OPINION 6

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

NDIA WOMEN TO TOUR BANGLADESH

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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CAPSULE

CHARGES AGAINST NCERT New Delhi: Over 100 eminent academician, including Vice Chancellors and Directors from prestigious institutions like JNU, DU, IITs, IIMs, and Central and State universities have united to counter charges leveled against the National Council of Educational Research and Training.

CHAMBA TENSE AS BOY KILLED OVER AFFAIR

Shimla: Situation in Himacha Pradesh's Chamba district remained tense on Friday after the murder of a 21-year-old man for loving a woman from another community. A mob hurned down the house of a murder accused in Chamba prompting authorities to impose prohibitory orders.

Nehru museum renaming sparks BJP-Cong row

PNS NEW DELHI

The renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society in Delhi as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society has sparked a new battleground between the

BJP and Congress leaders. Located at Teen Murti Bhavan, the museum's name change comes nearly a year after the inauguration of the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

on the same premises.

Detailed report on P4

Manipur arsonists raze Min's house

Total breakdown of law & order, says MoS MEA

PIONEER NEW SERVICE | IMPHAL

The residence of Union Minister of State for External Affairs RK Ranjan Singh in Imphal town was razed to the ground by a mob, according to officials. This shocking incident serves as a scathing indictment of the Biren Singh-led State Government, with the anguished Minister declaring that the "law and order situa-

tion in Manipur has failed".

The gravity of the situation cannot be gauged, especially in the light of recent events, including the burning of two other houses and clashes between the Rapid Action Force of Manipur and the unruly mob.

Throughout Thursday night, the mob wreaked havoc in the town and engaged in clashes with security forces, heightening tensions in the area. The sound of gunfire echoed through the Imphal East district into the early hours of Friday as security forces resorted to firing numerous rounds of tear gas shells



A worker sprays water to douse fire at Union Minister of State for External Affairs RK Ranjan Singh's residence in Imphal on Friday

and mock bombs in an attempt to disperse the angry locals who were protesting the killing of nine civilians on Wednesday. During the confrontation, two protesters and one Rapid Action Force personnel were injured. Officials confirmed that an RAF constable was struck on the head by a stone.

The situation in Imphal remains highly volatile as authorities work tirelessly to restore order and address the deepening discontent among the population. The complete razing of a Union Minister's house underscores the severe breakdown in the law and order situation in Manipur, raising serious concerns about the Government's ability to maintain peace and security in

the region.
Claiming that the "law and order situation in Manipur has failed", Singh said he had constructed his house with prayers and was unable to understand why it was targeted. "Someone tries to vandalize it, demolish it, I feel shocked. I never expect such a kind of attitude and activities from my fellow citizens of this State. I pray to God also not to happen again. This is the second time, the first time, I somehow convinced them and the security protected.... that was in early evening. This time yesterday it was late night, around 10:30. Everything was normal, suddenly crowds

of people came and attacked, l was told," Singh told ANI. Continued on Page 2

TN's former DGP gets 3 years RI for sexually harassing woman IPS officer

PNS CHENNAI

A Villupuram court has sen-tenced former Director General of

Tamil Nadu Police Rajesh Das to three years rigorous imprisonment for

sexually harassing a fellow woman IPS officer and fined him ₹10,000. However, the court granted bail to Das and gave him a 30-day period to file an appeal.

În February 2021, a complaint was filed by a woman IPS officer against Das, alleging that he made sexual advances while they were on patrol duty together, providing security for then Chief Minister,

Edappadi K Palaniswami.

Continued on Page 2

On wane, Biparjoy enters Raj, leaves Guj in tatters

Guj grappling with task of restoring power in 1,000 villages, clearing roads hit by fallen trees

PNS JAIPUR/AHMEDABAD

Cyclone Biparjoy, which wreaked havoc in Gujarat's Kutch and Saurashtra regions, has now extended its impact to Rajasthan, bringing heavy rainfall and causing disruptions across the region. Following its landfall in Gujarat, the cyclone gradually weakened and shifted towards south Rajasthan on Friday, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

The Gujarat Government is currently facing the immediate challenge of restoring electricity in approximately 1,000 vil-



An area is waterlogged after heavy rain following the landfall of the Cyclone Biparjoy, in Kutch district on Friday

lages and clearing roads obstructed by fallen trees.

Although the cyclone weakened after hitting the Kutch coast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning for heavy rainfall in north Gujarat.

Fortunately, no casualties have been reported in Gujarat due to Cyclone Biparjoy.

The heavy rainfall has also affected rail traffic in the North Western Railway zone, resulting in the cancellation of 14 trains. In response to the IMD's alert for heavy rains, the Rajasthan government has temporarily suspended inflation relief camps in the respective districts.

Continued on Page 2

US prioritises Indians' visas ahead of Modi's visit

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/

Days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to the US, Washington has said it is making a "huge push" to process as many visa applications as possible in India. Stating this, US Department of State official

spokesperson Mathew Miller also called it a "top priority" for

the US Government The US Government has also eased norms for Green Cards which will help thousands of Indian technology professionals waiting for permanent residency there.

In a press briefing late on Thursday in Washington, Miller said the consular teams of the US have been making a "huge push" to process visa

applications adding that "there is more that can be done". Meanwhile, reports Washington also said the Biden adminis-

tration has eased norms by releasing policy guidance on the eligibility criteria for those waiting for green cards to work and stay in America.

Yoga for Rejuvenation

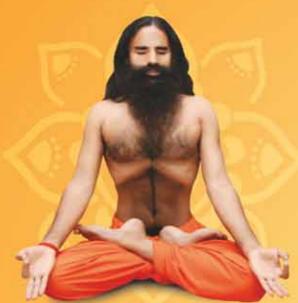
The guidance issued by

the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the eligibility criteria for initial and renewal applications for Employment Authorisation Document in compelling circumstances is expected to help thousands of Indian technology professionals who are in the agonisingly long wait for a green card or

permanent residency.

Continued on Page 2

Yoga for the Era



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5 terrorists killed in Kupwara On wane, Biparjoy...

A heavily armed group of five foreign terrorists, possibly trained in guerrilla warfare, were neutralised by the alert troops of the Indian army near the line of control in Jumagund Nar area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district in the wee hours of Friday.

The joint team of security

forces which participated in the operation have so far recovered five AK series rifles, fourteen grenades, five hundred AK rounds, night vision goggles and other war like stores.

Briefing media persons after conducting the search operations in the area, Major



General Girish Kalia said, "a large number of intelligence inputs were received from various intelligence agencies about likely infiltration of terrorists from across Line of Control. On 15 Jun 2023, a specific intel-

ligence input was received of likely infiltration along Jumagund Nar from Jammu Kashmir Subsequently, a joint operation

by the Indian Army and JKP

was launched in Keran Sector

along the likely routes of infil-

Major General Girish Kalia told reporters, "On 16 June at around midnight hours ambush teams observed five heavily armed terrorists crossing the Line of Control.

The terrorists were engaged by ambush teams along the fence in spite of adverse weather and terrain conditions.

The ensuing fire fight resulted in elimination of five infiltrating terrorists without any collateral damage. The operation continued throughout the night and the detailed search of the area was carried

Opp parties need to forge

unity based on CMP: Pawar

the identity of the terrorists and their tanzeem affiliation is being ascertained.

In a written statement, the defence spokesman also claimed the operation clearly establishes the evil design of terrorist groups which are determined to disrupt peace in Kashmir. It also exposes the facade of false commitment to the ceasefire understanding by Pakistan which has repeatedly been exploited to perpetrate terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

The security forces stand steadfast to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements to disrupt peace and harmony in Kashmir", the defence spokesman added.

