incorporated in Government school buildings to make them more friendly for children with special needs. The Public Works

Department (PWD) is planning to start work on this project. Some of the schools in which the work will be started include RSKV Patparganj, SKV Ghazipur, Government Girls Senior Secondary School No 3 Badarpur in east and southeast districts. The department has and the duration given for completion of work ranges from one to three months, according to

official documents. At the school in Badarpur for which the tender has been floated for Rs 81.01 lakh, the department plans to have tactile tile paths in outdoor and indoor ramps, corridors on all floors, ramps with proper slope in all blocks with double handrail, accessible parking and reception, accessible toilet for Children With Special Needs (CWSN), staircase with colour contrast strips and double height handrails, accessible drinking water facility and signage boards

with Braille, showed documents. Similar works will be carried out in other schools in east. southeast and south districts, according to documents.

The department has also floated tenders for whitewashing works and other repair works for some government schools Earlier this week, while inaugurating the school building of a government school in Úttam Nagar, Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal had stressed that the government schools being built in Delhi have excellent facilities. Parents across Delhi have taken their children out of private schools and admitted them to government schools, he said.

Navy boat not stuck | AAP Municipal Councillors seek in Yamuna river, but berthed: LG's office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} the backdrop of reports that a Navy boat Barasingha was stuck in the muck in river Yamuna near Signature Bridge, the Raj Niwas on Wednesday clarified the boat was berthed in the jetty created for it at Signature Bridge location as per original plan and it is not "The boat is berthed there

since the trailer that brought it could not have access to any other suitable location on the Yamuna. The boat was brought in to ascertain the navigability of Yamuna. It is once again reiterated that neither the boat was brought for dredging nor it is stuck in the mud," the Raj Niwas said. Visuals show the boat stationed at a spot, with two Navy officers standing guard near the fetid-smelling water. As per the visuals, the vessel, equipped for desilting, is unable to move because the water is too shallow; any boat needs at least two metres depth to move but because of decades of pollution, the depth is far less in parts of the river.

The boat was requisitioned from the Indian Navy at Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena's behest after a request by him to acquire such boat, routed through Irrigation and Flood Control, and Tourism Departments, was turned down by the then Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia

The Boat has been brought to ascertain the navigability of the river and explore the possibility of utilising the clean channel as an inland waterway for transport, recreation and tourism. The Boat in reference is a 11 meter work Boat of Indian Navy that has been brought from Kochi by Road mounted on a trailer. The Boat commenced its journey on May 25 and reached Delhi on June 3

sacking of corrupt MCD staff

Apprise Mayor of building mafia, MCD staff nexus in Karol Bagh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he AAP Municipal Councillors protested at the }}_{\text{cillors protested at the Mayor's office on Wednesday in}}$ order to bring to her notice the nexus between the building mafia and MCD employees within the Karol Bagh zone of the MCD. The Councillors demanded that the MCD employees involved should be suspended.

AAP Councillors participating in the protest alleged that from every building across Karol Bagh, there are complaints of extortion, which has been going on in connivance with the building mafia and MCD employees. As per a statement by the AAP, the building mafia

harasses the people of the area by giving notices every day. "This whole matter started five months ago, since the AAP came to power in the MCD. Before that, the BJP was in power in the MCD, so there was no supervision. The Councillors alleged that BJP corporators used to send money to MCD officials from time to time, due to which the latter did not take action against this issue," the state-

ment read. Now that the AAP Government has come to power in the MCD, in a bid to curb all corruption, the AAP Councillors took up this issue with the DC in every meeting. "We asked them to take strict action against this extortion but no action has been taken till date. The public is worried. In order to free the public from corruption, we as Councillors have been protesting at the Mayor's office. We demand action should be taken against all the MCD employees involved in this matter and thev should be suspended at the earliest," the Press note said.

Panel on Welfare of OBCs has no jurisdiction, Special Secy (V) tells Assembly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Secretary (Services) YVVJ Rajasekhar has sent a reminder to Delhi Assembly, reiterating that the Committee on Welfare of OBCs has no jurisdiction to deal with such matters keeping in view of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023. In a reminder to Sadanand Sah, Deputy Secretary, Delhi Assembly, Rajasekhar said that the letter of AV Premnath, DANICS officer indicates that this was referred to CBI.

"There is a discrepancy in

the record. In the past also Premnath has misled the courts and in this context a proposal was submitted to competent authority for prosecution sanction against AV Premnath and the same is under process. Premnath is trying to use the observation of Assembly for certain ulterior motives".

"From the order of Supreme Court as referred by Premnath in his representation submitted before the Assembly upon which the Assembly had given notice to the undersigned, has not referred this matter to CBI. This is a misrepresentation of facts," he said.

Worker killed as slab of under-construction flyover near NH-48 falls The DCP said victim Sha-

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

35-year-old excavator oper-Aator died on Wednesday when a portion of an under-construction flyover near National Highway-48 in southwest Delhi collapsed and fell on the heavy vehicle. The incident took place in Smalkha, Kapeshera, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C said, adding two persons, including site supervisor Injmam Hussain (30) and site manager Rohit (35), have been arrested. The elevated portion of the Dwarka Expressway link road is under construction at the site, he said.

keel of Bharatpur, Rajasthan, was driving the excavator which was crushed under the debris. A case under relevant provisions of the law has been registered.

Later, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said a three-member team of bridge experts has been constituted to look into the incident. The fire department said information about the incident was received around 10 AM, following which three fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Shakeel's relatives said he was the sole breadwinner of his



family. "We got to know about NH-48 Samalkha collapsed, in New Delhi.

the incident in the morning and rushed to the spot. When there was no support under the flyover, then nobody should have been allowed to stand or work under it. We want justice for Shakeel. He has two kids and four sisters," Sattar, Shakeel's uncle, said.

According to an official statement from MoRTH, under erection span P8-P9 of the flyover, which is part of Shiv Murti interchange on the Dwarka Expressway, toppled around

9.30 AM A team of officials from the National Highways Authority of

experts immediately rushed to the site. As per initial reports, the span was being erected and it was reportedly resting on temporary stools and hydraulic jacks, it said.

The span was pre-stressed on June 2. The work on this flyover commenced with traffic diversion of NH-48 on March 18 for a period of 90 days. In this duration, 13 spans were erected," the statement said.

As per site reports, prima facie it appears to be a case of mechanical failure as structural elements of superstructure and substructure are in sound India (NHAI) and bridge condition, it stated.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

Office of The Addl. Dy. Commissioner, Remunrative Project Cell (25th Floor), Civic Centre, New Delhi - 110002

E-TENDER FOR ALLOTMENT OF AUTHORIZED PARKING SITE OF MCD ON MONTHLY LICENSE FEE BASIS E-Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, MCD from eligible bidders

for allotment of 64 authorized parking site (including 06 clusters) under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee basis in two bid system (Technical and Financial) for a period of three years and extendable further up to two more years subject to satisfactory performance of the firm and as decided by the Competent Authority vide Tender NIT No. 722, Dt. 14. 06.2023, The Schedule of bids are as follows:- 1. Bid Download Start Date:- 15.06.2023 at 09.00 AM onwards, 2. Pre-bid Meeting:-21.06.2023 at 3:00 PM Conference Hall at 20th Floor, Civic Centre 3. Bid Submission Start Date:- 15.06.2023 from 09.00 AM onwards 4. Last date of Submission of E-Tender: 06.07.2023 upto 03.00 PM, 5. Opening date of Technical Bids: 07.07.2023 from 03.00 PM onwards. at R.P. Cell/MCD Dept. 25th Floor, Civic Centre. For details visit MCDs website: www.mcdonline.nic.in/sdmcportal and $\textbf{www.etenders.gov.in.} \ \textbf{Contact Number:} \ 011\text{-}23227514.$ Assistant Commissioner, RO No. 17/DPI/MCD/2023-24

Law Commission to seek UCC feedback

Panel will also seek inputs from religious bodies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Law Commission of India said on Wednesday that it will be re-evaluating the necessity of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and seeking inputs from various stakeholders, including the general public and religious organisations. The previous 21st Law Commission, which concluded its term in August 2018, had previously examined the matter and sought the opinions of all stakeholders on two separate occasions regarding the politically-sensitive issue of a UCC.

In 2018, a consultation paper titled 'Reforms of Family Law' was released. However, considering the passage of over three years since the issuance of the paper, the relevance and significance of the subject, and the various court orders pertaining



to it, the 22nd Law Commission of India deemed it necessary to re-examine the topic afresh, according to a statement by the commission.

The 22nd Law Commission, which recently received a three-year extension, has now commenced its examination of issues related to the UCC based on a reference from the Ministry of Law and Justice. The commission's statement mentioned that it has decided to once again seek the views and ideas of the public at large, as well as recognised religious organisations, regard ing the Uniform Civil Code. Interested individuals and organisations can present their perspectives within a 30-day period following the notice from

the Law Commission Meanwhile, the BJP-led Uttarakhand Government established an expert committee last year, headed by retired Justice Ranjana Desai, to draft the Uniform Civil Code. On Wednesday, Justice Desai stated that the code being drafted by the committee of experts for

social fabric, promote gender equality, and help address economic, social, and religious inequalities.

Desai spoke to reporters at an event in Delhi, where suggestions on the proposed UCC were being sought from people of Uttarakhand residing in the national capital. She emphasized that the committee aims to create a draft that is widely accepted by people of all religions. The committee's recommendations will encompass a broad range of issues, including marriage, divorce, succession, guardianship, custody, and inheritance, with a primary focus on safeguarding the inter-ests of women, children, and dif-ferently-abled individuals. Desai added, "We are con-

centrating more on women, children, and individuals with disabilities. We are striving for gender equality. We believe that our draft, if accepted, will strengthen the secular foundation of our nation. We want this, and we are confident that we will achieve it. We are proposing measures to address issues such

guardianship, custody, and inheritance, which directly impact the lives of ordinary people. I am confident that it will be embraced by the people and the

Desai stated that the implementation of a uniform civil code would facilitate a more effective fight against economic, social, and religious inequalities. The committee expects to present the final draft of the UCC for Uttarakhand in the near future. During the public consultation process, Desai reported an "overwhelming support" for the Uniform Civil

"We will ensure that every-one is satisfied...all religious groups. It will be acceptable to all, I promise you. The majority of the people are in favor," she affirmed. Speaking at the event, Satrughna Singh, a retired IAS officer and member of the UCC committee, reassured that the formation of the uniform code would not infringe upon the traditions of communities. He added, "Traditional rituals will actually be protected."

BSF, BGB to undertake border civil works jointly

5 dev projects along 4,096 km of shared boundary will help Indians, Bangladeshis



 $T^{\text{he border guarding forces of}}_{\text{India and Bangladesh have taken a "momentous"}}$ to initiate joint civil works on five development projects along 4,096 km of shared boundary which will help the local population on both sides. At the end of their four-day biannual border talks conference that began on June 11 in Delhi, the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) also said on Wednesday that they are working independently and jointly to "reduce" the instances of killing of Bangladeshi nationals in the

boundary area.

The issue of these killings, which the BSF has linked to miscreants and smugglers either attacking its personnel or indulging in other cross-border crimes, has been a major irritant between the two neighbours. The 53rd edition of the conference was led by the chiefs or Directors General (DsG) of the BSF and the BGB and ended with the signing of a 'joint record of discussions' at a BSF camp located in Chhawla area of the national Capital.

"During this conference, in a momentous decision, that will have a profound positive impact on the lives of the population along the India-Bangladesh border, a total of five developmental projects were agreed upon, enhancing the joint efforts towards progress and prosperity in the region." "This decision is a significant step towards improving the overall quality of life and will serve to foster through the Initiative on stronger bilateral trade and rela-

> the BSF said in a statement. These five development projects are related to the construction of a bailey bridge, road repair and the strengthening of the retaining walls along the border that runs on India's eastern flank in five States of Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura. The two chiefs told a joint Press conference they were taking a number of steps to ensure that incidents of killings on the border at the

hands of the security forces are reduced.

Co-ordination Conference, in New Delhi

Acting BSF DG Sujoy Lal Thaosen said his troops had to fire on miscreants "only as a last resort". BGB DG Maj-Gen AKM Nazmul Hasan said the issue was a "matter of great concern" for them and if the two sides worked together the killings will be reduced. "The BSF does The BSF statement added to not discriminate among crimi-

Border Security Force DG Sujoy Lal Thaosen with Boarder Guards Bangladesh DG

AKM Nazmul Hasan during the BSF-BGB Director-General Level Border

nel who is on duty, is threat-ened," Thaosen said. "BSF believes in the use of non-lethal weapons and this has been our policy, this has been made mandatory and it is followed rigorously. However, when we find that force was used by BSF personnel which was more than necessary then legal action is taken against them." he said. Thaosen said his force has decided to bring these numbers to the "minimum" and all efforts are being made to the ground, he said.

nals...When such an incident

happens it is done as a last resort

when the life of a BSF person-

Maj-Gen Hasan said, "We have discussed various measures to reduce these killing incidents and sometimes it was seen that there was misunderstanding or miscommunication between lower-level or ground-level troops and we (BGB and BSF) are working together on this

The visiting Bangladeshi commander said illegal migration from both sides has been an

issue as the two countries share common culture and heritage and locals have friends and rel atives residing on either side of the border. "We are working together to seal the border, undertake joint patrolling so that incidents of illegal trespass do not take place," the BGB DG

reduce the number of violent incidents along the border, both sides agreed to work jointly and engage professionally, enhance joint patrolling and vigilance especially during late hours of the night to early morning. They also agreed to intensify public awareness programmes, sharing of real-time information and making all out efforts to bring criminals to justice. The two sides also agreed to pursue and share real-time information and interrogation reports of traffickers and assured to remain extra vigilant to curb trans-border crimes like smuggling of drugs, contraband items, notes in order to make the India-Bangladesh border crime-

These talks were held annually between 1975 and 1992 but they were made bi-annual in 1993 with the either side alternatively travelling to the national capitals of New Delhi and Dhaka. A BSF delegation is expected to travel to Dhaka for the next round of these talks later this year.

free, the statement said.

India, US talk strategic ties ahead of PM's trip



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan engaged in comprehensive discussions encompassing the entire spectrum of their countries' strategic ties during their meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday

Sullivan also met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to deliberate on the preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming state visit to the US next week. lised the agenda for the discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Joe Biden.

During the visit, Modi is expected to focus on Defence and strategic affairs, with a specific emphasis on India's access to cutting-edge technology from the US. India is keen on establishing a partnership for the joint manufacturing of the GE-414 fighter jet engine for the indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft.

is prepared to sell over 30 armed Sea Guardian drones to India in a proposed deal exceeding \$2 billion. The leaders may also explore possibilities for joint production of armored personnel carriers and ammunition. These issues were reportedly discussed between the two NSAs

during their meeting. Sullivan arrived in India on a two-day visit and held delegation-level talks with Doval on matters of mutual interest Earlier in the day, Sullivan

met Jaishankar to discuss the preparations for Modi's visit to Doval and Sullivan unveiled an gic developments from the perspective of the India-US partnership. Jaishankar shared on Twitter, "Great to meet US NSA @jakesullivan46 in South Block today morning. Our conversation focused on preparing for PM @narendramodi's upcoming US visit. Also discussed global strategic developments from the perspective of our partnership."

On Tuesday, Sullivan called on Modi to discuss matters of bilateral cooperation. The two

Reports indicate that the US leaders also reviewed progress under the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). In response, Prime Minister Modi expressed his satisfaction, stating, "Glad to receive US National Security Advisor @JakeSullivan46. Reviewed progress under India-US Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technologies (iCET) and other issues of bilateral cooperation. Look forward to meeting @POTUS @JoeBiden during my upcoming State Visit

> During their discussions, oration between India and the US in seven key high-technology areas, including semiconductors, next-generation telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and defense. The roadmap, announced at the second Track-1.5 dialogue on the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), aims to address obstacles hindering cooperation and maximize the potential of the partnership.

Indo-US ties more expansive, deeper than ever: White House

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

The White House has expressed that the relationship between India and America is deeper and more expansive than ever, as the US prepares to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on an official state visit. Speaking at the annual 'India Ideas Summit' of the US India Business Council in Washington, Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer emphasised the positive strategic conse-quence of the bilateral ties. Finer stated that the US and

India have significantly aligned and converged on numerous global issues, with mutual benefits for both populations. He highlighted that the forthcoming meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Joe Biden will showcase a modern relationship between two significant countries.

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden are eagerly anticipating Prime Minister Modi's visit, which includes an official state visit and dinner at the White House. This will be the third such occasion for the Riden administration demon strating the attention to detail and significance attached to the

The Governments of India and the US are working to deepen strategic convergence and strengthen policy alignment, particularly in strategic technology and Defence industrial cooperation. Finer emphasised the commitment to upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific, driving innovation, and jointly tackling glob-



al challenges.

Describing India and the US as natural partners, Finer emphasised their readiness to address challenges and seize opportunities together. He highlighted the countries' joint efforts in areas such as Defence cooperation, strategic technology partnership, and the clean energy transition. Regarding Defence cooper-

ation, regular consultations between the two countries assess regional developments and establish frameworks for closer cooperation through joint exercises, information sharing, logistics networks, and interoperable communication systems. The US continues to support India as a major Defence partner through Defence industrial cooperation, co-developing and co-producing critical military capabilities.