Cyclone Biparjoy, which had been intensifying in the Arabian Sea for over 10 days, made landfall near Jakhau Port in Gujarat.

It left behind a trail of destruction in the coastal areas of Kutch and Saurashtra. As the cyclone moved into Rajasthan, it transformed into a deep depression, triggering rainfall in areas including Jalore, Sirohi, Barmer, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, and nearby regions. Wind speeds in some areas reached 40 to 50 km per hour.

Weather department officials predict that rainfall will persist in parts of Rajasthan until Monday. The department has issued a "red" alert for Jalore and Barmer, where over 200 mm of rainfall is expected. Chitalwana in Jalore recorded the highest rainfall of 7 cm since Thursday morning, while other areas received less than 7 cm of rain.

In response to the "red alert," the inflation relief camps have been temporarily suspended in districts under the alert. PC Kishan, the Secretary of the Disaster Management and Relief Department, ensured that advanced preparations were made and directed district collectors to prioritise public safety.

Moreover, MGNREGA

works have been temporarily halted in districts expected to be affected by heavy rains until adverse weather conditions subside.

The weather department issued a "red alert" for extremely heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Barmer and Jalore on Saturday. Jodhpur, Pali, and Sirohi are likely to experience very heavy rains, while Jaisalmer, Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Dungarpur may receive substantial rainfall. The "red alert" extends to Barmer, Jalore, Pali, and Sirohi on Sunday, with the possibility of very heavy rains in Jodhpur, Nagaur, Ajmer, Rajsamand, Bhilwara, and Udaipur. Additionally, heavy

rains are expected in Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Bundi, and Tonk districts.

To ensure public safety, 30 rescue teams have been deployed in the districts under the alert, with an additional 22 rescue teams on standby at district headquarters, as confirmed by SDRF commandant Rajkumar Gupta.

Advance planning and a mass evacuation effort involving over one lakh individuals contributed to the achievement of "zero casualties" in Gujarat, according to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. In a Press release, he said the restoration of electricity is underway, with 1,127 teams working in districts including Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Morbi, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Rajkot, and Porbandar. Additionally, the forest department teams have cleared 581 fallen trees from

Relief Commissioner Alok Kumar Pandey emphasised that there were no reported deaths related to the cyclone in the State, considering it the Government's achievement." Among the 1,09,000 persons relocated from coastal areas to temporary shelters, there were 10,918 children, 5,070 senior citizens, and 1,152 pregnant

Cyclone Biparjoy made landfall near Jakhau along the Saurashtra-Kutch coasts on Thursday at around 6:30 pm, bringing incessant rains and wind speeds reaching 140 kmph. By 2:30 am on Friday, the landfall concluded, resulting in extensive damage from heavy rainfall ranging from 100-185 mm and strong winds up to 95 kmph in various parts of Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot, and Morbi districts in the Saurashtra region, according to the State **Emergency Operation Centre** (SEOC). A total of 175 talukas across the state received some amount of rainfall throughout

the day.

The cyclone had a signif-

State power utility Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited, with 5,120 electricity poles damaged. As a result, approximately 4,600 villages were left without power, but efforts have led to the restoration of electricity in 3,580 villages. Additionally, 23 individuals sustained injuries due to cyclone-related incidents, and numerous houses were damaged. The Relief Commissioner clarified that the deaths of a father and son, who tragically lost their lives while trying to rescue their goats in a flooded ravine in the Bhavnagar district, were not considered cyclone-related

icant financial impact on the

The cyclone caused the closure of three state highways due to damage, while 581 trees were uprooted. Nine pucca houses and 20 kutcha houses collapsed, with two pucca houses and 474 kutcha houses suffering partial damage. Moreover, 65 thatched houses were destroyed, and the government is preparing to provide immediate compensation to those who have suffered losses.

since the district was unaf-

fected by the cyclone.

During the landfall, several low-lying areas in the coastal districts experienced coastal districts experienced inundation due to a storm surge, with tides reaching up to eight meters. Fallen trees and electric poles could be seen every 100 or 200 meters along the Mandvi-Jakhau highers to the will see of highway. In the village of Kacha near Mandvi, approximately 25 kutcha houses were damaged. Shelter homes have been accommodating 400 people from Salaya and other coastal villages for the past four days. In Mandvi town, 30 trees and 20 electric poles were uprooted, causing power outages since 4 pm on the previous day. Residents reported that their thatched roofs were blown away, resulting in the flooding of their houses.

Modi joins singer Falu for special song on millets

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has collaborated with Grammy Award-winning Indian-American singer Falu for a special song to promote the benefits of millets and their potential to alleviate world hunger. The 'Abundance in Millets' song, performed by Mumbai-born singer-song-writer Falguni Shah known more by her stage name Falu and her husband and singer Gaurav Shah, is set for release on June 16 across streaming platforms.

The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Governing Bodies, as well as by the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly.

"Prime Minister Modi has written a song with me and my husband Gaurav Shah," Falu

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against 13 people, includ-

ing 10 foreigners, in the India-Sri Lanka illegal

drugs and arms trade case relating to attempts to

revive the terror group LTTE in the two countries,

chargesheeted on Thursday under various sections

of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act and the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances Act include three Indians

Lankan nationals - C Gunasekaran, Pushparajah,

Mohammad Asmin, Alahapperumaga Sunil

Ghamini Fonseka, Stanly Kennady Fernando,

Dhanukka Roshan, Ladiya , Vella Suranga,

April this year, the others were arrested in

December last year. The NIA had filed the case

suo motu on July 8 last year and arrested the 13

men had conspired for exploiting the illegal drugs

trade for funding, amassing and stashing weapons

for the revival of LTTE in India and Sri Lanka.

Salim, who is suspected to be residing in Pakistan,

While Vicky and Nandhu were arrested in

The spokesperson said the charge-sheeted

The drugs were being sourced from one Haji

Thilipan and Danarathnam Nilukshan.

Selvakumar M, Vigneshwara Perumal and

The official identified the remaining 10 as Sri

an official said on Friday.

Iyyapan Nandhu.



told PTI ahead of the song's release. She said the song, written in English and Hindi, will be made accessible to everybody and highlights the power

"Falu and Gaurav Shah will release the track 'Abundance in Millets' featuring the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 16, 2023 in celebration of the International Year of the Millets. 'Abundance in Millets' was created to raise awareness of the super grain as another potential key to minimising world hunger," said a statement on Falu's website. "Abundance in Millets" a song inspired by PM @narendramodi 's proposition to the @UN to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Honored to collaborate with him, write a song to promote millets, help farmers grow it & help end world unger," Falu tweeted.

Responding to her tweet, Prime Minister Modi wrote, "Excellent effort @FaluMusic! There is abundance of health and well-being in Shree Ann or

ferent at the national level," the NCP chief asserted. Informing that he would put forth his view in the meet-**NIA** chargesheets 13 ing of opposition parties to be held in Patna in Bihar on June 23, in LTTE revival case Pawar said, "All non-BJP parties need to sit together and think about forging opposition unity on the basis of a common min-

PTI ■ JALGAON

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on

Friday said he would persuade all

Opposition parties to forge unity

based on a common minimum

programme to provide an alter-

native to the Narendra Modi

Government at the Centre.

Talking to reporters here, the

Opposition stalwart said the

Bharatiya Janata Party had been

rejected in a majority of the States

where it was ruling, adding that

the saffron party had toppled

elected Governments to grab

power. "If the people have reject-

ed the BJP at the state level, their

(citizens) view will not be any dif-

imum programme."
"The BJP made big assurances, raised expectations of people but did nothing. It is time to provide an alternative," the former Union minister said.

Queried on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi led by Telangana Rao speaking about making inroads into Maharashtra, Pawar said the Congress-NCP alliance had faced reverses in the 2019 polls due to the presence of Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA).

"Even though all parties have the right to expand their base in any state, it remains to be seen if the BRS is a B team (of the

BJP)," he said. Rao opened a party office in Nagpur on Thursday and had said the BRS would expand its base in Maharashtra to fight upcoming polls on its own strength. Asked about the Uniform Civil Code, Pawar said

there was need for a population control law for all citizens irrespective of caste and religion, but one needs to know whether the UCC is "targeted at a particular community" and "then we can speak (on it)".

Queried on the newly-elected Congress government in Karnataka removing chapters on Hindutva ideologue late VD Savarkar and RSS founder Keshav Hedgewar from school books, Pawar said the Congress had promised such a move in its Assembly poll manifesto.

The Congress there had promised to remove chapters that impact social unity, he said.

If the people of Karnataka have voted them to power, it means they agree with the Congress' view, Pawar added.

On the acrimony created by an advertisement that appeared in several dailies on Tuesday claiming that a survey showed Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was more popular than his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, the NCP leader said it had cleared a misunderstanding that the BJP had a big role in the ruling dispensation.

'The advertisement played a historical role in creating awareness about the fact. Similarly, the print media benefited," he said in a swipe at the Shinde-Fadna government.

W war of words erupted over a newspaper advertisement that projected Shinde as being more popular in the state than his deputy Fadnavis.

The full-page advertisement, which also had a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appeared in major newspapers in the state on Tuesday, citing a "survey" that showed Shinde was ahead of Fadnavis in popularity. The advertisement, which did not have pictures of either Fadnavis or Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray, fuelled talks about a possible rift among the

TN Guv opposes Min Balaji's continuance in **Stalin Cabinet**

CHENNAI/NEW

fresh row Atresii ... out Ravi and the

DMK Government in Tamil Nadu on Friday over the issue of V Senthil Balaji staying in the Stalin Cabinet after his arrest, with the Governor opposed to the Minister's continuance in office. A Chennai court, meanwhile, granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) eight days' custody of Balaji, who was arrested on Wednesday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in an alleged cash for jobs scam in the State transport department when he was the Transport Minister in the AIADMK

Manipur.

The Minister, who is in

Kerala, said when the house was on fire, the fire brigades could not enter the place as people created blockages.
"I do not know why they are attacking. There is no

reason. In the whole process, I am trying to bring peace, negotiating...my senior Ministers and colleagues to In the meanwhile, this kind of unwanted incident happened. If my sons and daughters and family happen to be here...that burning and throwing of petrol, it seems to affect my life also," he said.

"Law and order condition in Manipur is a total failure. The existing Government could not maintain peace. That's why the central Government has sent a lot of protections and Rapid Action Force. I don't know how the State mechanism is a failure, I feel like that," he added.

The Minister had told ANI earlier that about 50

miscreants had attacked his

"It is extremely sad to see what happened last night. I was told that more than 50 miscreants attacked my home. Damage has been done to the ground floor and the first floor of my residence. Neither me or anybody from my family was present during that time. Thankfully, nobody got

Meanwhile, protesters at Nongmeibung and Wangkhei blocked the main streets by piling up stones and construction materials and engaged in pitched battles with security forces, they said.

"I am trying to bring peace and stop violence since May 3 (when ethnic clashes began in the state) ... this is all a misunderstanding between two communities. The Government has set up a peace committee, the process is on. Civil society leaders are sitting together," said Singh, who is currently in Kochi to attend a party programme.

the official said, adding the accused persons had transactions using Crypto platforms were also been using various foreign WhatsApp numbers unearthed between the accused कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, शिवपुरी (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/न.पा.प./निविदा/23/3542

persons from Tamil Nadu.

शिवपुरी, दिनांक :- 08.06.2023

नगर पालिका परिषद शिवपुरी

to carry out the clandestine trade.

cards were seized from them."

"Investigations in the case had exposed their

The official said the accused were using the

The NIA also seized various digital devices,

The spokesperson said the cash and gold

conspiracy to fund the revival of LTTE through

drug trade. They were arrested at the Trichy

Special Camp (Tamil Nadu)," the spokesperson

proceeds of crime to live a lavish life. "Several

mobile phones with pre-activated Indian SIM

documents relating to drug transactions, cash to

the tune of Rs 80 lakh and nine gold bars during

the course of the investigations, the official said.

were proceeds from the sale of narcotics and

were being channelled through hawala net-

works between Chennai and Sri Lanka. Several

Email: cmoshivpuri@mpurban.gov.in // निविदा सूचना //

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा

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US prioritises Indians' visas ahead of...

From Page 1

A green card, known officially as a permanent resident card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.

Îmmigration law provides for approximately 140,000 employment-based green cards to be issued each year. However, only seven per cent of those green cards can go to individuals from a single country annually.

The USCIS guidance outlines specific requirements that applicants must meet to be eligible for an initial EAD based

on compelling circumstances.

These include being the principal beneficiary of an approved Form I-140, being in valid non-immigrant status or authorised grace period, not having filed an adjustment of status application, and meeting certain biometrics and crimi-

nal background requirements. Further, USCIS will exer-

cise discretion to determine whether an applicant demonstrates compelling circumstances justifying the issuance of employment authorisation.

"These measures are a significant step towards supporting individuals facing challenging situations and ensuring their ability to work lawfully in the United States," said Ajay Bhutoria, a prominent community leader and advocate for immigrant rights.

He highlighted the importance of these measures for individuals and their dependents who find themselves in challenging situations such as serious illness or disability, employer disputes or retaliation, significant harm, or disruptions to employment.

Bhutoria said the nonexhaustive list of qualifying circumstances, as provided by USCIS, offers individuals an

opportunity to present evidence supporting their case.

Government during 2011-15.

For instance, individuals with approved immigrant visa petitions in oversubscribed categories or chargeability areas may submit evidence like school or higher education enrollment records, mortgage records, or long-term lease records to demonstrate compelling circumstances," he said.

This provision can prove crucial in situations where families face the potential loss of their home, withdrawal of children from school, or the need to relocate to their home country due to job loss, Bhutoria added.

Foundation of India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), which has been advocating for laid-off H1-B workers, applauded USCIS for taking such a step that would help a large number of Indian IT

professionals. "I really feel proud that a

sustained advocacy for more than six months started reflecting in considerations and adjustments by USCIS," said Khanderao Kand from FIIDS.

Last week, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti while speaking at the US Embassy in India highlighted the strength of India and the United States relationship, adding that more Indian students throng the United States than students from any other country.

"One out of every five US students' visas was issued here in India in 2022. One out of five in the world, which is more than the proportion of the Indian population in the world. So, Indians have not only pursued an education in the United States but for decades have shown their excellence in the United States and we are on track to process the highest number of visa applications in our history," Garcetti added.

TN's former DGP gets 3 years RI for sexually ...

From Page 1

Upon receiving the complaint, the AIADMK Government suspended Das and formed a six-member committee to conduct an investigation.

"The prosecution has recorded statements from 68 individuals, including police personnel. The officer has the option to file an appeal and seek immediate bail," a member of the prosecution team stated.