The Strategic Technology

Partnership between India and the US has gained momentum logies (ICET). This initiative promotes Government, business, and university cooperation in areas such as Defence, space, semiconductors, advanced telecommunications, biotechnology, and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and quantum. The partnership aims to foster an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem, including advanced communications alternatives like 5G.

NCDRC nixes medical negligence plaint by ex-CJI Verma's kin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has dismissed a complaint filed by the family of former Chief Justice of India (CJI) JS Verma alleging he died because of medical negligence during his treatment. The NCDRC was hearing the com-plaint filed by the wife and two daughters of the former CJI seeking "exemplary damage" and compensation of Rs 10 crore by the treating doctors and medical institutions.

A Bench of presiding member SM Kantikar said standard medical protocols were followed by the doctors and there was

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

n the midst of continued Russian

Imilitary action in Ukraine, the

Ukrainian Government has appealed

to India for support in its peace formula. Andriy Yermak, Chief of Staff

to the Ukrainian President, con-

veyed this request during a telephon-

ic conversation with India's National

Security Advisor (NSA) on

three weeks after Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Indian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held

The discussions come almost

Wednesday.

"neither failure of duty of care nor any deficiency". The Bench, also comprising judicial member Justice (Retd) Ram Surat Ram Maurya and technical member Inder Jit Singh, said an anticoagulant drug was prescribed to the patient to save him from a cerebral stroke.

The Commission said Justice Verma, 80, suffered from multiple co-morbidities, including chronic liver dysfunction, and all these factors contributed to his death. "The death of Justice JS Verma was not attributable to the act of opposite parties. We have deep sympathies with the death of Justice Verma, but it cannot be ground for liability," the Bench held. The NCDRC referred to a



2021 judgment of the Supreme Court, according to which a medical practitioner is not to be held liable simply because things went wrong from mischance or misadventure or through an

error of judgment in choosing one reasonable course of treatment in preference to another. It had said in the practice of medicine, there could be varying approaches to treatment.

Underlining the 'four Ds' of medical negligence- duty, dere-liction/deviation, direct (proximate) cause and damages- the commission said, in the present case, the complainants had failed to prove the dereliction of duty of care from the opposite parties and the same was not a "proximate cause of death". It also said the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) and the Medical Council of India (MCI) had considered all the aspects twice and found there was no negligence on the part of the treating doctors at any

Justice Verma, the 27th CJI who served from March 25, 1997 until his retirement on January 18, 1998, died in April

Low-key launches for 5 Vande Bharat trains after Odisha tragedy publicity for the Vande Bharat



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELH**

In a departure from previous grand launches, the Centre has opted for a more low-key approach for the simultaneous launch of all Vande Bharat Express trains. This decision comes in light of the recent triple train tragedy in Odisha, which resulted in a significant loss of lives and injuries

The launch, originally scheduled at different intervals, will now take place on June 26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will remotely inaugurate five routes - Mumbai/Goa, Bangalore/Hubli, Patna/Ranchi, Bhopal/Indore, and Bhopal/ Jabalpur — via video conferenc-

ing. Notably, the Railway Ministry had initially cancelled the Mumbai-Goa Vande Bharat train launch following the Odisha tragedy

Previous launches of the semi-high-speed trains have been accompanied by much fanfare, with all inaugurations conducted by Modi.

The Vande Bharat Express trains, known for their semi-high speed, will now total 23 in the country, with plans for their operation across several States, excluding the northeastern States except Assam.

The low-key nature of the new route launches is in response to criticism from the Opposition, accusing the Gov-

However, the Railway Ministry has dismissed these allegations. Prior to the scheduled inaugural of the Goa-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw had announced plans to connect all

routes than on the actual man-

ufacturing costs of the trains.

States with the new-age express train by the end of June 2023. 'Vande Bharat trains will start covering all the States by June. We have a target to connect 200 cities with Vande Bharat by the middle of next year. Production work is going at a fast pace for the implementation of the project," Vaishnaw stated

at a Press conference, which took

place before the Odisha train

tragedy, to announce the flag-

ging off of Goa's Vande Bharat

xpress by Modi. The first Vande Bharat Express train was inaugurated on February 15, 2019, on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route. These trains can reach a maximum speed of 160

During his address to the nation on August 15, 2021, from the Red Fort, Modi announced plans for 75 Vande Bharat trains to connect every corner of the country over the course of 75 weeks during the Amrit ernment of spending more on Mahotsav of Independence.

talks during the G-7 summit in Hiroshima. During their meeting, Modi assured Zelenskyy that India would spare no effort in seeking a resolution to the conflict in Ukraine. In the recent conversation, Yermak provided NSA Doval with updates on the ongoing situation in Ukraine, taking into account the continued military actions by Russia.

According to an official statement from President Zelenskyy's office, the phone conversation between Yermak and Doval focused on the implementation of Ukraine's peace formula. They also discussed the crucial aspect of consolidating international support



for the Ukrainian peace plan and explored the potential for India's involvement in executing specific aspects of the plan. In addition, preparations for a "Global Peace Summit" were also on the agenda, with Yermak emphasizing the importance of broad participation from countries worldwide, including those from the Global South.

As Ukraine seeks assistance from India in its pursuit of peace amidst the ongoing conflict, the appeal highlights the importance of international collaboration and support in resolving the crisis and fostering stability in the

BJP may deploy its **Brahmastra for 2024**

CR Patil could be given responsibility of maximising party's performance in key States in LS elections

PNS NEW DELHI

¬he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly consid-L ering assigning crucial organisational responsibility to the incumbent Gujarat State president, CR Patil, with the aim of maximising the party's performance in key States, particularly Uttar Pradesh (UP), in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elec-

As the BJP anticipates a closely-contested battle in several States, including West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, and Rajasthan, the party seeks to enhance its Lok Sabha seat count, with a particular focus on the electorally-significant State of UP.

Sources indicate that Patil, a three-time Navsari MP who played a pivotal role in micromanaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home constituency, Varanasi, may be appointed as the election incharge for the State. Patil's impressive track record in Gujarat, where he is credited with securing a historic victory of 156 out of 182 Assembly seats and increasing the BJP's vote share from 49 per cent to 53 per cent last year, has earned him recognition.

Modi himself praised Patil and urged BJP leaders and MPs to adopt the "Patil model" for devising electoral strategies in other States. Speculation had also emerged following the Gujarat victory that Patil could be rewarded with a Cabinet position in the Modi Government.

In preparation for the 2024 general elections, the BJP has appointed national general secretary Sunil Bansal as the head of its month-long outreach campaign, 'Maha Jansampark Abhi-



van,' in UP. The ongoing program aims to create awareness among voters about the benefits of the Prime Minister's flagship schemes for the underprivi-leged. Additionally, Union Minister Anurag Thakur is expected to assume additional organisational and electoral responsibilities in the State. Former State Ministers Shrikant Sharma and Sidharth Nath Singh may also be entrusted with important roles in UP, where the BJP has set an ambitious target of winning 75 Lok Sabha seats. In the 2019 elections, the BJP secured 62 seats

Furthermore, the BJP is contemplating organisational changes in other States, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Telangana, and Odisha, which are scheduled to hold Assembly elections this year and next. The party is also exploring the possibility of revamping its units in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Karnataka.

The recent electoral setback in Karnataka has prompted the BJP to consider significant changes in its State unit. Sources highlight the series of meetings held by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and General Secretary (Organization) B L Santosh with state BJP and RSS leaders in this regard.

In Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP faces a formidable electoral challenge from former Congress Chief Minister Kamal Nath, the party is planning a major organizational reshuffle under the leadership of incumbent Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Union Minister Pralhad Singh Patel is being considered for elevation as the BJP head in Madhya Pradesh, as he is perceived as an efficient leader who can boost the party's performance in the upcoming state elections. The current state BJP chief, V D Sharma, reportedly lacks a strong rapport with the Chief Minister.

Furthermore, Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar may be reassigned from the state to a national role as part of the party's strategic realign-

Following extensive discussions, the central party leadership has assigned the responsibility of managing Lok Sabha constituencies across states to key leaders, including central ministers, chief ministers, and former chief ministers.

FILING OF NOMINATIONS FOR RURAL POLLS

Bombs, bullets rule roost in Bengal

Violence continued to rock parts of Bengal for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday even as the members of rival political parties fought each other with bombs, guns, sticks and whatever weaponry they could lay their hands on in their urgency to file nomination forms for the forthcoming panchayat elections.

This, even as the State Election Commission led by a newly-appointed Commissioner Rajiva Sinha and the State Police sat a silent spectator, the Opposition parties said, alleging goons of the ruling Trinamool Congress who were preventing the Opposition candidates to file their nominations were the real culprits. Reports of battlefield-like clashes came throughout the day from Bhangar, a semi-urban area east of Kolkata, Canning, another flashpoint some 50 km south of the State Capital, Birbhum, Bankura and various other places.

Thursday is the last date for filing nominations. In Bhangar activists of Left-backed Indian Secular Front and TMC fought each other by hurling scores of bombs throughout the day as the villagers remained indoors. Canning a port-town, too, burnt with the TMC and BJP fighting each other with bombs and lathis, leaving a number of people injured. Both the areas are in South 24 Parganas.

Similar situations were seen at Indas area of Bankura where BJP activists clashed with

the TMC supporters outside the nomination filing centre.

Dozens of policemen and many political workers were injured in the clashes, sources said. "If the situation is like this during the filing of nomination then what it will be like on the voting day \dots but we are also prepared ... this time if the police do not take any action then we will make the people resist with whatever means they have," said CPI(M) general secretary Md Salim.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari who met the SEC on Wednesday noon threatened to gherao the Election Commission until his party candidates were allowed to file their nominations.

"We are bringing our nominees who

have been prevented by the TMC goons from filing their nominations in their respective blocks ... we have brought many of them from Basirhat ... I appeal to other political parties too to come here with their nominees and gherao the SEC office until they are allowed to file their nominations

this Commissioner is a stooge of Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee ... he is a slave of the TMC and will put us in all kind of troubles ... but we will not allow him to get away with defying the High Court order asking for setting up a grievance cell at the State Commission office ... This fight will go a great distance ... we will not allow Mamata Banerjee to win most seats uncontested as she did in 2013 and 2018," Adhikari said.

Maha inks MoUs to set up ₹41K-Cr renewable energy projects

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a significant development, the Maharashtra Government signed MoUs to set up projects to generate 5,220-MW of renewable energy at a cost of Rs 41,000-crore with a job creation potential for 6,760 people.

The State-run power undertakings — Mahagenco, Maha-transco and Mahavitaran signed agreements with various agencies to set up projects for 5,220-MW power generation, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Principal Secretary Energy Abha Shukla.

Speaking on the occasion, Fadnavis said that Maharashtra would lay more emphasis on set-ting up solar, wind and other renewable energy projects in the

Fadnavis said that the Centre and State Government were promoting renewable energy projects in a big way. By 2030, the State would have nearly 50 per cent renewable energy of the total installed power capacity.

For this purpose, the

Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. (Mahagenco) has tied up with the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University (MPAU), the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (Mahaurja), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

The MPAU will develop a 100-MW solar power project in 400 acres at Rahuri, and other

TMC rakes up Adani against PM 'rate-card' salvo

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has strongly reacted to Narendra Modi's "rate card" charges that the Prime Minister brought on Tuesday apparently against the Bengal ruling outfit for its alleged involvement in the multi-crore and multi-departmental recruitment scam.

Alleging that the Prime Minister had "stooped so low that he has no regard for basic political decorum" senior Trinamool MP Saugato Roy said that Modi should first inform the nation about the number of jobs he had given to the people.

"When he came to power he had said that he would give two crore jobs ... now it is his turn to reply as to how many jobs he has given to people whom he had shown the dreams of Acchhe Din (good days)," Roy

Launching a scathing attack on the Prime Minister the TMC leader said, "We are bringing charges against his suspicious dealings with Adani ... has he given any answer to that ... he has promoted Adani and in return how many jobs have they created ... the Prime Minister should first give a clarifica-tion about this." Making a circuitous remark on Tuesday, Modi had referred to a "State" in India where jobs were sold according to "rate cards" a la foods sold in the restaurants.

Saying that some dynastic

parties were selling jobs for cash he said "On the one hand you have parties which have a rate-card for jobs, while on the other hand we are working to safeguard your bright future... Much like the restaurants where you have rate cards for foods in these States they have rate cards for jobs of sweepers, drivers, clerks, teachers and so on.

"Rate-cards crush your abilities, talents, and dreams... These parties snatch away from the common people the opportunities to move forward," the Prime Minister said. He was apparently referring to the multi-crore and multi-departmental jobfor-cash scam in Bengal that has apparently put the Mamata Banerjee Government in great

name the Government and the leaders who had taken money. "I dare him to drop the names .. if he has courage he should give the names ... but here we bring a clear charge against his Government for effecting a massive job cut in the Railways compromising its security ... the recent accident in Odisha is a case in point," the TMC leader

In a vehement reaction Roy

dared the Prime Minister to

card in Bengal. "All this is a creation of his own team of Enforcement Directorate and CBI that follow his orders," Roy said, adding Modi was the worst Prime Minister.

said, adding there was no rate

places in Ahmednagar at a cost of Rs 472.19 crore.

Min urges citizens to give blood, highlights myths



donating blood on the occasion of 'World Blood Donor Day', at RML Hospital in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELH**

India grapples with an ongoing shortage of blood, with an annual deficit of 1 million units out of a total requirement of 14.6 million units. Minister of State for Health SP Baghel addressed this concerning issue on Wednesday, attributing the shortage to a lack of understanding and awareness surrounding blood donation, as well as the prevalence of myths and misconcep tions that discourage potential Minister Baghel under-

scored the noble nature of blood donation, deeply ingrained in India's culture and tradition of selfless service (Seva) and cooperation (Sahyog). He issued a passionate call to action, urging all citizens to come forward and donate blood as part of the nationwide "Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav" (Blood Donation Ambrosia Festival). To mark the occasion, Baghel inaugurated a blood donation camp at RML Hospital in New Delhi. The demand for blood

transfusion in India arises every 2 seconds, highlighting the urgency of addressing the shortage. Technological advancements have not yet provided an alternative to human blood, making donations crucial. One unit of donated blood has the potential to save up to three lives. Responding to this pressing need, numerous hospitals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the country have organized blood donation camps.

Microplastics in respiratory tract causes concern tics in the respiratory system for increasing. The discovery of cavity and oropharynx cause

PNS NEW DELHI

recent study has raised con-A recent study has rance.

Acerns about the increasing deposition of microplastics in the human respiratory tract and the potential health risks associated with it. The study highlights that humans may inhale approximately 16.2 particles of microplastic per hour, equivalent course of a week. The study, published in the journal Physics of Fluids, emphasises the importance of understanding the travel patterns of inhaled microplasthe prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases.

Conducted by researchers from the University of Technology Sydney, Western Sydney University, Urmia University, Islamic Azad University, the University of Comilla, and Queensland University of Technology, the study utilises a computational fluid dynamics model to analyse the transport and deposition of microplastics in the upper airway.

According to Mohammad S. Islam, the density of microplastics in the air is significantly

microplastics deep within human airways raises concerns about potential respiratory health hazards. The researchers investigated the movement of microplastics with different shapes (spherical, tetrahedral, and cylindrical) and sizes (1.6, 2.56, and 5.56 microns) under slow and fast breathing conditions.

The study revealed that in hotspots in the nasal cavity and oropharynx (back of the throat). The complex anatomical shape of the airway and the intricate flow behavior in the nasal

microplastics to deviate from the flow path and deposit in these areas. Factors such as flow speed, particle inertia, and asymmetric anatomy influence the overall deposition and increase the concentration of microplastic deposition in the nasal cavities and oropharynx.

Breathing conditions and microplastic size impact the Higher flow rates resulted in less deposition, while larger microplastics (5.56 microns) were deposited more frequently than smaller ones.



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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(1) 03/SPE/PE Cleaning and Desilting of main Rs. 6027289.60 (PH-II)/E- drain and culvert of various sectors/Villages of PH-II Area Zone-II, Noida

he above tenders can be uploaded from dated 15.06.2023 to 21.06.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened downloaded on dated 22.06.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. GM/Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) Noida Sector - 94

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

6 'cow-vigilantes' held for lynching man

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

he Igatpuri police in Nashik district of north Maharashtra have arrested six cow-vigilantes ('gau-rakshaks) for allegedly lynching a 25-year-old man from Thane to death and injuring another on suspicions that they were smuggling cattle.

as one Lukman Sulaiman Ansari, from Padgha in Thane district, the police said that the horrific incident took place on June 10. Having found Ansari's body

Identifying the lynch victim

in a 200-metre deep gorge at Ghatandevi in Nashik district, the police swung into action and arrested six cow-vigilantes

Talking to media persons,

Nashik (Rural) Superintendent of Police Shahaji Umap said: "On Thursday last (June 8), Ansari, along with his friends Atiq Paddi and Aqueel Gavandi purchased a bullock, two cows and a calf for around Rs 18,000 from a farmer in Shahapur and were transporting them in a LMV tempo to Padgha when the incident took place. En route, Ansari and his

friend were way-laid near Shahapur by numerous self-styled "cow-vigilantes'. "The men who had come there in three cars and some motorcycles attempted to extort money from them. After Ansari and his friend refused to part with money, they hijacked the tempo, "rescued" the four bovines and

drove the vehicle to Ghatandevi. Before leaving the place with bovines, the alleged cowvigilantes assaulted Ansari and

his friend with sticks and iron

rods. While Ansari was found dead in a gorge, his friend sustained injuries in the assault. The arrested accused, allegedly owing affiliation to the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, have

claimed that Ansari died after

falling into the gorge.