During the 2021 elections, this issue gained significant attention, with the leader of the Opposition at the time, MK Stalin, assuring the public that due legal process would be followed and appropriate punishment given if his party came to

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BJP accuses Atishi of defaming India abroad

Rahul, Atishi remarks need not be taken seriously: Puri

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Acontroversy erupted after AAP leader and Delhi Education Minister Atishi said that while the number of billionaires had grown in India between 2020 to 2022, the number of hungry people in India has gone by from 19 crore in 2020 to 35 crores in 2022. The BJP hit back at Atishi for her comments and said that the AAP Minister had moved from "criticising the BJP to criticing the country." Taking a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as well as Atishi over their statements abroad, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said their remarks need not be taken seriously.

"We are told that India has the largest number of growing billionaires. That the number of billionaires grew from 102 to 166 between 2020 to 2022. But there is another figure that also grew from 2020 to 2022 and that is the number of hungry people in the country. Those who do not have food,"



said Atishi while addressing a conference at the Cambridge India Conference on 'India at 100: Towards Becoming a Global Leader,' hosteď y Cambridge Judge Business

The Delhi Minister further pointed out that although we are often told that India's Gross Domestic Products has crossed the \$3.5 trillion mark and it is the fastest-growing G20 economy, the reality is more worrying and requires immediate attention. One key indicator of the country's situation is the Human Development Index, where India ranks 132 out of 191 countries. Several smaller countries or countries



considered comparable to India, such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, have higher ranks in this index.

"It is often highlighted that India has the largest number of growing billionaires, with the number increasing from 102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022. However, another figure during this period is the number of hungry people in the country, which grew from 19 crores to 35 crores. This is alarming considering that India is the second-largest producer of food in the world. Despite this, it has the largest number of malnourished or undernourished

people, she added.

The Education Minister

narrative of a growing and shining India, there is also the reality that 140 crores of people in this country do not have access to education, healthcare, nutrition, or employment. The richest 1% of the country owns 40% of India's wealth, while the bottom 50% of the population owns only 3%. Thus, while the GDP may be growing, it is primarily benefiting the richest, while the majority of the population suffers. This has led to situations where people have to choose

their last available asset." She added that the NSS survey last year revealed that 17% of the population had to make catastrophic expenses to ensure their family members received treatment.

between saving a family mem-

ber's life through treatment or

The BJP was quick to respond and said Atishi had joined Rahul Gandhi and "other Opposition party leaders who are criticising India." BJP said in its tweet that "some Opposition leaders did not like India's ple opposing the country was only growing."

The people of Delhi and the country will not forgive her who went abroad and defamed the country by presenting false figures. This reflects her ideology, her culture and her Marxist thinking," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

'The whole country wants to know from Atishi that from where she has brought the figure of 35 crore hungry people. The leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party, who call themselves staunch patriots, have left no stone unturned to embarrass the country," he said. "The entire opposition is not happy with India moving forward First Rahul Gandhi and now Atishi Marlena, the list of antinational propogandists is getting longer," he added.

Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that AAP leaders are following Rahul Gandhi. "Atishi did the same thing which Rahul done during his visit aboard. Actually, AAPians are leftist," he said.

Biparjoy spillover felt in city, rain **lashes Capital**

The impact of cyclone Biparjoy, which made landfall Thursday evening at Gujarat's Jakhau port, was felt in parts of Delhi and surrounding areas as strong winds and rains hit the national Capital Friday afternoon.

A sprightly shower accompanied by gusts of wind provided a much-needed succour to the national capital which had been reeling under sweltering heat for days.

However mild, the rain left several areas submerged in water and traffic out of gear on many stretches in Delhi. Traffic was affected on the NH-48 IGI Airport stretch due to water-logging near the Rangpuri intersection and also on Captain Gaur Marg on the stretch between Modi Mill and Laipat Nagar after an uprooted tree obstructed the way, said Delhi Traffic Police.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s regional forecasting centre, said Delhi witnessed light rainfall under the influence of the cyclone, a fresh in Ashram.



western disturbance and moisture-laden southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea which will reach the capital after crossing Rajasthan and south

However mild, the rain left several areas submerged in water and traffic out of gear on many stretches in Delhi. Visuals surfaced from parts of Delhi, including Feroz Shah Road, Kartavya Path, RK Puram among other places and some parts of Noida, showing people embracing the rain and enjoying the much-needed break from the scorching

A video on Twitter showed a severely waterlogged flyover

Probe sought against **Special Secy Vigilance STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Acting Speaker of Delhi Assembly, Rakhi Birla and MLA Prakash Jarwal, a member of the SC/ST Committee and MLA on Friday demanded an investigation against Special Secretary (Vigilance and Services) YVVJ Rajasekhar, of demanding a bribe of 5 to 10 lakh rupees in exchange for a job opportunity on compassionate grounds from one Nakul

The AAP leaders also demanded the Delhi Police to arrest Rajasekhar and provide security to Nakul.

Explaining the sequence of events, Birla, said that Nakul 's father, an employee of the Health Department of the Delhi Government, had tragically passed away while on duty. Left grappling with emotional and financial hardships due to his father's demise, Nakul approached Rajasekhar's office, appealing for a job on compassionate grounds to provide much-needed support for his family. Shockingly, the officer demanded a bribe of 5 to 10 lakh rupees in exchange for the job, resorting to verbal abuse and invoking derogatory caste-based slurs when Nakul refused to

Civic amenities plaint by Delhiites up: Report

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

omplaints by citizens about Ccivic amenities in the national Capital have increased on issues ranging from sewerage, waste management and air pollution, the Praja Foundation in 'The report on Status of Civic Issues in Delhi, 2023,' said on Friday. The report aims to understand growing problems of solid waste management (SWM), sewerage treatment, air and water quality, that impact Delhi's climate change. The report said rising con-

cerns have seen a 36% increase in number of overall citizen complaints from 3,30,099 in 2019 to 4,47,468 in 2022. Notably, sewerage-related complaints significantly rose by 75%, escalating from 78,997 in 2019 to 1,38,545 in 2022.

Additionally, complaints rose by 39% from 35,679 in 2019 wards are carrying out 100% to 49,492 in 2022. "The SWM segregation at source." said,



Rules 2016 by the Union Government mandates effective collection and segregation of waste at source.

However, there is a need for Municipal Corporation of Delhi(MCD) to improve - for instance, although MCD claims 100% door-to-door collection, complaints related to 'garbage not collected' increased by 285% from 1,068 in 2016 to 4,117 in Moreover, there is a lack in

source segregation as the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). SWM Action plan states, as of February 2023, out

Milind Mhaske, CEO, Praja Foundation.

"Along with the SWM Rules 2016, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) recommends the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) system to reduce waste generation, process waste at source and reduce waste sent to landfills.

However, in 2021-22, only 46% of the total waste generated was processed in MCD facilities. Moreover, the waste sent to MCD landfills increased from 51% in 2019-20 to 54% in 2021-22. To achieve the target of clearing all landfill sites by December 2024, MCD should focus on reducing amount of fresh waste sent to landfill and explore decentralised methods of waste management." added Mhaske.

Yamuna River is highly polluted due to the large amounts of untreated waste released various other industrial wastes

DU's East campus likely to be ready in 2026: VC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Vice Chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh on Friday said the construction of the Delhi University's East Campus is expected to start next year and it is likely to be ready in 2026. The Delhi University has sent a proposal to the central government for funding for the construction of the East campus.

The university that currently has two campuses --North and South -- had announced expansion plans a few years back. The plans envisaged the construction of East and West campuses to introduce more courses and a centre for law. It will not only help reduce administrative burden on the north and south campuses but also spur higher education opportunities in the region.

"The construction of the is underway. We have applied for funding with the Government of India," Singh said. He added that the aim is to develop the East Campus on the lines of the North and South campuses.