The police identified the six arrested cow-vigilantes Chetan Sonawane, Pradeep Adhole, Bhaskar Bhagat, Shekhar Gaikwad, Vijay Bhagde and Rupesh Joshi. The police are on the lookout for others involved in the attack.

Loan Code No

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ontact Person: 1.Nishant Gautam:-9899216466, 2. Naveen Kapoor:-9810854841, 3. Rohan Sawant:-9833143013

E-Auction Sale Notice-Subsequent Sale

Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & ousing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as DHFL) under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and** Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the indersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is

Property Address _final

Borrower(s)/Co- Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Date and Amount	Property Address _illiai	Neserve Frice	Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Amount (14-06-2023)
Loan Code No. 2790000313, Greater Noida (Branch), Sangeeta Srivastava (Borrower), Sunil Kumar Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 20-07-2018, Rs. 19,55,680/-, (Rs. Nineteen lakh Fifty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent:- Property No. B-2-24, G F-2, Ground Floor, (Front Lhs) Dlf Ankur Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad- 201010, Uttar Pradesh. Boundaries As North: Road South: 47 East: 25 West: 23	Rs. 14,00,000/-, (Rs. Fourteen lakh Only)	Rs. 14,00,00/-, (Rs. One lakh Forty Thousand Only)	Rs. 16,57,947/-, (Rs. Sixteen lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Seven Only)
Loan Code No. 0770001926, Ghaziabad (Branch), Bhim Singh (Borrower), Alpana Singh (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 16-06-2020, Rs. 40,58,084/-, (Rs. Forty lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Eighty Four Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent:- Dda Lig flat No. 3 Ground Floor Block D Pocket C Molar Bandh New Delhi, New Delhi-110072, Delhi. Boundaries As North: S. Lane South: Entry East: Flat No- 04 West: Flat No-002	Rs. 35,00,000/-, (Rs. Thirty Five lakh Only)	Rs. 3,50,000/-, (Rs. Three lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs. 61,34,745/-, (Rs. Sixty One lakh Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Only)
Loan Code No. 2000041366, Noida - sector 2 (Branch), Tarun Kumar (Borrower), Niki Rani (Co Borrower 1) Shree Hari Construction (Co Borrower 2)Mukesh Kumar (Guarantor 1)	Dt: 20-07-2018, Rs. 29,17,859/-, (Rs. Twenty Nine lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Flat No B -1604 16th Floor Tower B Amarpali Empire Crossing Repunlic, Ghaziabad- 201010, Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 27,00,000/-, (Rs. Twenty Seven lakh Only)	Rs. 2,70,000/-, (Rs. Two lakh Seventy Thousand Only)	Rs. 45,85,157/-, (Rs. Forty Five lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven Only)
Loan Code No. 25500001521, Netaji Subhash Place (Branch), Mohd Shezi (Borrower), Prerna Kaul (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 30-04-2021, Rs. 46,00,315/-, (Rs. Forty Six lakh Three Hundred Fifteen Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent: Plot No H 1 3rd Floor With Roof Right Kh 480 block H Mohan Garden Village Nawada Uttam Nagar New Delhi Delhi: 110059 Boundaries As North: Road-20 ft South: Other Property East: Portion of Plot West: Plot No.H-02	Rs. 32,00,000/-, (Rs. Thirty Two lakh Only)	Rs. 3,20,000/-, (Rs. Three lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 60,00,717/-, (Rs. Sixty lakh Seven Hundred Seventeen Only)

for vulnerable tribals Min to set up HI stand how government basic facilities in the far-flung ministries and state governhouseholds and ST popula-

Government. He said adding

that it will entail awareness cre-

ation, universal screening of 7

crore people in the age group

of 0-40 years in affected tribal

areas, and counselling through

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry is in the process of setting up a Human Development Index (HDI) for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) to assess their social and economic situation following implementation of various welfare programmes for them across the country.

HDI is a statistical tool used to measure the overall achievement in social and economic dimensions of the targeted beneficiaries. There are around 28 lakh PVTGs in the country, as per the latest data shared by the States. "The index will concentrate

which is estimated to be around

schemes have benefited the PVTGs to uplift their lifestyles and livelihood. The research work will also look into the areas where improvement is required. The index will be an ongoing process," Arjun Munda, Union Tribal Affairs Minister said at a media briefing on Wednesday. He was sharing various initiatives undertaken by his government for the welfare of the tribal people in the country in the last nine years.
"Various welfare measures

have been taken in the last nine years aimed for the uplift of the

Munda said under the on the PVTG population PVTGs Mission, 15,000 crore rupees will be spent in three 28 lakh. The aim is to underyears, focusing on improving collaborative efforts of central

villages such as clean drinking water, sanitation, improved access to education, health, road and telecom connectivity. and sustainable livelihood opportunities. He said, there are one lakh 12 thousand tribal-dominated villages in the country and the government has set a target to develop 36,000 villages as a model vil-Setting up Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission has been another significant achievement of the Modi

Similarly, under Eklavya

Model Residential Schools, in the next three years, 38,800 teachers and support staff will be recruited centrally for the 740 EMRS serving 3.5 lakh tribal students. By March 2026, in 740 such schools (480 students each), more than 3.5 lakh tribal students will have quality education. Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna, he said that it aims at integrated development of 36,428 villages with more than 500 tribal population and 50%

or more ST persons. "These villages are located in 458 districts, 2361 blocks and 24775 Gram Panchayats covering 332 parliamentary constituencies and 1.02 cr tion of 4.2 crore. Convergence has been planned with 58 schemes of Central Government having Schedule Tribe Component & State Government Schemes to bridge various gaps. Around Rs. 7400 crore has been allocated under the program for 5 years while Rs 2000 crore has been released to states," he added. Under Pradhan Mantri

Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMIVM), steps has been taken to enhance livelihood by providing forward and backward linkages by setting up Van Dhan Vikas Kendras / Van Dhan Producer Enterprises apart from assisting the States to make procurement of Minor Forest Produce at Minimum Support Price.

One Hundred Only) DATE OF E-AUCTION:30-06-2023, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 29-06-2023, BEFORE 4.00 P.M. For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in www.piramalfinance.com/e-Auction.html or email us on piramal.auction@piramal.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Serious charges

The allegations of former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey are very sensitive and must be investigated

he recent controversy surrounding Jack Dorsey, former CEO of Twitter, and his statement alleging government intimidation by the Indian authorities during the farmers' agitation has raised significant concerns. The claim that the Indian government forced Twitter to remove around 300 accounts has sparked a heated debate regarding freedom of expression, accountability of social media platforms, and the role of governments in regulating online spaces. While these allegations must be taken seriously, it is crucial to approach the issue with a balanced perspective that weighs the interests of all stakeholders involved. The allegations made by Jack Dorsey regarding government intimidation in India during the farmer's agitation deserve a thorough examination. While it is important to address any potential overreach or suppression of free speech, we must also recognise the need for social media platforms to operate within the legal

frameworks of the countries in which they operate. Achieving a delicate balance between free expression and accountability is essential in our increasingly connected world. Transparency, collaboration, and responsible governance can help foster an environment where democratic values are upheld, and the rights of all stakeholders are respected.

The allegations made by Dorsey are shocking, to say the least. He in an interview said that Twitter was constantly intimidated by the Government to block and limit the accounts of around 300 activists, and journalists who were not on the same page as the government. Twitter was threatened with raids, putting the staff behind bars and even kicking out Twitter from India. The Indian Government has vehemently denied the alle-

gations and accused Twitter of violating the law. In a Twitter post, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, India's deputy minister for information technology, called Dorsey's claims an outright lie. He said no one was jailed or a single raid conducted on Twitter premises. However, to put things in perspective several accounts were indeed blocked or limited including the Twitter account of Rahul Gandhi, and the official Twitter account of protesting farmers though many were de-blocked after a while. The opposition has been alleging that the government is resorting to undeclared 'Emergency' and controlling media and intimidating the journalists and activists who dare to speak against it. Social media, which is an extension of the mainstream media is the voice of the people and must not be muzzled on flimsy premises. The fact of the matter is that many journalists have their Twitter accounts suspended or limited on flimsy grounds which is a breach of the fundamental right to right and expression. Twitter has also alleged that the government has acted in an arbitrary fashion, just dictating terms without giving specific reasons for account deletion or suspension. Last year, Twitter moved to Karnataka High Court seeking relief on content. The Government must come clean and tell its side of the story so that the image of the country in the world as a free democracy does not suffer.



The Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple reflected in Padmatheertham pond, in Thiruvananthapuram

Oppn must support Modi's global agenda



The Opposition needs to introspect if it has played a constructive role in issues that are of grave importance

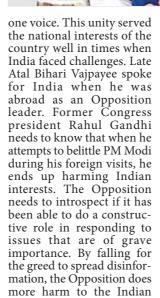
Minister Narendra Modi will address the US Congress on June 22. This will be the second occasion that PM Modi will address the US Congress. India's G20 Presidency has brought a global focus on the country, as the country has become a voice of the Global

The world order is in flux. The global humanity is facing a host of challenges and they require urgent attention. Disruptive technologies, financial inequity, healthcare access, climate change, pandemic response, global response, and energy transition are some of the issues currently at the top of the global agenda. India has shown leadership in all global issues, including advocating peace efforts in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

India in the last financial year registered 7.2 per cent GDP growth. India has once more come out as the fastestgrowing economy in the world. By becoming the fifth largest economy in the world, India is being sought after by the developed world. India has regularly been taking part in the G7 meetings. Indian economy is bigger than four of the G7 countries. Thus, India is being accorded a pivotal position in global economic affairs.

It must also be mentioned that the Indian voice on issues such as Climate Change is heard with all seriousness. By forming International Solar Alliance, India has shown the roadmap for the clean energy transition to achieve the goal of net zero emissions. At the same time, India raised the voice of the Global South and the poor countries strongly at the Hiroshima Summit of the G7 meeting.

At such a juncture, it's mportant to keep a tab on the Indian political leaders and their responses to prepare a collective response for the country on such global challenges. In matters of international affairs, India for decades has had a consensus stance among the political leaders to speak in population but also provid-



India came out with two vaccines when the world was battling the Covid-19 pandemic. PM Modi made it clear that the Indian vaccines are for the people of the world. When the developed world was stocking the vaccines, India was sending them to the poor countries that could not have bought costly doses from the multinational companies. India not only vaccinated its

interests and even harms

credibility in people's eyes.



PARLIAMENTARY

COMMITTEES PROVIDE PLATFORMS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO **BECOME EQUAL** STAKEHOLDERS IN **FORMULATING RESPONSES OF** THE COUNTRY ON **KEY CHALLENGES**

ed protective shields to millions of people the world over. Even during the pandemic outbreak, the Opposition could not play a constructive role. The Opposition had run a campaign against India's vaccine diplomacy. But India won the hearts of people all over the world, and the goodwill gained now serves the national interests of the country. Opposition for the sake of opposition makes for bad politics. Parliamentary committees provide platforms for the members of the opposition parties to become equal stakeholders in formulating responses of the country on key chal-lenges. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one such disruptive technology. AI is being widely debated in the parliaments of developed countries. The Opposition in our country should also come forward and share their views on the issue which can be considered by the govern-

On global issues, India should speak in one voice. When PM Modi would address the US Congress second time in his tenure as the prime minister of the

country, the world will be looking at him with the hope that India will be able to provide solutions to several challenges faced by global humanity. The global hope from India is also because the country rushed foodgrains to countries that faced acute hunger crises after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. PM Modi, in equal measures, told both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy that diplomacy is the way out of

The record FDI flow in the country shows that the world truly believes in the Indian economy. The trained Indian manpower is being sought after in the Middle East, Europe, the US, and Australia. The emergence of India as a global power is also being welcomed by people all across the world, as they know that India has always positively contributed to global humanity. This calls for the Opposition parties to sit back and reflec and also introspect.

(Author is the national general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party)

Need to promote Indian science

We must develop a science-policy engagement forum to popularise the breakthroughs in Indian labs

any times scientific community and LV Lpoliticians come to crossroads while promoting scientific discoveries. Even though every research lab managed by central, state and private organizations does ground-breaking discoveries, very few get public attention. Why is it so? Every scientific research will have an output that is bound to affect the common man's life. But the public is carried away by news value research like the space-related ones that get gets media attention. There are many labs where scientists toil their life to find cures for various diseases, develop high-yielding plant varieties, find solutions to conserve the ecosystem, make our daily life easier by developing various technologies for infrastructure and communication, etc. But unfortunately, poor scientists, though gets acceptance from their peer group, don't find acceptance

Even when our spending on R&D has tripled in the last 10 years, members of the scientific community and the public often complain about the lack of budgetary alloca- act.

from the common man.



tion for scientific research. Even after 75 years of experience, we don't have confidence in our researchers. We still provide more value to people having overseas experience or publications in foreign journals for job selection. If India has to become the global leader in science our policymakers should value the scientific contribution made by the candidate in the Indian laboratories. Only these people can understand the issues affecting our society and find remedies for them. Only when scientific discoveries reach the poorest of society science will get respect and attention. Here comes the need to develop a science-policy engagement forum through which our scientific community, policymakers and citizen-science

groups can frequently inter-

Science policy engagement refers to the active involvement of scientists and researchers in shaping and influencing policy decisions at various levels, including local, national, andnternational. By engaging with policymakers, political leaders, administrators and diplomats, scientists can contribute their expertise, scientific evidence, and insights to inform policy development and decisionmaking processes. Scientists should communicate scientific concepts, evidence, and findings to policymakers in a manner that is accessible, concise, and relevant to their policy concerns using language that policymakers can

understand. They should present scientific information in a format that is easy to comprehend, such as infographics, policy briefs, or executive summaries. Similarly, they should engage with a range of stakeholders, including NGOs, industry representatives, community groups, and advocacy organizations. Even people from industries should also be made part of this. Many times scientific dis-

covery become popular only



after the product reaches society. Collaborating with diverse stakeholders can help build coalitions, broaden the impact of engagement efforts, and strengthen the legitimacy of policy recommendations. They enable scientists to communicate their research findings, address gaps in their research, and recommendations to policymakers thereby highlighting their research findings at the global level. Building trust and rapport is crucial for effective engage-

Science policy engagement is an essential avenue for scientists to contribute their expertise, promote evidencebased decision-making, and shape policies that address societal challenges. By actively engaging with policymakers, scientists can bridge the gap between science and polin prisons. icy, promoting the use of scientific evidence to inform policy choices. These interfaces should operate transparently, ensuring clarity about their purpose and processes.

(Biju Dharmapalan is a science communicator & columnist)

Openness promotes trust and

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Sir — BJP-ruled Manipur is finished due to widespread violence as per police report today many villagers were killed and hundreds have been injured when suspected militants attacked Khamelock village in Imphal East district and fired indiscriminately. Unofficial sources put the death toll at 11 which is suspicious and misleading. A police official said that heavily armed militants attacked the Khamelock village late on Tuesday night and fired on the villagers from automatic weapons killing many people on the spot and injuring others. The victims were either sleeping or just finished their dinner when the extremists rained bullets from their sophisticated arms. The injured were immediately taken to various hospitals but they gave up. The death toll is likely to increase as the condition of several of the wounded is stated to be critical. It is high time the Centre must dismiss the state government and impose the President's rule as law and order have collapsed across the state and people live

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

1000 DAYS AND COUNTING

Sir — 1,000 days completed since Umar Khalid has been arrested. Muslim social workers and students including Umar Khalid had been arrested after Delhi Violence. Almost all except a few are still behind bars. The saddest thing is that the Muslim population is 14% while their number in jails is 30%. Hence, it shows that not only Khalid's but countless Muslim youth's bright lives have darkened

Tausif Qamar | Howrah

WHY REFUSE A BONA-FIDE THOUGHT?A

Sir — By the laws of nature, one can only succeed if one can go with the flow. But success matters when you have people around you to celebrate it. In a society where speed and the ability to adapt accordingly matter, a thing called "relationship" loses its halo. Changes are inevitable; every person changes with time but at the cost of their to Doha flight were stuck at the Mumbai

THE EDITOR



newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the need to celebrate 'No-Honking Day' in all metropolitan cities of the country and not just in Mumbai.

Honking is a common problem that is faced by almost all people of metropolitan cities. Whether the traffic is slow or someone doesn't drive carefully, people always honk at it. But honking has become a major and more serious problem than what we expected. Honking causes pain in the ears and sometimes it is so fatal that it causes loss of hearing. The average human ear can sustain a volume of up to 80 decibels but honking goes around 90-110 decibels. Honking also causes frustration

and loss of temper. A lot of disputes on the road also take place due to continuous honking. Honking causes noise pollution which results in respiratory agitation, racing pulse, high blood pressure, headaches and in case of extreme loud honking, gastritis, colitis and even heart and panic

As per the survey from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Honking causes almost 60-70% of noise pollution. No Honking Day can help to reduce 60-70% of noise pollution which is an effective way to increase the Health and Happiness index. No Honking is also an effective way to safeguard people's life whose ears are sensitive. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Central Minister for Road Transport and Highways, has also announced the replacement of honks by Indian musical Instruments.