The vice chancellor said construction of the East campus is expected to be completed by 2026-end and "we are planning to start law programmes there The identified land is located near the Karkardooma district courts complex and is accessible by both Blue and Red lines of Delhi Metro.

On benefits of the expansion, Singh said, "It will not only provide more opportunities for higher education but also help manage administrative work."

The Delhi University has planned for the West Campus in Roshanpura near Nagafgarh. It had said that this will cater to students hailing from rural areas of Delhi and Haryana. Singh, however, said that at prenext eight months. The process construction of the West

Saurabh seeks extra water from Centre, UP, Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj wrote to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena urging him to support Delhi Government's demand of additional raw water allocation from Central Government, governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. In his letter, he also urged Lt Governor, who is the boss of the Delhi Development Authority, to provide NOC (no objection certificates) from the authority related to tubewells/lakes and waterbodies to that water augmentation projects can be com-

Delhi has a deficit of nearly 300 MGD and the gap will increase further due to upcoming Central Government and neighbouring States for availability of Drinking water through Yamuna and Ganga. "We have been continu-

ously following up with the Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for water requirements of people of Delhi, however, there has been no positive outcome. As Uttar Pradesh was using its water for agricultural needs the treated effluent would have served their purpose. However, after initial discussions even this proposal was not accepted by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. We have not yet received any support from the Govt. of India, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh or the Govt. of Harvana in terms of additional raw water", Bharadwaj said in the letter. "You are requested to use your good office to get additional raw

Bharadwaj said DDA has

develop Bhalswa lake but also withdrawn NOC for tube well installation around the lakes. DJB has proposed to install 150 tube wells around Bhalswa Lake which is expected to augment 15-20 MGD of Drinking water. DJB has also arranged 20 MGD treated water from New Coronation STP to replenish the aquifer of Bhalaswa lake.

"DJB is facing similar issue in getting permission for installation of tubewells from DDA. DJB has been writing to DDA regarding permission of tube-wells on different land pockets of DDA since Feb., 2023. These stretches are scattered in different parts of Delhi. Regular reminders have been given in the Month of March, 2023-June,2023. DJB has applied for total 401 Tubewells but DDA has 110 numbers so far," reads the

Harrowing scenes of escape haunt fire survivors

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

day after the Mukherjee Nagar Acoaching institute fire, harrowing scenes of escape haunt the survivors, flashing by before their eyes the moment they lie down to go to sleep. Brijesh Kumar, 22, a UPSC aspirant from Bihar, was too traumatised to sleep properly.

"I came here from Bihar in February. I was in the class when the incident happened. I have sinusitis and was not able to breathe properly due to the smoke. I sat on a chair with my face covered. Later I came upon the idea to rush to the terrace to escape the fire. This is how I came out of the building," said Brijesh, one of the about 300-350 students who were taking a class in the five-storey building which caught fire Thursday.

"My family got to know about the incident and gave me a call. I told them I was fine. I was shivering and could not sleep the whole night," he said. Students from the are held a protest till 6 am Friday demanding police to let them inside the building.

team of the Dakshin

Ateam of the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (DHBVN)

were allegedly attacked by a few people in Dharampur village during a drive against electric-

ity theft following which an FIR

was lodged at the local police

station, an official said of

filed by Sub-Divisional Officer

Vikram Singh Parmar, the inci-

According to a complaint

STAFF REPORTER

GURUGRAM

Villagers attack power team

during anti-electricity theft drive

Mukherjee Nagar blaze



Joginder Yadav, another 22-yearold coaching student in Mukherjee Nagar, said the students were demanding to be let inside the building to ensure none of their own was still

"A woman here Thursday evening told us her neighbour in PG had been missing since the incident. We also got to know that the three rooms are still locked," Yadav said. Concurring with him, V M Jha, a student from Bihar studying at another coaching centre, wondered if there were no casualties why were police not letting them go

dent occurred on June 14 when

the team reached the residence

of one Sharma Kishore to check

to kill them. He also called a

few people of the village and

together beat up the members

of the DHCVN team and also

pelted stones at them. They

damaged a vehicle of the team

and warned them not to enter

the village in future," Parmar

said in the complaint.

part of the drive.

inside the building.
"When there was nothing inside the building, then why the authorities stationed 10 to 12 ambulances here in the night? The locked rooms should be opened. A girl who had come from Bihar this week is missing since the incident," Jha said. Police at length allowed five people to go inside the building. However, Jha and other students alleged all of them were locals and not students.

A woman, who was present at the spot and refused to give her name, said she was one of the five people who went inside the build-"The five of us were not known to each other. When we entered the ground floor, we saw burnt electric wire and there was also some smell. There were two locked rooms on the first floor. We went to all floors and saw items strewn about. There is an office of a chartered accountant on the fourth floor which was closed," she said.

Coaching institutes in Mukherjee Nagar remained shut on

Vet fire safety status of

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of the fire that broke out in a coaching centre in Mukherjee Nagar area here and asked the authorities to examine the safety status of such institutes in the

A bench of Justices Jasmeet Singh and Vikas Mahaian took note of a news report of Thursday's incident which saw students of the coaching institute smash windows and climb down ropes in desperate attempts to escape.

Issuing notice in the matter, the bench asked the Delhi Fire Service Department to examine the fire safety certificate of all coaching centres in the city and asked it, as well as the Delhi Police, to state its stand. Similarly, it also asked the

Municipal Corporation of Delhi to look into the sanctioned building plans of such establishments. "Issue notice.. Counsel for Delhi

Police and Delhi Fire Services will place their respective stands within two weeks from today," the court said.

Delhi government standing coun-

sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi said the safety of students cannot be compromised. The city government was also represented by advocate Rishikesh Kumar. The court directed that the matter be listed before a bench headed by the high court chief justice on July 3 for further directions.

In the fire incident, a few students suffered minor injuries while climbing down the building using ropes. A preliminary inquiry suggested that the fire started from an electricity metre board in the five-storey building, officials

According to the police, around 250 students were attending classes at the building -- Bhandari House -- at the time of the incident. The panicstricken students were seen climbing down from the top floor of the building with the help of ropes as smoke billowed out of the windows.

Ropes on the other side of the building were also used by the students to come out of the premises. Some of them were seen throwing down their bags and helping one another. Mukherjee Nagar is a coaching hub for government job aspirants.



Be Alert! Be Aware! Stay Safe It is informed that general public and residents of villages situated on the

banks of River Yamuna such as Maharani Bagh, Chilla Gaon, Nanakpura, ITO, Shastri Nagar, Pandav Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Geeta Colony, Laxmi Nagar, Garhi Mandhu, Sonia Vihar, Majnu Ka Tila, Shastri Park, Chauhan Patti, Harampur, Gandhi Nagar, Pusta, Loha Pul, Ganesh Nagar etc. are herby informed that high tenson power lines of 765000, 400000 and 220000 volts are passing nearby your village. It has been observed that these high-tension power lines are often getting tripped due to kite flying which causes loss to the public due to disruption in electricity supply.

It is also informed to all of you that this Banned Chinese Majha/Kite String may also prove to be fatal if it touched the power line. Artificial kite strings have caused many total accidents in the past. Both Buying and selling of this Banned Chinese Majha/Kite String is an offence under

law and can be punishable with fine or imprisonment or both if caught. Therefore, the general public and all the villagers are requested not to let children or relatives fly kites near these high-tension power-lines POWERGRID will not be liable for any accident or loss of life or property related to this Kite flying activity.