I would request you to publish my letter in your newspaper and make our society and government aware of this threatening danger of honking and "No-Honking Day" as an effective way to curb this danger

Sarthak Kothari | New Delhi

relationships. One thing that makes animals and humans different is social communication. We often call it "staying in touch '. But one interesting rule about staying in touch is 'approach me first," i.e., I will only approach you when you approach me. This 'approach first' mentality is a second thought that often worsens relationships. Quashing this mentality, one must call, message, or meet the person without thinking about who approached first or who communicates frequently. Second thoughts are generally appreciated at work, not in relationships. So, if you miss a person, without any second thought, just initiate communication and try to stay in touch. Reason: You miss them!

PASSENGERS STUCK

Aditi Singh Jadoune | Ujjain

Sir — Passengers of Air India's Mumbai

airport on Tuesday after their flight was delayed for more than 17 hours. The flight was scheduled to depart at 7.30 pm on Monday. Several passengers took to Twitter to complain that Air India's staff had not provided any information or help amid the long flight delay. Everyone knows quite well that time is Precious in human life. It becomes most precious in the course of travelling by plane in particular, no body can feel flattered by hearing this sort of disgusting news that the Passengers are seeking help and are not getting appropriate information about flight. So, It is a very very concerning matter that requires the respective staff office of Mumbai airport to ponder the recent problem and bring betterment in airline systems

Md Shahnawa | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN LIVE LIFE IN A YOGIC WAY

Yoga is not just a set of exercises, it is workout for body, mind and soul



RAVI VALLURI

n the 21st of June, Summer Solstice in Northern Hemisphere, as has been for several years in a row now, millions across the globe will assemble in schools, parks, offices, educational and scientific institutions, and various establishments and unison they will perform yoga. The world will become a Yoga Mat under the azure sky. The United Nations has not only endorsed observing International Yoga Day but has given a major thumbs-up to this ancient Indian practice and has taken up popularising it across the universe.

A symphony synchronizing the body, mind and soul As a music lover, one fondly recalls the iconic lyrics of Across the Universe by the Beatles Words are flowing out like endless rain into a paper cup They slither wildly as they slip away across the Universe Pools of sorrow and waves of joy are drifting through my opened mind

Possessing and caressing me

Jai Guru Deva. Om

Jai Guru Deva implies the victory of the big mind. Om, when fragmented into three syllables - AAA (the hubbub that emanates from the abdomen), UUU (the reverberation emerging from the chest region) and MMM (the resonance materialising from the head region).

Yoga is a kind of exercise in which a practitioner locomotes the human body into several distinct and diverse positions to attain physical fitness and flexibility. While performing yogic exercises the sadhak has to invariably pay attention to the breath.

METAPHYSICAL DEMEANOUR

The root of the word yoga lies in the Sanskrit word – yuj – authentically meaning to conjoin. While Lord Shiva is believed to be the original progenitor of this ancient science, Maharishi Patanjali revealed to humanity the intricacies of yogic science through his treatise Patanjali



AN INSIGHT INTO SHIRSHASANA

The asana involves inverting the body, with hands, neck and shoulders bearing the entire weight of the body. The first step is the Vairasana. Through a series of fluid steps to be executed at a slow, measured pace, the practitioner moves from Vajrasana to the final pose where the legs are held straight up, toes pointing upwards and the arms cradling the head, with the elbows bent at right angles for further support.

As a practitioner holds the pose, it works against the pressure of gravity, assisting in draining impure blood from the lower limbs and also enhancing blood flow to the head and neck regions

Moving out the asana has also to be done at the same measured pace to prevent injuries. This involves tracing all the steps backwards until one moves into Shishuasana. It is advisable to rest the body in Shavasana following this asana.

Beginners are advised to practice Shirshasana at the end of their yogic asana programme while advanced practitioners can perform it either at the beginning or the end of a yogic session. It may be mentioned that the asana is very powerful to awaken the Sahasrara chakra, which is responsible for the lofty position this sovereign among asanas enjoys.

However, there is a word of caution. Shirshasana is contra-indicated for those individuals suffering from high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney problems, chronic glaucoma, and host of other diseases. It should neither be practised during pregnancy nor menstruation. The practitioner should learn the craft under the careful guidance and supervision of a trained yoga instructor.

(The writer is the CEO of Chattisgarh East Railway Ltd, East west Railway Ltd and is a faculty of the Art of Living)

Export units can bolster new foreign trade policy



The export-oriented industry has the potential to make the Indian economy a USD 5 trillion economy



xport plays a pivotal role in the economic development of a nation. To give impetus to export the long-awaited new Foreign Trade Policy(FTP) came into effect on 1 April 2023, has set a target of achieving 2 trillion US dollars in exports by 2030 and seeks to integrate India further into global value chains as an export hub. Lastly, the FTP has added four new 'Towns of Export Excellence' (TEE) in addition to the already existing 39 towns of export excellence.

In the country of 766 districts, only 43 towns of export excellence get leverage of fiscal incentives for global market surveys and brand promotions, setting up warehouses, and import of capital goods at zero customs duty for export-oriented production. These biased efforts diluted the concept of 'One District-One Product' and 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwash'. Therefore, a holistic approach has become more important than ever and focuses on syncing, stream lining, and synergizing foreign trade policy objectives while simultaneously ensuring its compatibility and coherence with the global trading system. Thus, significant changes and refinements are needed to make the new FTP suitable at the policy level as well as for EXIM(Export-Import) operations.

The new Foreign Trade Policy 2023-2028 has set a goal to make India a US\$ 5 trillion economy, which needs to go beyond its standard format, which has remained unchanged since the policy was introduced in 2004. Instead of a few Towns of Export Excellence with few products like handicrafts, hosiery, handloom, apparel, etc, the focus on 'Industries of Export Excellence' (IEE) is needed. There is a need for policy rationalization to level the playing field for export-oriented industrial sectors, which can offtake directly in the export market at large. For expansion in foreign trade, the government must assess the demand for key products in the global market, to ensure



HAVING A 65 PER CENT SHARE IN THE **GLOBAL** MARKET, INDIA IS THE LEADING EXPORTER OF BASMATI RICE, OF WHICH PUNJAB HOLDS A 45 PER CENT SHARE

(The writer is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice Chairman of Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board. Views expressed are personal)

export volumes, values, scale, and intensity. The new FTP should incorporate a plan to identify and promote the key sectors like textile and apparel, bicycles, auto parts, tractor, engineering goods, hand, and machine tools, and agri-products like basmati, fruits &

vegetables, and dairy products. **Export Share and Scope:** Still, India has been struggling to raise its share of global export of mer-chandise to 2 per cent. World's largest milk producer, with a 24% global share of milk production but less than 0.5 % of world dairy exports from India. The second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, a foodsurplus economy failed to export its valuable surpluses.

Basmati: Having a 65 per cent share in the global market, India is the leading exporter of basmati rice, of which Punjab holds a 45 per cent share. There is huge scope to diversify from nonbasmati to basmati to tap the new global markets as there is a gap in the export of both commodities as 39.50 lakh tonnes of basmati rice exports with forex earnings of Rs. 26,417 crores during 2021-22, whereas non-basmati export was 72 lakh tonnes worth 45652 crores in the same period. Still, there is huge scope to tap the new global markets for basmati rice export.

Textile and Apparel: The size of the Indian textile and apparel market is estimated at \$153 billion, 70% of which is domestic consumption while exports constitute the rest 30%, while India's share in the global export market is 5 % while China is the largest supplier of textile and apparel with a 37% share followed by Bangladesh with 7% and India stood as 4th largest supplier. USA, UAE and

UK, Germany, France, and Australia are potential export markets.

Tractor: In the global market of 30 lakh tractors annually, India's production share accounts for 33 6, over 10 lakh units in a year. Germany leads as an exporter in the global market with a 16 % share while India's share is still 2.2 %. Out of 10 lacks total production, around 9 lakh units were sold in the domestic market while 1.31 lakh units were exported in 2022, with a share of 34 % Sonalika is the largest exporter from the county. Still, the Potential export markets for India are the US, Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, SAARC, and African nations which can lead to over export of 2 lakh tractors in the next $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Auto Parts and Engineering Goods: The top five major orters are Germany, China, the US, Japan, and Mexico accounting for 54 % of the global auto parts market. As per the Automobile Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), the export share is 25% of the total turnover of 5.10 lakh crore, and the global share is 11 %. Strong international demand and resurgence in the local original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and aftermarket segments are predicted to help the Indian auto component industry grow in the global market.

Bicycle: China is dominating the global market and exports 60 per cent of its production of 10 crore bicycles, 6 crores are exported across the world in a year. India is the world's second-largest manufacturer of bicycles, still far behind China in terms of exports, and out of 2 crore production only 10 lakh bicycles are being export-

production. The potential target is to increase share in the global market by at least 10 % in the next three years because still there is huge potential to cater as the US, European countries, and Africa have surged as bicycle and e-bicycle markets.

Sports Goods: Accounting for a share of 42.2 per cent in global exports, China is the largest exporter of sports goods while India is accounting for 0.56 per cent of global exports. The significant headroom for India's sports goods industry in the future is to tap the potential countries like the USA, UK, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Columbia, and Argentina.

Way Forward: To fuel the spirit of 'Local goes Global' and to galvanize the country to become an export hub by identitying products and services with export potential. The potential of export at the district level and conducting outreach activities, including buyer-seller meets, and trade fairs can onboard a greater number of exporters and importers. While some districts in India are already known for their exports, the new measures will widen the scope of outreach and potentially onboard previously excluded exporters. Exports from MSMEs and remote districts will not only have positive cascading effects on the economy but also the livelihoods of millions of people.

As India has set an export target of \$900 Billion in FY 2023-2024, and to achieve this target must orient towards the pillar industries intending to focus on the untapped export potential to be part of India's export success

Today's lifestyle is not conducive to the environment

Changing individual and community behaviour alone can make a significant dent in the environmental and climate crisis

nvironmental degradation and climate change are global phenomena where actions in one part of the world impact ecosystems and populations across the globe. Estimates suggest that if requisite action is not taken against the changing environment, approximately 3 billion people globally could experience chronic water scarcity. The global economy could lose up to 18% of GDP by 2050. Over the last two decades, several macro mea sures have been implemented globally to address environmental degradation and climate change, including policy reforms, economic incentives and regulations. Despite their enormous potential, actions required at the level of individuals, communities and





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

institutions have received limited attention.

As far as transport is concerned, in most high-income countries, personal transport is the lifestyle domain with the largest contribution to the overall lifestyle footprint. The world's roadways are clogged with vehicles, most of them burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels power the ships that carry trade and the aeroplanes that allow us to travel. Greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector have more than doubled since 1970, with around 80% of this increase coming from road vehicles. Around 10% of the global population accounts for 80% of total motorized passenger kilometres, with much of the world's popula-

tion hardly travelling at all. But

we do have alternatives to driving that can make a differ-

ence.
Walking, biking, urban public transit and trains help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

A diet that is higher in plant-based foods, such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and lower in animal-based foods, has a lower environmental impact (greenhouse gas emissions and energy, land, and water use). Regarding fashion, being stylish does not mean being wasteful. Buying fewer clothes, shopping secondhand, or upcycling, i.e., creating new clothes out of old ones, helps save water and reduce waste. In the last 15 years, clothing production has doubled while the number of

times a garment is worn before being discarded has decreased by 36%. The fashion industry (clothing and footwear) produces more than 8% of greenhouse gases and 20% of global wastewater annually. It takes about 7,500 litres of water to make a single pair of jeans -- from the production of the cotton to the delivery of the final product to the store. 85% of textiles end up in landfills or are incinerated although most of these materials could be reused. Every second, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of textiles is landfilled or burned.

Some 93 billion cubic meters of water -- enough to meet the consumption needs of five million people -- is used by the fashion industry annually. Waste is a big problem. are used worldwide every

Every year, an estimated 11.2 billion tonnes of solid waste is collected worldwide, and the decay of the organic proportion of solid waste is contributing to about 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Where waste cannot be avoided, recycling leads to substantial resource savings. For every tonne of paper recycled, 17 trees and 50% of water can be saved. Recycling also creates jobs: the recycling sector employs 12 million people in Brazil, China and the United States alone. Only 9% of all plastic waste ever produced has been recycled. About 12% has been incinerAround the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags

tic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away. From 2010 to 2019, e-waste generated globally grew from 5.3 to 7.3 kilograms per capita annually. Meanwhile, the environmentally sound recycling of ewaste increased at a much slower pace - from 0.8 to 1.3 kilograms per capita annual-ly. Everyone should come forward to save water. Water is a precious resource: Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh (drinkable), of which 2.5% is frozen in the Antarctica, Arctic and glaciers. And humans are misusing and polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes. Using water smartly can help us ensure a steady flow of

year. In total, half of all plas-

clean, safe water. You can save water by taking shorter showers, turning off the tap when brushing your teeth, installing a low-flow toilet, and many With one shower of about

10 minutes a day, an average person consumes the equivalent of over 100,000 glasses of drinking water every year. Changing individual and community behaviour alone can make a significant dent in the environmental and climate crises. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), if one billion people out of the global population of eight billion adopt environment-friendly behaviours in their daily lives, global carbon emissions could drop by approximately 20 per

Indian-origin teen among 3 killed

n Indian-origin teenage Amedical student described as a talented hockey and cricket player was named on Wednesday as one of three victims of a frenzied series of knife attacks on the streets of Nottingham in central England that has shocked the country. Grace O'Malley Kumar, 19, was with fellow University of Nottingham student cricketer friend - Barnaby Webber, also 19 – when the as-yet unnamed attacker is said to have fatally stabbed the duo in the early hours of Tuesday.

Nottinghamshire Police said the 31-year-old suspect, who remains in custody, then went on to stab a man in his 60s to death and also attempted to run over three people – still in hospital – with a van stolen from that man."I know the whole house will want to thank the emergency services for their ongoing response to the incident in shocking Nottingham yesterday. Our thoughts are with those injured and with the families of those who lost their lives," said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the start of the House of Commons session on Wednesday. UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman

NOTTINGHAM KNIFE ATTACK

later made a statement to update Parliament on the "horrific events" and confirmed that it is not being treated as a terrorist attack at this stage.

"I can tell the House that the police are working flat out to establish the full facts and provide support to everyone affected. They are currently keeping an open mind as to the motives behind these attacks I can confirm Nottinghamshire police are being assisted in their inquiries by counter terror police. Though, this does not mean that it is currently being treated as a terrorist attack," said

Tracing some of the details, the minister said a knife was used in the attacks, two of the victims were students at Nottingham University and the third victim - a local school caretaker Ian Coates in his 60s - was the owner of the van that police believe the suspect stole and was used to run down three pedestrians who remain in hospital.

"We are keeping an 'open mind' and are working alongside Counter Terrorism Policing to establish the facts –

as we would normally do in these types of circumstances, Kate Meynell, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, said in a statement.

"A dedicated team of detectives is investigating the circumstances surrounding these incidents and will continue to gather evidence over the coming days," she said.

While the victims are yet to be formally named by the police, local media reports from Nottingham have thrown light on some information around Grace Kumar as the daughter of London-based doctor of Indian-origin, Dr Sanjoy Kumar.

He is being dubbed a "hero" doctor who had saved the lives of some teenage stab victims in his local surgery back in 2009. Tributes have been pouring in for Grace, who was studying to become a doctor like him and played for the England under-18s hockey team and was also a talented

"Grace was an adored daughter and sister; she was a truly wonderful and beautiful young lady," Kumar's family

Hyderabad woman stabbed to death

London (PTI): A 27-year-old Indian-origin woman has been stabbed to death in north London and Scotland Yard on Wednesday said that two men have been arrested in connection with the murder.

The incident took place at a residential property in Neeld Crescent, Wembley on Tuesday.

While the murder victim is yet to be formally identified by police in the UK, reports from India indicate that it was Kontham Tejasvini – a young professional from Hyderabad.

A post-mortem examination is scheduled, following which the police are expected to formally release her identity."We came to know about the incident today morning. We don't know when it happened. We got the information that she is serious and in hospital," Tejaswini's father told a news channel in India on Wednesday.

She had gone to London three years ago and had completed her MS course there, he said.She came to Hyderabad in August last year and returned to London the next month. She

was supposed to fly down here in May this year, he said.

"We were planning to conduct her marriage. She said she will return after the alliance is finalised. She had resigned from her temporary job and said she will come back after working for another month," he

The victim's uncle requested the government to make necessary arrangements to bring her body from the UK to Hyderabad.

The Metropolitan Police had earlier released an image of Brazilian national Keven Antonio Lourenco De Morais to seek the public's help in tracing the suspect behind the attack on Tuesday morning.

The 23-year-old has now been arrested from Harrow, near the crime scene of Neeld Crescent in Wembley. "Officers attended along with the London Ambulance Service and two women were treated for stab injuries. Despite the efforts of emergency services, a 27-year-old woman sadly died at the

Trump can still run for WH even if convicted

PTI WASHINGTON

Donald Trump can contin-ue his campaign for anoth-er term in the White House even as the beleaguered former US president has been indicted for illegally retaining classified government documents

after leaving office in 2021. Trump, 77, on Tuesday, pleaded not guilty to 37 federal felony counts related to his mishandling of classified doc-uments at the federal courthouse in Miami, Florida.

It marks the first time federal charges have been brought against a former president. This indictment is the second criminal case filed against Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican Party's nomination in the 2024 presidential

In early April, Trump surrendered to authorities in New York and appeared in state court to face 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the first degree. He pleaded not

guilty to those charges also.

On May 9, Trump was found liable in a civil case brought by columnist E Jean Carroll, who claimed he raped her and defamed her. Trump denied those allegations. The jury did not find that he raped Carroll, but did find that he sexually abused her, and ordered him to pay her roughly USD 5 million.

The three cases raise an intriguing question about his bid to retake the White House in 2024: Can he still become the US president if he's convicted in New York or Florida, or now that he's been found liable in the Carroll case?

The short answer, from a legal perspective, is yes, according to experts.

None of the charges would bar Trump from taking office if he is convicted. A trial would take place many months from now, and Trump can freely campaign during this time.
"Nothing stops Trump

from running while indicted, or even convicted," the University of California, Los Angeles law professor Richard Hasen told CNN. The Constitution requires only

three things of the candidates: A candidate must be a natural-born citizen, at least 35 years old and a resident of the US for at least 14 years.

There are a few other Constitutional restrictions that can block a person from running for president — but they

don't apply to Trump.

It's pretty widely accepted that the list of qualifications in the Constitution is exclusive that is, Congress or states can't add qualifications to those listed in the Constitution," said Derek Muller, a law professor at the University of Iowa, before Trump's indictment.

"It's something that really doesn't affect your ability to run as a candidate, to appear on the ballot, or to even win the election," he was quoted as saying by CBS News.

"If you're convicted of a felony and incarcerated, you can't vote, but you can win the election. The point is, there were meant to be very few qualifications, and it was meant to be left to the voters or the state," Muller said.

In the wake of the January 6 attack on the Capitol, some House Democrats introduced a bill seeking to bar Trump from holding office again by invoking the 14th Amendment, which bars anyone who has "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" or "given aid or comfort" to enemies of the US after having taken an oath to support the Constitution.

That bill never made it out of the House of Representatives before Republicans took control in January.

The former president also faces several other criminal investigations on the state and federal levels that could complicate his ability to campaign for the nomination. But none of those cases would technically prevent him from running for or winning the White House, even if he is ultimately convicted, the report said. Incumbent US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has already announced his bid for the White House for a second time. The next presidential election is scheduled for November

Blinken dials Qin ahead of expected visit to Beijing

Beijing/Washington: Ahead of his planned visit to China to nis planned visit to China to cool down tensions, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Wednesday spoke to his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang by phone during which they discussed the importance of main cussed the importance of maintaining open lines of communi-cation to responsibly manage the relationship to avoid "miscalculation and conflict". Blinken, who will travel to China this week, said he discussed with Qin efforts by the two countries to maintain open channels of communication between two countries on bilateral and global issues.

"Spoke tonight with PRC State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang by phone. Discussed ongoing efforts to maintain open channels of communication as well as bilateral and global issues," Blinken said in a tweet.

His planned visit in February was cancelled after the US shot down a Chinese spy balloon flying over its airspace. On Wednesday, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement that Secretary Blinken "discussed the importance of maintaining open lines of communication to responsibly manage the US-PRC relationship to avoid miscalculation and conflict, [and] addressed a range of bilateral and global issues". He said Blinken also made clear that the US would continue to use diplomatic engagements to raise areas of concern as well as areas of potential cooperation.

Blinken's trip from June 16 to 21 would also involve London along with Beijing, he

Miller said Secretary Blinken will meet with senior Chinese officials in Beijing. Blinken will also raise bilateral issues of concern, global and regional matters, and potential cooperation on shared transnational challenges, he said.

London, the Secretary will attend the Ukraine Recovery Conference to help mobilize international support from the public and private sector to help Ukraine recover from Russia's brutal and ongoing attacks. AP

Trump appears in court, pleads not guilty

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has pleaded not guilty to charges that he broke the law dozens of times by hiding classified doc-uments in his Florida home as he was formally arraigned at a Miami court, becoming the first former US president to face federal criminal charges. Wearing a navy suit and red

tie, Trump, 77, was brought in about 15 minutes before the hearing began on Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Miami, Florida, and sat slumped over in his chair, hands clasped in his lap, as he waited for the judge to arrive. Trump's son, Eric Trump, accompanied his father to the courthouse for the historic case that could alter the country's political and legal landscape ahead of the 2024 race for the White House.

AP ANKARA

¬urkish President Recep

 ■ Tayyip Erdogan has said

that NATO should not bet on

his country approving Sweden's

application to join the Western

military alliance before a July

summit because the Nordic

nation has not fully addressed

his security concerns. Sweden

and Finland applied for mem-

bership together following

Russia's invasion of Ukraine

last year. Finland became

NATÓ's 31st member in April

after the Turkish parliament

ratified its request, but Turkey has held off approving

Sweden into the fold by the

time the leaders of member

nations meet for a summit in

his way back from a state visit

Lithuania's capital on July 11-

NATO wants to bring

Speaking to journalists on

Sweden's bid.



Former President Donald Trump gestures after speaking at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J on Tuesday after pleading not guilty in a Miami courtroom earlier in the day to dozens of felony counts that he hoarded classified documents and

has

'No change in Turkey's stance on

to Azerbaijan on Tuesday,

Erdogan said Turkey's attitude

to the accession was not "pos-

Agency and other media

reported Erdogan's comments

as senior officials from NATO,

Sweden, Finland and Turkey

met in Ankara on Wednesday.

uled to discuss what Finland

and Sweden have done to

address Turkey's concerns over

alleged terrorist organizations.

delegation at the meeting "will

Erdogan said the Turkish

Turkey's government

accuses Sweden of being too

lenient toward groups that

Ankara says pose a security

threat, including militant

Kurdish groups and people

associated with a 2016 coup

The officials were sched-

Turkey's state-run Anadolu

Sweden's NATO membership'

the presidency, looked down at the floor for most of the hear-

attempt. A series of separate

demonstrations in Stockholm,

including a protest by an anti-

Islam activist who burned the

Quran outside the Turkish

Embassy, also angered Turkish

liament, Swedish Prime

Minister Ulf Kristersson called

the Ankara meeting "very

important." Kristersson reiter-

ated that his government had

done what it promised in an

agreement last year that was

intended to secure Turkey's rat-

ification of the country's

He said he told NATO

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg last week, "If you

expect us to respond to

Sweden's expectations, first of

all, Sweden must destroy what

this terrorist organisation has

Erdogan

Speaking in Sweden's par-

ing and his lawyer waived a reading of the 49-page indictment, ABC News reported.

Federal prosecutors accused Trump, a Republican, of wilfully withholding classified documents obtained during his presidency and obstructing justice in his efforts to conceal those materials from authorities, as a detailed indictment unsealed on Friday. The former president was charged with 37 federal counts, including 31 violations of the Espionage Act. "We most certainly enter a

plea of not guilty," Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche said at the arraignment in a small but packed courtroom.

Flanked by two of his lawyers, Blanche and Christopher Kise, the former president listened impassively as US Magistrate Judge

Jonathan Goodman said he planned to order the former president not to have any contact with witnesses in the case or his co-defendant, Waltine "Walt" Nauta — as the case proceeds. Trump did not speak except to whisper to Blanche and Kise. Blanche objected to the judge's proposal, saying that Nauta and a number of witnesses are members of Trump's staff or security detail who rely on him for their livelihood. The facts of the case, Blanche said, revolve around "everything in President Trump's life."

The judge relented somewhat, saying that Trump should not speak to Nauta or witnesses about the facts of the case. As to which Trump employees might be affected by the restriction, the judge instructed the prosecution team to provide a

US President dispatching Sullivan to

Tokyo for talks Washington: President Joe Biden is dispatching White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan to Tokyo this week for

talks with his counterparts from Japan, Philippines and South Korea. Sullivan will also take part in "the first-ever trilateral meeting of the Japanese, Philippine, and US national security advisers' while in Japan, the White House National Security Council said in a statement on Tuesday.

The White House offered scant details about Sullivan's two-day visit that begins Thursday, saying Sullivan and his counterparts "will discuss ways to deepen collaboration on a number of key regional and global issues". Sullivan's visit comes after US, Japanese and Philippine coast guard ships staged law enforcement drills in waters near the disputed South China Sea earlier

Biden to extend legal status for 4 nationalities **AP** ■ SAN DIEGO

The Biden administration extend legal status by 18 months for more than 300,000 people from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal, disappointing some advocates and members of Congress who sought a more generous offer.

The extensions provide 'continued safety and protection" for those already legally in the US on Temporary Protected Status, which is due to end soon under Trump-era decisions, said US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

While the decision benefits an estimated 334,000 people from the four countries, including 239,000 from El Salvador, some had hoped for a far more sweeping gesture including expanded eligibility for more recent arrivals from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. US Senator Bob Menendez, a New



Office of the White House on Tuesday in Washington

Iersey Democrat who strongly pressed the White House for extensions, applauded the step but added it "simply does not go far enough" and suggested it "may have been driven in part by political calculations instead of sound policy rationale and the conditions in each country".

Joaquin Castro, a Texas Democrat and House member who was among 116 members of Congress who signed a letter in May seeking an expansion, said the administration "has allowed political fear rather than humanitarian conThe administration has

aggressively used TPS, a 1990 in the US to remain in 18month increments if the Homeland Security secretary determines that natural disasters or civil strife prevent them from safely returning home.

Under Biden's watch, the number of people eligible has soared more than 70 per cent to nearly a million people by December, reversing a Trumpera trend, according to an analysis by the Cato Institute, which advocates for more immigration. TPS encompasses 15 countries, including Venezuela and Ukraine, up from 10.

The extensions announced Tuesday will apply to about 239,000 El Salvadorans through March 9, 2025, about 76,000 Hondurans through July 5, 2025, about 14,500 Nepalese through June 24, 2025 and about 4,000 Nicaraguans through July 5,

'Google must break up digital ad business over competition concerns'

give this message: This is our president's opinion, don't expect anything different at Vilnius," Lithuania's capital.

NATO membership.

However, Erremained unsatisfied.

He said he told

AP ■ BRUSSELS

 $E_{\text{took aim at Google's lucrative digital}}$ advertising business in an unprecedented decision, saying Wednesday that the tech giant must sell off some of its ad business to address competition concerns.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, said its preliminary view after an investigation is that "only the mandatory divest-ment by Google of part of its services" would satisfy the concerns.

The 27-nation EU has led the global

movement to crack down on Big Tech companies — including groundbreaking rules on artificial intelligence — but it has previously relied on issuing blockbuster fines, including three antitrust penalties for

Google worth billions of euros (dollars). It's the first time the bloc has told a tech giant that it must split up key parts of its business over violations of the EU's strict antitrust laws, though details on what that

would look like have not been released.

Google can now defend itself by making its case before the commission issues its final decision. The company said it disagreed with the finding and "will respond accordingly," with the EU's investigation focusing on a narrow part of its ad

"Our advertising technology tools help websites and apps fund their content, and enable businesses of all sizes to effectively reach new customers," said Dan Taylor, Google vice president of global ads. "Google remains committed to creating value for our publisher and advertiser partners in this highly competitive sector.

The commission's decision stems from a formal investigation that it opened in June 2021, looking into whether Google violated the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own online display advertising technology services at the expense of rival publishers, advertisers and advertising technology services. European Commission

Vice President Margrethe Vestager says

Google is dominant on both sides of the adselling market. Google abused that position by favouring its own ad exchange, reinforcing its ability to charge a high fee for its services, the commission said

'Google is representing the interests of both buyers and sellers. And at the same time, Google is setting the rules on how demand and supply should meet," she said at a news conference." This gives rise to inherent and pervasive conflicts of interest."YouTube was one focus of the commission's investigation, which looked into whether Google was using the video sharing site's dominant position to favour its own ad-buying services by imposing restric-tions on rivals. Google's ad tech business is also under investigation by Britain's antitrust watchdog and faces litigation in the US.

Brussels has previously hit Google with more than 8 billion euros (now USD 8.6 billion) worth of fines in three separate antitrust cases, involving its Android mobile operating system and shopping and search advertising services.

Berlusconi gets state funeral in Milan

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m F}^{
m ormer}$ Premier Silvio Berlusconi was honoured on Wednesday with a state funeral in Milan's Duomo cathedral and a day of national mourning as his legacy positive or negative — was being hotly debated among Italians. Thousands of people outside the Duomo, including fans from Berlusconi's beloved AC Milan soccer club, erupted in applause as a sign of respect as his rose-draped casket was hoisted out of the hearse and into the cathedral for the funer-

Inside, Italy's business and political elite, including the president and three former premiers, gathered alongside Berlusconi's children and companion, who openly wept as the casket was placed in front of the

Most Italians identify Berlusconi, a media mogul,

soccer entrepreneur and threetime former premier, as the most influential figure in Italy over recent decades. But they remain sharply divided on whether his influence was for the better or worse, extending to whether the three-time former premier merits all the fuss

Berlusconi died at the age of 86 on Monday in a Milan hospital where he was being treated for chronic leukemia. His family held a private wake Tuesday at one of Berlusconi's villas near Milan, the city where he made his billions as the head of a media empire before entering politics in 1994.

Milan Archbishop Mario Delpini didn't gloss over Berlusconi's complicated legacy in his eulogy, saying he was a businessman who found success and failure, a politician who won and lost, and a notoriety-seeking personality who had admirers and detractors, "those who applaud him and those who detest him." "But in this moment of

farewell and prayer, what can we say about Silvio Berlusconi? He has been a man: a desire for life, a desire for love, a desire for joy," Delpini said.

"He is a man and now he meets God." Political opponents are questioning not only the decisions of Premier Giorgia Meloni's government to hold a state funeral — an honour that can be afforded all former premiers — but to also declare a national day of mourning, which is more rarely

78 migrants die, dozens missing after boat sinks off Greece

t least 78 people have died Aand dozens are feared missing off the coast of southern Greece after a fishing boat carrying migrants capsized and sank, authorities said Wednesday. A large search and rescue operation was launched in the area. Authorities said 104 people have been rescued so far following the nighttime incident some 75 kilometres southwest of Greece's southern Peloponnese region.

Four of the survivors were hospitalised with symptoms of hypothermia. It was unclear how many passengers might remain missing at sea after the Greek coast guard reported 78

Six coast guard vessels, a navy frigate, a military transport plane, an air force helicopter, several private vessels and a drone from the European Union border protection agency, Frontex, were taking



part in the ongoing search. The Italy-bound boat is believed to have sailed from the Tobruk area in eastern Libya. The Italian coast guard first alerted Greek authorities and Frontex about the approaching vessel on Tuesday.

At the southern port of Kalamata, dozens of rescued migrants were taken to sheltered areas set up by the ambu-

lance services and the United Nations Refugee Agency to receive dry clothes and medical

attention. Libyan authorities have launched a major crackdown on migrants earlier this month across eastern Libya.

Activists have said several thousand migrants, including Egyptians, Syrians, Sudanese and Pakistanis, have been

detained. Libyan authorities deported many Egyptians to their home country through a land crossing point.
In western Libya, authori-

ties have raided migrant hubs in the capital, Tripoli, and other towns over the past few At least 1,800 migrants

were detained and taken to government-run detention centres, according to the UN refugee agency. Mediterranean smugglers are increasingly taking larger

boats into international waters off the Greek mainland to try to avoid local coast guard On Sunday, 90 migrants on a US-flagged yacht were res-

made a distress call. Separately Wednesday, a racht with 81 migrants on board was towed to a port on the south coast of Greece's island of Crete after authorities

received a distress call.

cued in the area after they

Russia steps up airstrikes on Ukraine

 $R \\ \text{ussian forces fired cruise missiles at the} \\ R \\ \text{southern Ukrainian city of Odesa and} \\$ shelled the eastern Donetsk region early on Wednesday, killing at least six people and damaging dozens of homes, regional Ukrainian officials said.Russian forces have stepped up aerial strikes in their nearly 16-month war, a Ukrainian military . spokesman said.

The country's armed forces, meanwhile, have reported limited gains in the early stages of a counteroffensive to take back the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine's territory that is under Russian control.

The grinding Ukrainian advance is pressing slowly ahead, Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said on Wednesday. Western analysts and military officials say the effort to dislodge entrenched, powerfully armed and large numbers of Russian troops could take years. Ukrainian troops have advanced 200-500 metres (650-1,600 feet) at various sections of the front line around the Donetsk city of Bakhmut and 300-350 metres (980-1,150 feet) in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, Maliar claimed.Ukrainian forces have managed to make gains despite the Russian edge in artillery and air power, she said.

It was not possible to verify the battlefield claims. În Odesa, three food warehouse employees were killed in a strike that

"The true form of the

cyclone will be known tomor-

row," Rehman said as she

requested the people to coop-

mercial flight operations would

be suspended as the cyclone

cyclonic storm" of category 3

Biparjoy is expected to make

landfall with winds of approx-

expected to maintain a north-

ward trajectory and then it was

likely to re-curve eastward

and make its landfall between

Keti Bandar in Thatta district

and India's Gujarat coastline.

affected included Thatta,

Badin, Sajawal, Tharparkar,

Umerkot, Hyderabad, Ormara,

Tando Allahyar and Tando

Mohammad Khan, according

have been set up at different

sites including government schools and colleges.

that troops had evacuated 700

people from various villages of

Shah Bandar and 64 fishermen

were rescued from the sea.

Thirty-seven relief camps

The Pakistan Navy said

to weather experts.

Mirpurkhas,

drew closer to the country.

Rehman said that com-

Classified as a "very severe

erate with authorities.

to 170 km/h.

Karachi,



also damaged homes, shops and cafes in the city's downtown, the regional administration said on Facebook. Another 13 people were injured.