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Influencers Meet to raise awareness about using, protecting public spaces of streetscaped areas that includes well-designed their followers to witness the

the electricity connection as The Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) will "Kishore started abusing the team and even threatened

host an 'Influencers' Meet' on Saturday to raise awareness among people about using and protecting public spaces of the newly streetscaped areas. According to officials, as many as 30 social media influencers will assemble for Saturday's event and raise awareness through their handles.



has 1400 km of road under its jurisdiction, while other roads are under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority. The government has car-

ried out beautification of roads

for walkers, development of green stretch through plantations, creation of open air sitting areas, cycle tracks, selfie points, public facilities like water ATMs, toilets and street furniture, the officials said.

pedestrian-friendly footpaths

The PWD's Streetscaping division has connected with various social media influencers across Delhi. The agency has invited the influencers and

streetscaped areas at Sri Aurobindo Marg and understand the need to preserve the same, they said.
"Different stretches of Delhi have been specifically

designed keeping in mind the need for adequate spaces required for pedestrians, avid cyclists, or fitness enthusiasts," said Vinay Sheel Saxena, Executive Engineer, Street Scaping Division (PWD).

NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Renaming sparks BJP-Cong war

The renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society in Delhi as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society has opened a new battleground between BJP and Congress leaders.

Located at Teen Murti Bhavan, the museum's name change comes nearly a year after the inauguration of the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on the same premises. Teen Murti Bhavan was the official residence of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Jairam Ramesh accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP of attempting to diminish the contributions of the country's first Prime Minister.

"Those who do not have any

attempt to change the name of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library cannot undermine the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the visionary architect of modern India and a fearless guardian of democracy," tweet-

He further criticised the BJP-RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), referring to the BJP's ideological mentor. Mr. Ramesh took a dig at

PM Modi's self-proclaimed title of "Vishwaguru" (world teacher). He tweeted, "What won't Mr. Modi do to distort, disparage, and destroy the name and legacy of the architect of the Indian nation-state? A small, small man burdened by his insecurities is the self-styled Vishwaguru."

The BJP defended the renaming of the museum and

conduct common Annual

Confidential Reports (ACR) of

senior officers. At present, the

exercise is done separately by each service. The proposed

common report will enable

seamless cross service posting of

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that, I, Kundan Lal Bhalla, S/o Sh. Saudagar Mal R/o N-38, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110027, have severed all My Relations with My Son Sh. Rana Pratap Bhalla and his Wife and descendants due

to his continuous misconduct and threatening behaviour. I hereby irrevocably, unconditionally

behaviour. I hereby irrevocably, unconditionally and irreversibly declare that I disown and debar the said son from all my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. Rana Pratap Bhalla and his wife will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities. We shall not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Rana Pratap Bhalla his wife and descendants.

FORM NO. 3

[See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3)

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)

1st Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector 17 A, Chandigarh (Additional

space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA/229/2023

[Summons under sub-section

read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5

of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

VS SANDEEP SARIN

SANDEEP SARIN SON OF SHRI V.K. SARIN RESIDENT OF FLAT

NO. 2- A, BLOCK- 6, ARAVALI VIEW, RAIL VIHAR, SECTOR-

56 GURUGRAM HARYANA

56, GURUGRAM, HARYANA12003. GURGAON, HARYANA
(2) DEFENDANT NO. 2- REENA
SARIN WIFE OF SHRI
SANDEEP SARIN, RESIDENT
OF FLAT NO. 2-A, BLOCK- 6,
ARAVALI VIEW, RAIL VIHAR,
SECTOR- 56, GURUGRAM
HARYANA- 122003.

SUMMONS
Whereas OA/229/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer

Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is

pleased to issue summons/notice

on the said Application unde

Rs. 3275201/- (application alongwith copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4)

of section 19 of the Act, you, the Defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons

as to why relief prayed for should

(ii) to disclose particulars of

properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by

the applicant under serial numbe

ction 19(4) of the Act (OA) filed ainst you for recovery debts of

on 06/05/2023

(1) SANDEEP SARIN

D/W/S/O- V K SARIN

Exh. No.:18023 ICICI BANK LIMITED

Kundan Lal Bhalla

PNS NEW DELHI



lighted the inclusivity of PM urged the Congress to refrain Modi in honouring Prime from politicising the matter. BJP Ministers from all political parties. He tweeted, "My father, chief JP Nadda dismissed the Congress's criticism as "a classic example of political indigestion" former PM Chandra Shekhar ji, and emphasised the importance always worked for national interof recognising leaders beyond a est. He even worked with single dynasty. He tweeted, "PM Congress, but they never looked Sangrahalaya is an effort beyond beyond one dynasty. Now, when politics, and Congress lacks the PM Narendra Modi honoured vision to realise this." Prime Ministers across party BJP MP Neeraj Shekhar lines, Congress is getting agitat-

pointed out the Congress's fixation on one dynasty and highCongress of disrespecting its own leaders who served as Prime Ministers. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi stated that despite not visiting the museum, Congress leaders were making baseless allegations. He highlighted the improved showcasing of Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions and achievements, as well as those of his successors, using advanced technology.

The decision to change the

name was made during a meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who serves as the vice president of the society, according to the Culture Ministry. Mr. Singh welcomed the name change proposal, stating that the institution now highlights the contributions of all Prime Ministers, from Nehru to PM Modi, and how they responded to the challenges of

Common ACR for Def officers mulled officers for tri-services appointments in the command, staff or

> cross post about 40 officers of Major and Lieutenant-Colonel ranks in each service. The step was initiated to ensure the personnel understand each other's operational doctrine when it comes to common weapon plat-

100 academicians come out in defence of NCERT

Over 100 eminent academicians, including Vice-Chancellors and Directors from prestigious institutions like INU. DU, IITs, IIMs, and several Central and State universities, have united to counter allegations leveled against the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

This response comes in the wake of criticism from a group of academicians, led by political scientist Yogendra Yadav, who expressed dissatisfaction with the inclusion of their names in school education textbooks. The collective of academicians has dismissed these claims as "propaganda" aimed at undermining the school education system, which they have actively contributed to over the

In a joint statement signed by 107 renowned academicians, including representatives from IIT, JNŬ, DU, Hyderabad University, IIMs, and various research institutions, it has been asserted that false allegations and misinformation are being used to obstruct the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and disrupt the updating of NCERT textbooks.

"Their demand that students continue to study from 17-year-old textbooks rather than updated textbooks in line

with contemporary developments and pedagogical advancements reveals intellectual arrogance. In their pursuit of advancing their political agenda, they are willing to put the future of millions of children in jeopardy across the country," the statement read.

The group of scholars who have suggested changes in the textbooks clarified that these changes do not propose any significant disruption to the existing domain of knowledge. Instead, they rationalize the course content to align with contemporary knowledge needs. Regarding the decision-making process, the statement argues that each new generation has the right to make additions or deletions to the existing knowledge base.

The academicians supporting the NCERT's textbook updates highlighted that the current committee followed a thorough, liberal, democratic, and ethical selection process.

process for authors this time was more transparent and justified, unlike previous times.

Addressing concerns about academic freedom, pedagogic integrity, and institutional propriety, JNU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit stated, "The Director of NCERT has clarified that a rigorous process was followed to maintain high standards with regard to these issues. It is widely known that the school curriculum in India has not been updated for nearly two decades. The last update of textbooks was undertaken in 2006. The current NCERT team has been consistently working to reduce the burden on students and improve learning outcomes by rationalizing the syllabus and making the content relevant to current needs."