Search teams were looking for possible survivors under the rubble of the warehouse, it said. The attack on the port city, launched from the Black Sea, was the second in a week and involved four Kalibr cruise missiles, three of which were intercepted by air defences, the administration said. In eastern Ukraine, Donetsk province governor Pavlo Kyrylenko wrote on Telegram that at least three people died after shelling destroyed seven homes and damaged dozens more in the cities of Kramatorsk and Kostiantynivka.

Ten towns and villages along the front line in Donetsk were struck as Kyiv's troops slowly advance, according to Ukraine's presidential office. A missile hit the . Ukrainian-controlled city of Kramatorsk, where Kyiv's forces are headquartered, killing two civilians and wounding two others while damaging 29 homes, the presidential office said. Russian shelling of Kostiantynivka killed one civilian, with 57 houses damaged, it added.

'Ex-Pakistan PM failed to provide evidence of assassination claim'

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P_{\text{Rana Sanaullah has said}}^{\text{akistan's Interior Minister}}$ that former prime minister Imran Khan has admitted that he does not have any evidence for his assassination conspiracy allegations levelled against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, top government functionaries and the Army chief.

Addressing a press conference here, Sanaullah said that Khan, also the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, for no reason levelled allegations against Prime Minister Sharif, himself and senior Pakistan Army officers for hatching an assassination conspiracy, The Express Tribune newspaper reported on Tuesday

Sanaullah criticised Khan for making baseless accusations against the prime minister, interior minister and the Army chief that they want to kill him. Khan was asked to produce evidence, but he failed to present any, he said.

Khan, 70, in recent months, has claimed that an assassination conspiracy has been hatched against him by a few members of the ruling government.

on his life in November last year when his party's 'Haqeeqi Azadi' march reached Wazirabad in Punjab province. Khan, who sustained multiple bullet injuries in his leg, was operated upon and pellets removed from his thigh and

In an interview in April, Khan openly said that Prime Minister Sharif, Interior Minister Sanaullah and two members of the establishment would be responsible if anything happens to him.



Khan, who faces a slew of legal cases, has also sought exemption from appearances in the court as there are chances that conspiracy hatchers would use the opportunity to kill him.

On Monday, Khan joined a probe session held by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) over his allegations against top military officials and was shown all the videos in which he made the allegations against the top functionaries of the government and the Army.

In a written statement to the JIT, Khan admitted that neither had ISI DGC Maj Gen Faisal Naseer threatened him directly nor did he have any evidence to substantiate his report said. "JIT showed a video to the PTI chief, and he confessed that it was his own

During the investigation, he proved himself to be a liar and confessed that all his statements were baseless," Sanaullah said.

When the PTI chief was shown the FIR against him by the JIT, he was unable to provide any evidence to support the allegations he hurled in the video clips," he said.

The JIT inquired why he

mentioned the name of DG ISI in his videos. They also questioned whether he had met a senior military official, whom he referred to as "Dirty Harry".

Meanwhile, the PTI has condemned what it called the "leakage" of JIT proceedings to media houses after Khan attended its proceedings on June 12 in Islamabad.

The party called for an investigation to identify and hold people who were involved in the attack on Imran Khan accountable.

We call upon media to refrain from transmitting, publishing and airing of the content released through dubious and unverified sources which lack veracity and legal contaminate public opinion, mislead the nation and impact the case adversely at the stage of the investigation," the PTI statement said.

Khan, a cricketer-turnedpolitician, was ousted from ower in April last year after osing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

CYCLONE BIPARJOY

Nearly 66k evacuated to safe places in Pakistan

Nearly 66,000 people living in coastal towns and small islands in Pakistan have been evacuated to safer places before Cyclone Biparjoy is expected to hit the coastline in Sindh province on Thursday, the government said Wednesday. Strong winds, showers and

high tides heralded the arrival of Cyclone Biparjoy, which means disaster or calamity in the Bengali language.

In its fresh updates, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has said that the cyclone has moved away from Karachi and is currently at a distance of 370 kilometres south of the country's financial capital. The cyclone was previously 340 km south of Karachi.

The cyclone moved northnortheastward during the last six hours, the department said. "Maximum sustained sur-

face winds are 150-160 Km/hour gusts 180 Km/hour around the system centre and sea conditions being phenomenal around the system centre with maximum wave height 30 feet," it added.

Change Minister Sherry Rehman said on Wednesday that the cyclone, which has slightly moved away from Karachi, will hit Sindh's Keti Bandar on Thursday morning.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, she said nearly 66,000 people have been evacuated to safer places from Sindh's coastal areas thus far.

Pakistan has deployed the military to evacuate around 100,000 people to safe places from the low-lying coastal areas in the southern Sindh

103 wedding guests killed in boat capsize

Abuja (Nigeria) (AP): A boat returning from a wedding capsized in northern Nigeria, killing at least 103 people, including children, officials said Tuesday.

Residents and police were still searching for dozens of people who were on the overcrowded boat that capsized early Monday on the Niger River in the Pategi district of Kwara state, which is 160 kilometres from Ilorin, the state capital, according to police spokesman Okasanmi Ajayi. He said 100 people had been rescued so far.

Most of those who drowned were relatives from several villages who attended the wedding together and partied late into the night, according to Abdul Gana Lukpada, a local chief. They arrived at the ceremony on motorcycles but had to leave on the locally made boat after a downpour flooded the road, he

imately 140-150 kilometres "The boat was overloaded per hour (km/h) and gusts up and close to 300 persons were in it. While they were coming, the According to the latest boat hit a big log inside the water and split into two," said Lukpada. forecast, the cyclone was

The wedding was held in the village of Egboti in the neighbouring Niger state, said Usman Ibrahim, a resident. Because the accident happened at 3 am, he said.

villagers nearby rushed to the scene and managed to rescue about 50 at first, Lukpada said, describing early efforts to rescue the passengers as slow and "very difficult".

As of Tuesday afternoon, officials and locals were still searching for more bodies in the river, which is one of Nigeria's largest. Police spokesman Ajayi said the rescue operation would continue through the night until Wednesday. Locals said it was the deadliest boat accident they have seen in many years.

Navalny jailed for 7 years 6 months Tallinn (AP): A court in

Russia on Wednesday convicted an associate of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny on extremism charges and sentenced her to 7 1/2 years in prison, the latest step in a yearslong crackdown by the Kremlin on opposition

Lilia Chanysheva, who used to head Navalny's office in the Russian region of Bashkortostan, was found guilty of calling for extremism, forming an extremist group and founding an organisation that violates rights. The charges against

Chanysheva, who was arrested in November 2021, stem from a court ruling earlier that year that designated Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption and his regional offices as extremist organisations. In addition to the prison

sentence, Chanysheva was fined 400,000 rubles (about USD 4,700). Her trial was conducted behind closed doors and she has maintained her innocence, rejecting the charges as politically motivat-

a new trial on extremism charges that could keep him in begin next week at a maximum-security prison 250 kilometres east of Moscow where the 47-year-old politician is already serving time on two different convictions.

Navalny himself is facing

Navalny, who exposed official corruption and organised massive anti-Kremlin protests, was arrested in January 2021 upon returning to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve-agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin. He initially received a 21/2-year prison sen-

tence for a parole violation. Last year, he was sentenced to

a nine-year term on fraud and contempt of court charges. The new charges against Navalny relate to the activities

of his anti-corruption foundation and statements by his top associates. His allies said the charges retroactively criminalise all the activities of Navalny's foundation since its creation in 2011.

Navalny has called the new extremism charges "absurd" and said they could keep him in prison for another 30 years.

The Kremlin's crackdown against opposition activists, independent journalists and sified since it sent troops into Ukraine. Hundreds have faced criminal charges over anti-war protests and remarks, and thousands have been fined or briefly jailed.

On Wednesday, a court in Moscow sentenced a man who threw gasoline bombs at two police vans in the Russian capital last year to six years in prison. Vitaly Koltsov has said he did it to show his "resentment" of a police van "as a symbol of infringement on freedoms.

S Korea sues N Korea for blowing up joint liaison office in 2020

South Korea filed a 44.7 billion won (USD 35 million) damage suit against North Korea on Wednesday for blowing up a joint liaison office just north of their border in 2020, which highlighted a revival of tensions between the rivals following the collapse of larger nuclear talks between the US and North Korea.

The symbolic lawsuit filed with the Seoul Central District Court comes amid a prolonged freeze in diplomacy and growing concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs. South Korea had until this Friday to claim damages, when a three-vear statute of limitations over the incident would expire. Koo Byoungsam, spokesperson for Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, described the North's detonation of the building as an unlawful and violent act that breached previous agreements between the countries and "fundamentally damaged the foun-

dation of mutual respect and trust." There's no clear way for South Korea to force North Korea to pay if it is found liable for damages. Koo said the lawsuit, the first ever filed by South Korea's government against North Korea's government, was aimed at beating the statute of limitations and preserving South Korea's legal right to compensa-In June 2020, North Korea used explosives to blow up the

South Korean-built liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong after criticising South Korea's failure to stop North Korean defectors from flying anti-North propaganda leaflets across the border using balloons. North Korea shut down the office in January 2020 as it closed its borders over coronavirus concerns, and the building was empty at the time of the detonation. The building's destruction, posed a serious setback to efforts by then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal, to engage with the

Sudan's war displaces over 2 million: UN

AP ■ CAIRO

 $T^{\text{he conflict in Sudan has displaced more than two mil-}}$ lion people, the United Nations said on Wednesday, as a UN official warned that escalating attacks in Darfur city could amount to "crimes against humanity". Sudan has plunged into chaos since mid-April when monthslong tensions between the military and its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into an open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere across the northeastern African

The fighting continued unabated on Wednesday in parts of the capital and the western region of Darfur, both have seen some of the worst battels. At least 959 civilians have been killed and about 4,750 others were wounded as of June 12, according to Sudan's Doctors Syndicate, which tracks civilian casualties. The brutal clashes have forced more than 1.6 million people to leave their homes to safer areas inside Sudan, according to the International Organisation for Migration. About 530,000 others fled to the neighbouring countries of

Egypt, South Sudan, Chad,

Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, and Libya, the agency

The medical group said the toll could be much higher given it was unable to take into account those who were killed or wounded in the ongoing clashes in Genena, the provincial capital of West Darfur. The city's hospitals have been out of service since the fighting erupted there in April, the group said. All of Sudan's 18 provinces

experienced displacement, with Khartoum at the top of the list with around 65 per cent of the total number of displaced people, followed by West Darfur with over 17 per cent, according to the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix.

In Ğenena, the provincial capital of West Darfur, the RSF and allied Arab militias rampaged through the city over the past week, killing and wounded hundreds of people, according to local activists and UN officials. Activists and residents in Genena reported dozens of women were sexually attacked inside their homes and while trying to flee the fighting. Almost all rape cases were blamed on the RSF, which didn't respond to repeated requests



. Operation of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi at GGSMCH, Faridko E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items/services up

fedical College & Hospital, Faridkot 2, Purchase of Books for General Library of GGS Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot 3. Procurement of Multiload CR System and Dry Imager (Printer) 4. Procurement of Sanitary Material required at GGSMH, Faridkot. ers are invited for the procurement of following items/services upt

 I. Up-gradation & re-construction of main entrance gate of GGS Medical Hospital Faridkot 2. External painting including preparation of concrete surface (North Face) of GGS Hospital, Faridkot 3. Rate contract of Medicines and Surgical items required a

ders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tende tion and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in

nil/12/111/2023/25017 Dated CHD :- 6/14/2023

<u>UTTARAKHAND PE</u>YJAL NIGAM

E-Tender Notice 1. Name of the work:- Construction of proposed Mushroom

Spawn Laboratory at Jyolikot for Horticulture Department at Bhimtal, Distt-Nainital. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 31.95 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T.) Period of Completion: - 6 Month

Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 16-06-2023 (17:00 hrs)

Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 08-07-2023 (12:00 hrs) Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam

Online Bid submission: End date: -06-07-2023 (17:00 hrs)

Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place 20-06-2023 (11:00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani.

For further details, details of subsequent Amendment

correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the

e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in **PROJECT MANAGER**

PUBLIC NOTICE i Mr. Ronit Knarbanda S/o Lt. Sn. Pri arbanda, R/o G-8/35, 2nd Floor, Secto nini, North West Delhi-110085, Mrs. Si

arbanda Wo Lt. Sh. Pramod Kharbanda I 8/35, 2nd Floor, Sector 11, Rohini, No sst Delhi-110085, Ms. Shweta D/o Lt. amod Kharbanda R/o G-8/35, 2nd Flo ctor 11, Rohini North West Delhi-110085 a ccor 11, Kohini North West Delhi-11U085 s. Payal Kharbanda D/o Lt. Sh. Prar arbanda R/o G-8/35, 2nd Floor, Sector bhini North West Delhi-110085 have ente o a family settlement on date 09 06 2023 e same was duly stamped and notarized notary public Shahana Parveen (Advocaring registration number 445 and vide id family settlement dated 09.06.2023, ve distributed the properties of Late amod Kharbanda amonast ourselves.

PUBLIC NOTICE that we. Ashok Kumar Sondhi S/o Late Sh. Brii Lal Sondhi and Meenu Sondhi W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Sondhi both

residents of O-8/B, Jangpura Extension Akshat Gupta (Advocate

New Delhi-110014, hereby disown our son namely Mr. Manish Sondhi from all our movable and immovable properties. It is further notified that we will not be esponsible for his future actions or for his debts and liabilities DEVASHISH BHADAURIA (ADVOCATE) -29, Ground Floor, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ



ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈਂਪਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਥਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਬਲਾਕ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਤੀ 26-06-2023 ਤੱਕ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਾ, Term & Conditions ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਇਟ vww.gndu.ac.in→ (Tenders) ਤੋਂ download ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਬੇਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਸ਼ਾਖਾ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ।

कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रवन्धक (अभियन्त्रण)—आर उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए-।/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

अल्पकालान इ—ानावदी सूचना
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विमिन्न जनवर्तो में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत
अनुरक्षण एवं रख-रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विमागों/भार्वजिनक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर
निकार्यों में पंजीकृत एवं अर्ह 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसेन्सी एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से अल्पकालीन
ई—निविदार्ये आमंत्रित की जाती है जो दिनांक 16.06.2023 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 23.06.2023 को
अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे तक अपरानेंड की जा सकती हैं। निविदा को टिनांक 26.0223 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे को
जा जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 30.06.2023 को सार्य 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय
में जामा की जा सकती हैं। ई—निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा संबंधी विदरण निम्नवत है:— 167.49

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

 Upgradation and AMC of electrical system of street light under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at I.A. Bijauli and G.C. Jhansi. 2. Upgradation of electrical system of street light under Atal Industria Infrastructure Mission at I.A. Foundry Nagar, EPIP. Sikandra ABC, Staff Colony Agra.

नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा. अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विरत्तत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई-लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: aरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु.) विद्युत उ.प्र.या.औ.वि.प्रा., कानपुर

143.54

State GST collections growth to moderate to 12-14% in '24: Crisil

¬he growth in aggregate The grown in 1995 GST collection for states is likely to moderate to 12-14 per cent in FY24 from 20 per cent in FY23, domestic rating agency Crisil said on Wednesday.
However, despite the mod-

eration in growth, the GST collections will continue to be the biggest driver of revenue growth for states, the agency's senior director Anuj Sethi said.

...Growth in aggregate state GST collection will moderate from 20 per cent on-year last fiscal to 12-14 per cent this fiscal," he added.

Factors like the resilience of the Indian economy amid global turbulence, moderating inflationary environment, and increasing tax compliance will help the GST collections, Sethi

The rating agency said 18 states that account for 90 per cent of aggregate gross state domestic product may see steady revenue growth at 6-8 per cent to a cumulative Rs 34



lakh crore this fiscal against a 7.3 per cent growth in FY23.

With the withdrawal of GST compensation support and muted sales tax collections and grants, growth this year be predominantly supported by Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, devolutions from the Centre and taxes and duties on liquor sales, together comprising 55-60 per cent of aggregate state revenues, it noted.

Growth in the central tax devolutions pool will moderate to 10 per cent from 13 per cent in the last fiscal, the agency said, adding that this will be among the main driver of rev"While the proportion (of

tions by the Centre," it said. Excise duty and sales tax from liquor sales will also grow healthy at 10-12 per cent, led by increasing consumption as most states have kept their tax structure unchanged, it said.

central tax devolution) is deter-

mined by the Finance

Commission, the overall kitty

is linked with gross tax collec-

States' revenue from sales tax on motor fuel may increase only by a modest 6-8 per cent driven primarily by steady demand for petroleum products, with only a handful of states having announced revisions in their tax structures for motor fuel in their budgets for

"Among the other main reasons for the modest revenue growth overall, would be the marginal growth in grants from the Centre. This includes grants towards Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Finance Commission grants, including those towards post-devolution revenue deficits, based on the budget calculations and Finance Commission stipula-tions," its director Aditya Jhaver said. Jhaver reminded that GST compensation grants from the central government at Rs 90,000 crore last fiscal are no longer available this fiscal as the scheme ended effective June 30,

The agency also said a volatile global economic outlook and its impact on exportlinked sectors could negatively impact the revenue projections, while better-than-expected tax buoyancy, any extension in the GST compensation period, or support from the Centre in the form of higher grants could augment states' collec-

Rupee rises 15 paise to close at 82.10 against US dollar

The rupee gained 15 paise to settle at 82.10 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, helped by robust macro fundamentals, FII inflows and a weak greenback against major rivals overseas.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.28 against the US dollar and settled at 82.10 (provisional), up 15 paise over its previous close amid a positive trend in domestic equities.

During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.08 and a low of

On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 82.25 against the US

"The Indian rupee rose to a one-month high on reports of corporate inflows and positive domestic equities," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Choudhary further added that the weak US dollar also



supported the rupee while some recovery in crude oil prices capped sharp gains. The US dollar declined on rising expectations of a pause in rate hikes by the ÛS Federal

"We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on weakness in the dollar and expectations of a no rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

"A rise in risk appetite in global markets may also support the rupee. However, a postive tone in crude oil prices may cap a sharp upside. We expect the USD/INR spot to trade between 81.60 to 82.50 in the near term," Choudhary

BUSINESS-BRIEFS

VIT-AP ORGANISES BLOOD DONATION CAMP

world blood donation day on Wedneday, VIT-AP University in association with New City Blood bank has organised a Blood Donation Camp on June 14 at its campus. The blood donation camp was inaugurated by SV

Kota Reddy –Vice Chancellor VIT-AP University. More than 100 students / faculty / staff have donated their blood on the occasion. Dr. S.V. Kota Reddy emphasized the need for more such camps given the large Indian population in the country and expressed his satisfaction at the volunteering of students and staff to donate blood for social

NEXT-GEN CRYOABLATION BOON FOR PATIENTS

New Delhi: Cancer patients in India can now heave a sigh of relief thanks to the availability of the cryoablation technology in the country. Cryoablation is a minimally invasive image guided (ultrasound or CT scan) treatment, that uses extreme cold to freeze and accurately destroy diseased tissue within the tumour zone. This technology is the brainchild of an Israeli company, IceCure Medical. Its flagship product, ProSense freezes tumours quickly and with minimal pain. It uses liquid nitrogen (LN2) for maximum freezing, safety, and efficacy NovoMed Incorporation Pvt Ltd is the authorized distributor of IceCure Medical in India

CUTTING-EDGE 'EXPERIENCE CENTRE' IN GURUGRAM

New Delhi: Carysil, a leading global player in the kitchen sinks and appliances industry, unveiled its cutting-edge 'Experience Center' showroom in Gurugram on June 9. It received an overwhelming response from builders, architects, and local dealers and distributors said Carysil Ltd CMD Chirag A Parekh. The flagship showroom aims to redefine kitchen and lifestyle innovation, providing customers with an immersive space to explore premium range of kitchen sinks and

Sensex, Nifty rise on gains in metal, commodity stocks

R ising for the third straight session, equity benchmark indices recovered early losses to end in positive territory on Wednesday, supported by buying in metal, commodity and energy stocks amid encouraging WPI inflation data.

Cautious trading, however, prevailed in the market as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the announcement of the US Fed interest rate decision later in the

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 85.35 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 63,228.51. During the day, it hit a high of 63,274.03 and a low of

The NSE Nifty advanced 39.75 points or 0.21 per cent to end at 18,755.90.

"With improving macros, supported by FII buying, the overall structure of the markets remains positive. Investors would take cues from the outcome US Fed meeting on policy rate and Fed Chair's commentary would hold importance. Also on Thursday ECB

and the Bank of Japan would come out with a policy deci-

"Sectorially it was a mixed bag with Metals and Oil & Gas being top gainers. Metals stocks remained in the limelight after China's central bank cut interest rates and unveiled stimulus measures," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Tata Steel was the biggest gainer in the Sensex chart, rising 2.39 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, Power Grid. Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, Nestle, HUL, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Kotak Mahindra Bank and

In contrast, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Titan were among the laggards. In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.42 per cent and the midcap index advanced 0.20 per cent. Among the indices, metal jumped 1.60 per cent, com-

modities climbed 1.03 per cent, oil & gas (0.88 per cent), energy (0.86 per cent), utilities (0.63 per cent) and power (0.63 per cent).

Financial Services, banks, capital goods, IT and teck were

Nifty index lacks decisiveness due to underperformance from the banking index and we expect this divergence to end soon. Meanwhile, buying in heavyweights like Reliance has played a critical role in keeping the tone positive," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

The wholesale price-based inflation rate fell to (-) 3.48 per cent in May on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items, strengthening the case for continuing with the pause in a rate hike in the coming months of the current fiscal. This is the second straight

month when WPI has been in the negative zone, mainly due to a higher base and falling prices of fuel and manufactured goods. Food prices also eased during May. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo settled in the green. Equity markets in Europe

were trading with gains. The US markets ended in positive "The domestic indices

the laggards. "The domestic indices "The recent recovery in the rebounded after an initial phase

of profit booking, driven by encouraging WPI inflation data and positive global cues, while selling in IT and banking stocks kept a check on gains. The favourable decline in US inflation, driven by lower energy prices, and speculation about a potential pause in the Fed rate hike campaign, brought comfort to global equities.

"However, the persistence of higher core inflation levels may compel the Fed to maintain its hawkish tone during today's policy announcement with an indication of a prolonged pause," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.08 per cent to USD 75.09 a barrel. Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,677.60 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange

Climbing for the second straight session, the BSE benchmark had jumped 418.45 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,143.16 on Tuesday. The Nifty rose 114.65 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 18,716.15. | ment said.

Take action against violators of stock limit order: Centre to States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday directed the state governments to continuously monitor the prices of tur and urad and take action on those violating the stock limit order. This was conveyed in a

meeting -- chaired by Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry -- to review stock disclosure of tur and urad, and the implementation of stock limits by the state governments. The representatives of the

State Food and Civil Supplies Departments, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) were present at the meeting.
"In the meeting, the state governments have been asked

to continuously monitor the prices and verify the stock positions of stock-holding entities and take strict action on those who violated the stock limits order," an official state-



stock-holding entities and stocks in the CWC and SWC warehouses in respect of tur and urad were reviewed in the meeting. The action taken by states

to verify the mismatches between quantities pledged by market players with banks, quantities declared on the stock disclosure portal and the enforcement of stock limits were also discussed with the

"Further, CWC and SWCs were asked to furnish details of tur and urad stocks in their

regular basis," the statement On June 2, the government

imposed stock limits on tur and urad till October 31 to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, besides improving affordability to the consumers. A stock limit of 200 tonne

was imposed on wholesalers; 5 tonne on retailers; 5 tonne at each retail outlet and 200 tonne at the depot of big chain retailers. In the case of millers, the stock limit was the last three months of production or 25 per cent of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher.

Seafood exports rise 4.3% | GTRI calls for simplifying PLI scheme; | Gold declines ₹430; to USD 8 bn in 2022-23

India's seafood exports rose by 4.31 per cent to USD 8.09 billion in 2022-23 on account of a jump in the shipments of frozen shrimp, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday. In volume terms, the

exports increased to 17,35,286 tonnes in the last fiscal against 13,69,264 tonnes in 2021-22. "Frozen shrimp remained

the major export item in terms of both quantity and value while USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood," it said. Frozen shrimp exports increased to USD 5.48 billion

accounts for about 41 per cent of India's total seafood exports in volume terms. The US is the largest mar-

in 2022-23. The sector

Union, South East Asia, Japan, and the Middle East, the min-

exports include black tiger, shrimp, frozen fish, frozen octopus, canned products, and frozen lobster.



China, the European

The other segments which recorded a healthy growth in



It added that the US con-



value terms with an import worth USD 263 billion in the last fiscal. "Exports to the US declined by 21.94 per cent in USD terms due to sluggish

China emerged as the second-largest seafood export

demand," it said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

cautions against misuse by industry

The government should con-I sider simplifying the criteria for grant of fiscal incentives under the PLI scheme while guarding against possible misuse of those support measures by the industry, a report by think-tank GTRI said on Wednesday.

The government has rolled out Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors, including telecommunications, electronics, white goods and pharma with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

Cautioning the government about the possible misuse of the incentives, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said firms may easily manipulate production levels through their supporting manufacturers, group companies or

Sebi issues demand notices to 4 entities

in Fortis Healthcare fund diversion case



contract manufacturers.

Citing an example, the report said the government had to suffer huge revenue loss in the past due to the misuse of a 'Target Plus' scheme during 2003-06.

Departments implementing PLI schemes may study the Target Plus scheme misuse and be vigilant. The risk compounds when incentive is granted on quarterly production," GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

On simplifying the criteria

for grant of PLI incentive, he said the criteria for various sectors include thresholds on

> tick all the boxes. "In most cases, it is difficult to ascertain the actual value of a product or invoice. Doing this makes incentives subjective and delay the settlement of claims. Guidelines should be few and transparent," the report

investments, production, sales,

degree of localization, inputs

used and many more and man-

ufacturers may not be able to

silver plunges ₹620



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined Rs 430 to Rs 60,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid weak trends in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 60,680 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also plunged Rs 620 to Rs 73,500 per kg. "Gold prices edged lower on Wednesday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets

traded at Rs 60,250/10 grams, down Rs 430 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, both gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 1,950 per ounce and USD 23.85 per ounce, respectively.

Gold prices came under pressure after a rally in US Treasury yields and waning expectations that the Federal Reserve will reverse its aggressive monetary-tightening policy this year, Gandhi said.

ket of frozen shrimp, followed Mobility Solutions bags ₹100 cr contract from Indian Railways

Mobility Solutions Ltd (MSL) on Wednesday said it has bagged a contract worth Rs 100 crore from Indian Railways for delivering and installing several essential components for the Vande Bharat Express.

The company is in the process of delivering and fulfilling the order, MSL said in a statement

A part of the diversified JCBL Group, MSL manufactures a broad spectrum of FRP (fibre-reinforced plastic), glassreinforced plastic (GRP), sheet metal and a variety of railway interior solutions.

As per the contract, MSL



would supply eight pieces of nose cone, 16 rakes of interior panelling with toilets and 16 coaches per rake, the company

The entire scope of work includes the development, supply, and installation of FRP interior panels for the roof, side, walls, and partitions, toiwith doors, accessories, roller blinds, and other critical equipment, it said.



stipulated time. The four entities that received notices are -- Fortis Global Healthcare, RHC Finance, Shimal Healthcare and ANR Securities.

The demand notices came

after the entities failed to pay

the fine imposed on them by

make the payment within the

apital markets regulator

Sebi sent notices last week

to four entities asking them to



In four fresh notices dated June 9, Sebi directed them to

pay Rs 4.56 crore, which includes interest and recovery cost, within 15 days. In the event of non-payment of dues, the regulator will recover the amount by attaching and selling their moveable and immovable properties. Besides, they will face attachment of their bank accounts. Also, the regulator takes the route of arrest and detention in prison to

In May 2022, Sebi imposed penalties totalling Rs 38.75 crore on 32 entities, including these four entities in the case related to the diversion of funds of Fortis Healthcare Ltd (FHL) and misrepresentations to conceal the fraud. It levied a fine of Rs 1 crore each on the four entities. The matter goes back to

2018 when a media report came out that the promoters of the listed FHL had allegedly taken massive funds out of the listed company. It also pointed out that Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, the statutory auditor of FHL, had refused to sign on the company's second-quarter results until the funds were When the award was accounted for. announced in March, the

Das presented 'Governor of the Year' Award in London managing this crisis that Das

PTI ■ LONDON

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, who was chosen for the prestigious Governor of the Year Award 2023 earlier this year, has said that central banks at the core of monetary and financial systems have been called to do "heavy lifting" well beyond their traditional man-

Das was conferred the award by 'Central Banking' which definitively covers and analyses issues around the world's central banks and financial regulators following the summer meetings of the organisation in London on



Bank of India Governor is being honoured because he has cemented critical reforms, overseen world-leading payments innovation and steered India through difficult times with a steady hand and wellcrafted turn of phrase. "COVID had a devastating

impact worldwide, and densely populated India looked particularly vulnerable. It was in

had perhaps his greatest impact, appearing as a voice of calm amid the fear, and steering the RBI deftly between intense political pressures on one side and economic disaster on the other," 'Central Banking' said in a statement. "CŎVID-19 was no doubt the biggest crisis Das has faced

so far as RBI chief. But his tenure, which began in December 2018, has been marked by a series of grave challenges, starting with the collapse of a major non-bank firm, moving through the first and second waves of the coronavirus, and then, in 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its inflationary impact," it

SMITH HAPPY TO BE BACK AT EDGBASTON

I ONDON AF

Steve Smith is happy to be kicking off a new Ashes series at Edgbaston, four years after a performance he ranks as the most enjoyable of his 97 Tests for Australia.

The notoriously raucous Birmingham crowd subjected Smith and team-mate David Warner to a volley of boos and jeers in 2019, as the pair made their return to Test cricket following year-long bans for their roles in a ball-tampering scandal.

Some fans even donned cardboard face masks of Smith crying at a press conference during the height of the drama, but the Australian was all smiles by the end of the match.

Australia win that first Test by 251 runs, with Smith making centuries in both innings, scoring 144 and 142, underlining his status as one of the world's best batters. "I think that Test match is

"I think that Test match is probably my favourite out of my career so far, given the circumstances and the importance of a first Ashes Test, particularly away from home," he



said ahead of Friday's series opener in Birmingham.

"I've had a couple of good ones. It would be nice to repeat it again but I'm just going to go out there and go through my routines and do what I need to do, and hopefully I can score some runs and help the team

"Coming back here I've got some wonderful memories and some things I can draw from"

Smith hit 774 runs in just has the potential to cause there in the rankings."

seven innings in 2019, in a series that ended 2-2, averaging a remarkable 110.57, and his ability to build long innings

England plenty of problems

again.

He scored a 31st Test hundred against India during last week's World Test Championship final win at The Oval, but he is not alone as a batting threat.

Australia currently fill the top three spots in the Test rankings -- Smith is at number two behind Marnus Labuschagne and narrowly ahead of the inform Travis Head.

"I think it's cool to see us all at the top of the tree," Smith said.

"I think those two in particular, the improvements they've made over the last four or five years have been exceptional.

"We all do it completely differently, obviously Trav comes out and plays very aggressively and takes the game on. It's sort of a 'see ball, hit ball' mentality.

"Marnus and I probably think our way through situations a little bit differently, but it is cool to see the hard work of those guys pay off and for them to get themselves up there in the rankings."



Broad to play 1st Test

AFP ■ LONDON

England have favoured Stuart Broad's experience over Mark Wood's raw pace for the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston as they named their team on Wednesday.

With James Anderson and Ollie Robinson fit to return to the XI after resting injury niggles against Ireland at Lord's, there was just one spot left in the seam attack for Friday's series opener.

Captain Ben Stokes has previously spoken of his desire to have a bowler with express pace and, with Jofra Archer and Olly Stone on the sidelines, would have been tempted to pick Wood.

But Broad, with 582 Test wickets under his belt, and who led the attack impressively against Ireland, has got the nod.

His selection guarantees another chapter in the 36year-old's storied rivalry with Australia opener David Warner, who floundered badly against Broad in 2019, when the Englishman dismissed him seven times in 10 innings

With spinner Moeen Ali slotting straight in at number eight after agreeing to return to Test cricket, the only question that lingers over the England side concerns the fitness of all-rounder Stokes.

The skipper's longstanding left knee problems have been a source of constant speculation but he has ramped up his participation in training over the past 48 hours, bowling at close to full speed.

Opener Ben Duckett and fellow batter Harry Brook are the only players in the side who will be making their Ashes debuts in Birmingham. England team for first

Ashes Test at Edgbaston:
Ben Duckett, Zak
Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root,
Harry Brook, Ben Stokes
ried rivalry with
opener David
Definition of the state of the st

ANZ

Bracewell to miss ODI World Cup

PTI AUCKLAND

All-rounder Michael Bracewell has been ruled out of this year's ODI World Cup in India after rupturing his Achilles tendon, dealing New Zealand yet another blow ahead of the marquee event.

The big-hitting off-spinner has been sidelined for sixeight weeks after suffering the injury on his right leg on June 9 while playing for Worcestershire Rapids in the English T20 Blast.

Bracewell is scheduled to undergo surgery in the UK on Thursday after which he will start a lengthy rehab that will keep him away from the ODI World Cup, starting in India from October 5.

"Michael's a great team man and has had a fantastic 15

months for New Zealand since his international debut. We've seen his exceptional skills in all three facets of the game and he was shaping as an important player for us at the World Cup in India. "The power that he's got ...

Gives us a little bit of a fear factor," New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said on Wednesday.

"Michael's naturally pretty disappointed, but also pragmatic in acknowledging that injuries are a part of sport and he's now turning his focus to his rehabilitation," Stead added.

Bracewell's injury comes about two months after limited overs skipper and batting maintstay Kane Williamson injured his right knee during the IPL in April.

Brook hopes to realise Ashes dream

AFP ■ LONDON

Batting sensation Harry Brook hopes to make the same impact as England's 2005 Ashes heroes as he prepares to face Australia for the first time in Test cricket.

The Yorkshire batter, 24, has had a remarkable start to his international career, hitting four centuries in his first seven Tests and winning the T20 World Cup.

The first game of the fivematch Ashes series starts at Edgbaston on Friday, with England desperate to reclaim the urn.

"It's definitely a dream come true to be involved in my first Ashes," said Brook. "I was growing up watching the very best players from England and Australia facing each other.

"Obviously the 2005 Ashes was a big one. I can always

remember the over (Andrew) Flintoff bowled to (Ricky) Ponting and KP (Kevin Pietersen) smacking it everywhere against (Shane) Warne and (Glenn) McGrath, those boys.

"They were my earliest

memories. I'm going to go out there and play the way I have done in the last 12 months. I hope that's enough to inspire a few too."