Other notable signatories to the statement include Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary of ICSSR; Prof. E. Suresh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Lucknow, who is also a Member University, of UGC; Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Director of NITIE Mumbai; Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar: Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh and Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur Central University among others.

Publication FORM NO. 3 [See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector
17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th

Floor also) Case No.: OA/230/2023 Case No.: OA/230/2023
[Summons under sub-section
(4) of section 19 of the Act,
read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5
of the Debt Recovery Tribunal
(Procedure) Rules, 1993]
Exh. No. 18022
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS.
RAJESH RANJAN VERMA

(1) RAJESH RANJAN VERMA (1) KAJESH KANJAN VERMA D/WS/O- CHANDESHER PRASAD VERMA, RAJESH RANJAN VERMA SON OF SHRI CHANDESHAR PRASAD VERMA, R/O HOUSE NO. 315/1, GALI NO. 4, CHOUHAN COLONY, PALLA NO. 1, AMAR NAGAR, FARIDABAD, HARYANA - 121002. PAN NO. AIOPV0827A FARIDABAD, HARYANA Also At. C/O TOYS AND GIFTS SHOP NO 30 SECTOR 46

FARIDABAD, HARYANA Also At.

RAJESH RANJAN VERMA SON OF SHRI CHANDESHER PRASAD VERMA C/O TOYS AND GIFTS, SHOP NO. 30, SECTOR 46, FARIDABAD HARYANA - 121001. FARIDABAD, HARYANA

RAJESH RANJAN VERMA SON OF SHRI CHANDESHER PRASAD VERMA RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. 4226, SECOND FLOOR, SAINIK COLONY, SECTOR 49,

FARIDABAD HARYANA- 121012. FARIDABAD, HARYANA -121012 (2) RANJU KUMARI WIFE OF SH RAJESH RANJAN VERMA, HOUSE NO 3 15 OF 1 WARD NO 16, VILLAGE AT MADPUR RAJEEV NAGAR

Also At. O HOUSE NO 315 OF 1 GAL NO. 4, CHAUHAN COLONY NO. 1, AMAR NAGAR FARIDABAD, HARYANA Also At.

RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO 4226 SECOND FLOOR, SAINIK COLONY, SECTOR

49, FARIDABAD, HARYANA
SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/230/2023
was listed before Hon'ble
Presiding Officer/Registrar on

06/05/2023

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.5177890/ (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4)

of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under: (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of

properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing

sale, lease or otherwise, except in

the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which

security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties

specified or disclosed under seria

number 3A of the origina

application without the prior

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale

of secured assets or other assets

and properties in the ordinary

course of business and deposi

such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or

financial institutions holding

security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy

thereof furnished to the

Registrar on 27/10/2023 a

10:30 A.M.failing which the application shall be heard and

Given under my hand and the

seal of this Tribunal on this date 29/05/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

decided in your absence

3A of the original application; with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under seria number 3A of the origina properties disclosed under seria application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way o

(iv) you shall not transfer by way or sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business, any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under seria number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the tribunal:

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 27/10/2023 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date Signature of the Officer

Authorised to issue summons

officers. The proposal that is likely to be implemented in the next With the armed forces undergoing changes to three to four months will cover officers of rank of Brigadier and fight future conflicts jointly as tri-Major-General and their equivalents in the Navy and IAF, services commands, the securisources said here on Friday. The ty establishment proposes to

> armed forces. With the senior officers from the Army, Navy and IAF poised to be posted to tri-service com-

> > PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Jasbir Kaur Bhogal W/O Mr. Davinder Singh Bhogal is the owners of Property Bearing No. 38, area measuring 53 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 35/7, Situated at Navyug Block, Vishnut Garden, New Delhi, vide Gift Deed dated 11.01.2021, as Doc. No. 276, and the same is intending to sell Mrs. Kuldeep Kaur W/O Mr. Harjinder Singh Nagi to be financed & mortgaged by Avis Finance Limited. If there are any issues to any person or any authority regarding to the above-mentioned property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with valid issue, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001 Mob.:+91-8076188328

FORM NO. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35 Sector17A, Chandigarh
(Additional space allotted on
3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA/4120/2017

[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

ICICI BANK LIMITED

SON OF B. N. SETH, RESIDENT OF E-4456, DARSHAN VIHAR, AWHO, SECTOR- 68, MOHALI,

WÍFE OF SHRI MOHIT SETH

RESIDENT OF E-4456, DARSHAN VIHAR, AWHO, SECTOR 68, MOHALI, PUNJAB.

SUMMONS

Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.1617212/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4)

of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons

as to why relief prayed for should

(ii) to disclose particulars of

properties and assets specified by

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured

assets or such other assets and

properties disclosed under seria number 3A of the origina

application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way o

sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which

security interest is created and/or other assets and properties

specified or disclosed under seria

number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale

of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account

maintained with the bank or

financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the

written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the

applicant and to appear before

Registrar on 10/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date:

Signature of the Office Authorised to issue summon

decided in your absence

29/05/2023.

3A of the original application

operties or assets other than

applicant under serial numbe

not be granted;

(1) MOHIT SETH

PUNJAB. (2) KIRTI SETH

Exh. No. 17993

move comes in the backdrop of

the ongoing greater integration

and theaterisation of the Indian

mands for better synergy, operational readiness and cutting down time and expenses, a need was felt to synergise the appraisal system to undertake tasks for triservices appointments, sources said. Moreover, the common ACR will be instrumental in achieving commonality of procedures and assessments, and contribute to the jointness and integration of the armed forces.

ed. Horrible attitude."

The BJP accused the

It will also lead to better identification and selection of

instructional channels, based on their suitability, they added.

Incidentally, a similar integration decision was taken to

PM to lead historic yoga session at UNHQ

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to make history as he leads a yoga session at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters on the ninth International Day of Yoga, celebrated on June 21. The event is expected to witness the participation of top UN officials, envoys, and delegates from Member States. In a tweet on

Publication FORM NO. 3 [See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA/1509/2022 (Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule (Procedure) Rules, 1993] Exh. No.:18032

INDRARAJ SINGH KATHERIA

(2) AVINASH SINGH KATHERIA S/O SH RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA, FLAT NO TF 310 EWS APARTMENT E BLOCK PALAM VIHAR VIHAR GURGAON, HARTANA SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/4120/2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 26/05/2023. Whereas OA/1509/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 24/04/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said

Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act (OA) filed against you for recovery debts of Rs. 7961590/- (application alongwith copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the Defendants are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of

properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and

properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties: (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in

the ordinary course of his business, any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under seria number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the tribunal: (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale

of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 25/09/2023 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date

Signature of the Office Authorised to issue summons

Thursday, President of the 77th

session of the United Nations General Assembly, Csaba Korosi, expressed his anticipation for the event, stating, "I am looking forward to participating in the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations @UN with Minister Prime @NarendraModi at the UNHQ North Lawn next week." The tweet was accompanied by a

Prime Minister Modi. Yoga, established in December 2014 by the UN, aims to raise global awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga. As part of the commemoration, an advisory for the event extended a cordial invitation to join a yoga session led by Modi.

photograph of Korosi with

This year marks a significant milestone as Modi, who proposed the idea of celebrating Înternational Yoga Day annually nine years ago at the UN General Assembly, will be present at the UN Headquarters for the first time to lead the historic yoga session. The session is scheduled to take place from 8 AM to 9 AM on June 21 at the spacious North Lawn of the UN Headquarters. Notably, the North Lawn is home to a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, gifted by India to the UN during the country's Presidency of the UN Security Council in December last year.

The yoga session is expected to draw the participation of prominent individuals.