Brook, who averages a remarkable 81.80 in Test cricket, is unfazed about facing the newly crowned Test world champions and their much-vaunted bowling attack.

"They're one of the best teams in the world, coming off the back of a World Test Championship win," he said.

"I'm looking forward to facing those boys, challenging



myself against them and whatever plans they have against me."

Brook's success at the top level is not based solely on weight of runs, but speed of scoring. He boasts a Test strike rate of 99.03 -- a fraction shy of a run a ball -- and shone against spin during England's tour of Pakistan.

Australia have often prioritised attacking English spinners over the years and are likely to do so again with Moeen Ali, with Brook promising Nathan Lyon more of the same.

Asked how he intended to approach a player with 487 wickets to his name, Brook's response was typically blunt.
"What do you think? If he

"What do you think? If he bowls a good ball then I'm going to respect it. Other than that, I'm going to try and take him on," he said.

"He could get a lot of wickets, but hopefully we're going to hit him for a lot of runs. I'd like to think I'm a player who can find gaps and hit different gaps.

Aussies dominate Test rankings

AFP ■ LONDON

A ustralia will head into the Ashes series with their batters occupying the top three spots in the men's Test rankings. In the latest weekly update

from the International Cricket
Council published on
Wednesday, Marnus

of a World Test hip win," he said. oking forward to Labuschagne retains top spot with team-mates Steve Smith and Travis Head just below him.

The last time batsmen from the same side occupied the top three places was in 1984, when West Indies players Gordon Greenidge, Clive Lloyd and Larry Gomes filled the slots.

Smith scored a century in Australia's World Test Championship final win over India last week, while Head rises from sixth after scoring 163 in the same game at The



Joe Root is the highest England batter at sixth in the

Australia spinner Nathan Lyon has moved up to sixth in the bowling rankings after taking five wickets in the match against India.

His captain Pat Cummins remains third, with England's James Anderson second.

The first Ashes Test begins at Edgbaston on Friday.

India to start 2023-25 WTC cycle with WI tour

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India will begin the 2023-2025 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) cycle with the upcoming tour to the West Indies in July and over the next two-year period will play some high-profile bilateral series against Australia and England among others.

India will travel to West Indies next month to play two Test matches in Dominica (July 12-16) and Trinidad (July 20-24). India have been finalists in the first two editions of the WTC, losing to New Zealand (2021) and to Australia (2023) in the final.

The WTC 2023-25 cycle will begin with the Ashes, when England face Australia in Birmingham on Friday.

Birmingham on Friday.

After the tour to Windies,
India's next WTC assignment
will be on away shores against
South Africa between
December 2023 and January



India will host England for a five-match Test series in Jan-Feb 2024. They will then face Ban in Sep-Oct 2024.

Followed by that, India will host England for a five-match Test series in January-February 2024. They will then lock horns with Bangladesh in September-October 2024 At home and immediately after that New Zealand will visit the sub-continent for a three-match Test series in October-November 2024.

After those two relatively easy home schedules, India will travel to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, a five-match series, against Australia between November 2024 and January 2025, which

also marks the end of India's WTC engagements.
Wasim Khan, ICC's

Wasim Khan, ICC's General Manager of Cricket said: "This championship has invigorated Test match cricket, bringing context for players and fans, and a high level of competitiveness as teams battle it out to be crowned World Test Champions at the end of the two-year cycle.

"The big turnout out at The Oval over the five days and the incredible viewership levels across the globe for the final is testimony to the continued popularity of Test cricket."

The structure of the nineteam WTC remains intact with each side playing three home and as many away series over a two-year period culminating in the final of a one-off Test.

The points percentage system used in the previous edition will determine the leader-board with teams getting 12 points for a win, 6 for a tie and 4 for a draw.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S CRICKET

MAIDEN INNINGS:

PNS NEW DELHI

Women's cricket has

gained much traction over the last few years, with the Indian Women's team achieving remarkable success. The book 'Maiden Innings' by Kapil Pathare sheds light on the untold stories of empowering Indian women in cricket. It pays tribute to the unsung heroes of Indian women's cricket, showcasing their endurance, passion, and unwavering commitment to the sport. The book focuses on the newest generation of women cricket stars while also tracing the journey of the six golden girls who revolutionized women's cricket in India. It highlights the achievements of the "India's Final Fabulous Fifteen," inspiring young girls across the nation with their extraordinary feats and invincible spirit.



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CHINA·YUNNAN

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ECONOMY

China's strong economic recovery promises huge market opportunities

"I want to tell the world loud and clear that the Tesla Shanghai Gigafactory is not only one of the most productive factories in the world, but also makes one of the best quality cars in the world... I think the future is bright and worth looking forward to," said Tesla CEO Elon Musk during his visit to China a few days ago.

Not just Musk, many other executives of foreign companies have paid their visits to China in recent

The 19th J.P. Morgan Global China Summit in Shanghai were attended by the CEOs of many American companies, including Starbucks, Earlier, Apple CEO Tim Cook and Gen-

When night falls, colorful

lanterns begin to light up

tourist attractions and vari-

ous venues in China. Admir-

ing these lanterns with their families and friends, people

feel as if they are enjoying a

know that these lanterns

have all come from one

Zigong lanterns, which

are famous all over the

world, originated from the

well salt civilization. In

Zigong, according to incom-

plete statistics, the annual

International Dinosaur Lan-

tern Festival attracts nearly

two million visits, and the

lantern industry brings in an

output value of more than

five billion yuan (US\$ 701.5

million) every year. This

county town is home to over

1,000 lantern companies,

with 100,000-some people

engaged in lantern-related

jobs such as design, produc-

history of more than 1,000

years. Since the first Zigong

Lantern Fair held in early

1964, the county town has

carried forward its unique

"In the past few days,

the trading volume of wild

mushrooms at night has

reached over 10 tons," said Cheng Aili, the general man-

ager of Yunnan Mushuihua

Mushrooms Trading Center.

that after a rain on the af-

ternoon of June 2nd, wild

mushrooms have become

abundant, Approximately 20

tons are available daily, with

people engaging in transac-

Cheng Aili mentioned

Zigong lanterns have a

tion, and operation.

lantern culture.

ECOLOGY

place - Zigong, Sichuan.

However, few people

feast for the eyes.

COUNTY TOWN

eral Motors Chairman and CEO Mary Barra also visited China. These foreign executives' visits to China have shown their staunch confidence in deepening their commitment to the Chinese market

A large number of foreign companies are increasing their investment in China. At the annual meeting of the 2023 China Development Forum held in Beijing in late March, many Fortune 500 and multinational companies revealed their new plans to invest in China.

When interviewed during his visit to China, Starbucks CEO Laxman Narasimhan said that Starbucks has set a goal of opening 9,000 outlets

Luo Zhao, born in 1983,

is already a third genera-

tion successor of Zigong

lanterns. Calling himself a new lantern maker, he still

vividly remember the days

when lanterns were purely

handmade. "Lanterns used

to be made of bamboo and

lighted with tungsten fila-

ment bulbs. They consumed

a lot of electricity and got

hot easily. They became less

When Luo grew up,

lanterns became diversified

in both colors and styles,

Now, at the Zigong Lantern

Fair, energy-saving LED

light source, technologically

bright over time," he said.

Zigong: Lighting

up the night with

lanterns

by 2025 and will continue to invest in China, which will become the company's largest market in the future.

Ola Källenius, Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, said, "We'll continue to invest in China on all fronts, because China's high-quality development and opening up to the outside world is providing us with rare opportunities.' While continuously increasing their investment, foreign companies are further optimizing their industrial layout in China.

Data released by China's Ministry of Commerce shows that from January to April this year, the country's actual use of foreign investment amounted to

499.46 billion yuan (US\$ 70.08 billion), up 2.2 percent year-on-year.

Multinational companies remain bullish on China's economic outlook and hope to share in its economic growth for two reasons. First, China's strong economic recovery promises huge market opportunities. Second, China is providing an increasingly better business environment for foreign companies.

In May, the China Couneil for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) released Research Report on China's Foreign Investment Business Environment in the First Quarter of 2023. The report shows that 80 percent of the interviewed

foreign-funded enterprises reported satisfaction with indicators such as paying taxes, cross-border trade and settlement of commercial disputes, and 97 percent of them rated the foreign investment policies issued by the Chinese government since the fourth quarter of last year as "satisfactory" or above.

Matthew Ye, president of Michelin China, said that over the past 30 years since it entered China, Michelin has witnessed the constant improvement of China's business environment. "China is like a highspeed train opening wider to the outside world. We can deeply feel the strong resilience and huge potential of its economy."



Data released by the General Administration of Customs of China on June 7 shows that in the first five months of this year, China's total volume of imports and exports reached 16.77 trillion yuan (US\$ 2.352 trillion), up 4.7 percent year-on-year. China has achieved a positive yearon-year growth in imports and exports every month since February 2023 and increased imports and exports by 0.5 percent in May

(Staff correspondents)

Chinese modernization provides useful reference

Modernization is a common pursuit of all countries in the world. Since there is no onesize-fits-all model for achieving modernization, each country needs to explore a modernization path in light of its own national conditions.

High-quality development is one of the essential requirements of Chinese modernization. In recent years, China's economie development plans have placed increasing emphasis on improving the quality of development. China's increasing capacity for scientific and technological innovation is an important result of its efforts to promote high-quality development. Today, China has the ability to explore space and deep-sea on its own, has built the world's largest highspeed railroad network and 5G network, and has made successive breakthroughs in frontier fields such as biomedicine and quantum science. China's high-quality development have facilitated real results which are

the world, providing a successful example for other countries. China has always adhered to the vision of people-centered

good for China and good for

development in its pursuit of modernization. China has put forward the concept of whole-process people's democracy, which has diversified the forms of democracy, established more democratic channels, and expanded people's orderly participation in governance at all levels and in all fields. The concepts and practices of China's whole-process people's democracy can also provide useful reference for countries with different social systems to develop democracy.

China is expected to make new achievements on its road of modernization. While achieving its own development goals, it will bring more development opportunities for other

(Marina Ragus, president of the Serbian Parliamentary Friendship Group with China)

Salt- and drought-tolerant wheat variety yields 411 kg per unit area

According to the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB) of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xiaoyan 155, a saline- and drought-tolerant wheat variety newly cultivated by a research team led by academician Li Zhensheng, completed trial production in Huanghua City, Hebei Province on June 5, with a per mu yield of 411.9 kg. Trial production acceptance experts agreed that despite the adverse weather conditions such as strong cold spells in winters of 2022 and 2023, Xiaoyan 155 has proved to be adversity-tolerant and high-yielding.

China has about 100 million hectares of saline-alkali lands, and a tenth of them are worth developing and utilizing. To tap the potential of these lands systematically, the IGDB has set up 20some scientific and technological research teams. Their work includes collecting salinity-tolerant erop germplasm resources, analyzing the molecular mechanism of salt tolerance, selecting and breeding new varieties, developing cultivation technology for saline-alkali lands, and exploring new models of saline soil-based circular agriculture.

team have developed salt- and alkali-tolerant wheat varieties such as Xiaoyan 60 and "Xiaoyan 155. In the originally low-yielding fields in the low plains around Bohai Sea, these new varieties have been planted in more than 270,000 hectares of lands cumulatively, showing fairly good salt-, alkali-, and drought tolerance and significantly in-





On June 8, the second day of the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair, the cultural and creative products as well as intangible cultural heritage products from 32 outstanding Yunnan-based cultural enterprises attracted a large number of visitors to the province's exhibition pavilion. (Yunnan Daily)

Gui Haichao: From small town to space

sophisticated light source, China launched its Shenand interactive light source have added brilliance to the Exquisite craftsmanship, government support, and

traditional advantages have made lanterns a symbol of Zigong. As the times progress, Zigong people have long begun to explore its new models of development. By replacing old forms with new forms and combining lanterns with more display elements, Zigong is lighting up the night across China.

(Staff correspondents)

zhou 16 manned spacecraft on May 30, sending three astronauts, namely Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu, and Gui Haichao, into space for a five-month mission.

Gui, who serves as China's first-ever payload expert to be part of a crewed team, is a professor at Beihang University, This time, he is mainly responsible for the in-orbit operation of the space science experiment payload.

Gui's trip to space has drawn widespread attention in his hometown - Shidian, Yunnan. All Shidian people are happy for Gui, and many of them expressed their amazement, admiration, and pride in their WeChat mo-

ments. When Gui was a sixyear-old herdboy, he used to lie on the hillside and gaze at the stars. Now he is 36 years old, he is ready to "pick the stars" in the sky.

Gui was born in 1986 in Yaoguan Town, a small town about 18 kilometers away from the county town of Shidian County, Baoshan City, Yunnan Province. In 2005, he was admitted to the School of Astronautics, Beihang University, majoring in aircraft design and engineering.

During his senior high school years, to avoid waiting in line and save more time for reviewing his lessons, Gui would go to the dining hall when other students had almost finished their meals. He was always the first to enter the classroom and the last to return to the dormitory. After the lights-out, he would keep reading under the quilt by the light of a torch.

After completing undergraduate studies, Gui went on to pursue his master's and doctor's degrees before going abroad for postdoctoral research. To date, he has got nearly twenty papers published in the world's top academic journals. In 2018, when he was just 31 years old. Gui became a PhD supervisor at his alma mater - Beihang University. According to Jia Yinghong, an associate professor at the School of Aeronautics, Beihang University, Gui was extremely steady during his

doctoral studies: Instead of

seeking quick success, he would take time to study basic theories conscientiously and accumulate steadily, and he always tried hard to get to

the bottom of critical matters. Gui Haichao's younger brother Gui Haiyi said that his elder brother was always a top-performing student

"Being farmers, our parents

during his school years. and that he was not only strict with himself but also patiently helped his younger siblings with their lessons. weren't able to help us with our studies. But they were supportive of us, hoping that we would become useful to society. My elder brother has done more than that," Haiyi

(Staff correspondents)

HERITAGE

Exploring Hani Rice Terraces — a World Heritage site

Wild mushrooms in Yunnan mushuihua Mushrooms Trada World Heritage Site, are (Photo by Yunnan Daily) Yunnan begins wild mushroom season tions, even at three or four in the morning. Owners of restaurants and major agricultural markets all come for

> How are these high-alti-As mushroom vendors increase, there is also a significant number of live streamers selling Yunnan's wild mushrooms using tripods and mobile phones in their live broadcasts.

(Spring City Evening

located in Yuanyang County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. Extending from the top to the foot of the nearly 2,000-meter-tall Ailao Mountain, the rice terraces are of more than 3,000 steps at some places, and the highest ones of them are often hidden in the clouds.

The Hani rice terraces,

tude rice terraces irrigated? How has the traditional irrigation method benefited from modern water conservancy? To uncover the secret behind the Hani rice terraces, our reporters recently came to Yuanyang

"The Hani rice terraces in

Yuanyang cover a total area of about 12, 600 hectares. Located in mountainous areas, they range from 300 to 2,000 meters in altitude, and their core area is 900 to 1,800 meters above sea level, with a maximum height difference of 1,380 meters," said He Yi, director of the Yuanyang County Water Affairs According to He, two

major rivers flow through Yuanyang County, namely the Honghe River and the Tengtiao River. These major rivers consist of 29 tributaries, which indirectly rather than directly provide irrigation water for the rice terraces. In the dry and hot low-latitude river valleys, high temperature facilitates evaporation and lead to abundant minfalls. The min water is stored in evergreen broad-leaf forests and loose sandstones and becomes a constant source of all those mountain springs and streams that flow through more than 600 ditches into the Hani nee terraces. After that, the water returns to rivers, and another cycle begins. "Hani rice terraces are

fed by the min water stored in forests and mountains. Hani people bring water to their rice terraces through a ditch system, establishing a compound ecosystem featuring a virtuous cycle of forests, villages, rice terraces, and water system," He explained. The ditches are

important water conservancy facilities for Hani rice terraces. Today, each village still has its specially designated "ditch man", and villagers follow a traditional farmland area-based water distribution method (using a notched wooden mechanism) to manage water resource and reduce waste of water.

In recent years, Yuanyang has repaired and extended 105 ditches to better irrigate the Hani rice terraces. The county has also built a number of reservoirs and small dams to improve irrigation for 444. 67 hectares of rice terraces. "Water is key to the preservation of the rice terraces," said He.

(Staff correspondents)

2023 Int'l Day of Yoga and China-India Cultural Exchange

Event to be held in Kunming

9th International Day of Yoga. To promote mutual learning between Yunnan and India as well as other South Asian countries and showcase the achievements of China-India cultural and people-to-people exchanges, Yunnan Minzu University is going to hold a series of themed activities in Kunming from June 19 to 21, including the 2023 International Day of Yoga, the China-South Asia Culture and Art Week, and the China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchange Forum.

June 21, 2023 will mark the

With the theme of "Openness, Integration, Innovation and Development", the 2023 International Day of Yoga Opening Ceremony, the China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchange Forum, the China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchange Exhibition, and other relevant

2015, Yunnan Minzu University founded the first Indian yoga college in China - the China-India Yoga College. On the same premises, Yunnan Minzu University also set up its International Taiji College.

(Staff correspondents)

After years of research, Li's

creasing per unit area yield. (Science and Technology

EXCHANGE

2022 Int'l Day of Yoga and China-India Cultural Exchange Event

(Photo by Yunnan Daily)

activities will be attended by more than 40 distinguished guests from home and abroad. As early as on June 13,