Modi to be on state visits to US, Egypt from June 20-25

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW

the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake separate state visits to the United States (US) and Egypt from June 20 to 25. Modi's visit to the US will

commence in New York, where he will lead the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) on June 21. In December 2014, the UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution proclaiming June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

thereafter travel to Washington D.C., where he will receive a ceremonial welcome at the White House on June 22, and meet President Biden to continue their high-level dialogue. President Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden will host a State dinner in honour of the Prime Minister the same evening," the MEA said in a statement.

It said Prime Minister Modi will address a joint sitting of the US Congress on June 22 at the invitation of Congressional leaders, including Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy and Speaker of the Senate Charles Schumer. On June 23, the Prime

Minister will be jointly hosted at a luncheon by US Vice-President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to the

"In addition to the official engagements, the Prime

Minister is scheduled to have several curated interactions with leading CEOs, professionals, and other stakeholders. He will also meet members of the Indian diaspora," it said.

In the second leg of his two-nation visit, Modi will travel to Cairo to pay a state visit to Egypt from June 24 to 25. The visit is at the invitation of Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of Egypt, which he extended to Modi in January when he graced India's Republic Day celebrations as chief guest. This will be Modi's first visit to Egypt as Prime Minister.

"Apart from his talks with President Sisi, the Prime with senior dignitaries from the Egyptian Government, some prominent Egyptian personalities, as well as the Indian community in Egypt," the MEA said.

"Relations between India and Egypt are based on ancient trade and economic linkages as well as cultural and deep-rooted people-to-people ties," it said. During the state visit of President Sisi to India in January, it was agreed to elevate the relationship between the two countries to a strategic partnership.
Meanwhile, reports from

Washington said Indian-Americans are preparing for a cultural extravaganza for Prime Minister Modi.

He will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on June 23.

Nadda on two-day visit to four N-E States



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

B^{JP} national president Jagat Prakash Nadda is on twoday visit to Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam starting Friday night where he will participate in several puband the party's

The BJP president will meet various "distinguished personalities" from Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh under the party's 'Sampark Se Samarthan' Abhiyan and address four public rallies during this visit, according to the BJP media head Anil Baluni.

Nadda will also chair a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party at Golden Pagoda Resort, Tengapani, in Arunachal Pradesh. He will stay the night at Golden Pagoda.

In Sikkim, Nadda will address a rally and thereafter leave for Assam and address senior Karyakarta Sammelan at

Jorhat District Library. He will attend Tiffin Baithak at BJP District Office at Jorhat and meet "four influential families" there under the party's 'Sampark Se Samarthan' Abhiyan, said the BJP state-

combined for various accident

spots within a single project.

black spots on national high-

ways based on defined parame-

ters, NHAI has taken this

While MORTH notifies

NHAI on mission to boost road safety

▲ Authority of India (NHAÍ), the central agency responsible for road construction, has launched an initiative to enhance road safety by issuing guidelines for rectifying accident-prone spots on National Highways through the implementation of short-term measures. These short-term measures include the installation of pedestrian facilities such as zebra crossings with advance warning signs, crash barriers, railings, junction improvements, solar lights/blinkers, road signages, and the implementation of traffic calming

to undertake rectification of identified accident-prone spots recommended by the respective State Police Chief or the District Road Committee, with a budget of up to Rs. 10 lakh per spot.

Road Ministry officials up to Rs. 25 lakh will be delepowers supplement the earlier guidelines issued by the NHAI, through short-term measures,

Additionally, procurement for the necessary works can be

proactive step to rectify accident-prone spots through short-term measures in addition to the black spots identified by MORTH, with the aim of enhancing road safety and improving convenience for highway users. "Improving safety on

National Highways is one of NHAI's top priorities, and the organization is committed to ensuring a safe, smooth, and seamless travel experience for all commuters," stated an official from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE he National Highways

NHAI Project Directors have now been given the authority

> explained that short-term measures exceeding Rs. 10 lakh and gated to the Regional Office

concerned. "These financial Safety

wherein Project Directors could approve rectification of black spots identified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) with a budget of up to Rs. 25 lakh per black spot," official sources stated.

Norms issued for rectifying accident-prone spots on NHs via short-term measures

measures, among others. As part of these guidelines,

No violence in Bengal, CAPF an Opp ploy: Didi

People highlighting stray incidents; Opp parties have filed 1.51 lakh nomination papers: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA BHANGAR/KOLKATA

day after political clashes over filing of nominations claimed three lives and a day after the Calcutta
High Court ordered immediate deployment of central forces to avoid further loss of lives in the run up to the July 8 pan-chayat elections, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday slammed the Opposition parties BJP, CPI(M) and the Congress for joining hands to defame Bengal by disturbing an otherwise peaceful poll process.

Reminding how 45 people had died on a single day during the 2003 panchay-at elections and how 39 people fell vic-tim to violence in 2013 despite deployment of central forces, Banerjee, while addressing a rally at Namkhana off Sunderbans said, by far her Government had not only seen the most peaceful nominations but also as many as 2.31 lakh including about 1.5 lakh Opposition candidates had filed their papers... making it a record of sorts.

"Some people are shouting over some stray incidents here and there to tarnish the image of Bengal ... and that hurts me no end ... Had there been violence and had the Opposition been prevented from filing their nomination



could they have filed 1.51 lakh papers in five days," Banerjee asked.

Incidentally her Trinamool Congress has filed about 82,000 nominations in the panchayat elections whereas the BJP has iven about 55 nominations. The CPI(M) has filed 47.5 thousand leaving about 22,000 seats for its allies Congress, Indian Secular Front, Forward

Bloc, RSP and CPI. There are about 74,000 seats in the three-tier panchayat system for Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad.

Out of these the TMC has already won about a dozen boards uncontested. Out of these the Joypur board in Bankura district where both the MP and MLA seat is held by the BJP and Parui board in Birbhum are worth mention-

Apparently conscious about the rise of the CPI(M) and the Congress both at the cost of the TMC and the BJP in many areas the Chief Minister picked on the

elections, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. (Inset) Remains of burnt vehicles after the ecent violence during nomination filing.

Left-Congress alliance apart from the BJP wondering, "What used to happen during the CPI(M) rule ... we have freed Bengal from the Red violence ... what has been happening in the Congress-ruled States ... I must not be forced to open my mouth but it is clear that the Congress which is the B-Team of the BJP has now tied up with the Left to once again disturb Bengal ... but the Trinamool will not let that happen till the people of this State

Violence will die in Bengal, assures Guv

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHANGAR

Taking a strong note of the ongoing pre-pan-chayat poll violence Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Thursday said "I can assure the people of Bengal that violence will be the first victim in this election and violence will be silenced permanently under the Constitution and the law of the land.

Extensively touring for more than two hours the violence-hit lanes and by-lanes of Bhangar a few miles east of Kolkata, and taking cognizance of how bombs were hurled even at the media persons covering Thursday's skirmish, Bose said, "It is also revolting that the media is also under attack by the hooligans," adding "at any cost violence will be eradicated and made first casualty of these panchayat elections ... no one howsoever high and mighty ... will be allowed to take law into their hands ... miscreants and those who flaunt muscle power will be brought to book and shown their due place behind the bars." The Governor's irate statements came in tandem with a letter written by Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking immediate



intervention in the state of affairs in the State. Bose's statement came almost in tandem with Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar's plea to Shah seeking his intervention in the violence-hit State. Referring to the violence-related deaths at Bhangar and Chopra in North Dinajpur district, Majumdar sought Shah's

to redress," the situation in Bengal. The Governor's visit to Bhangar coincided with recovery of seven drums of bombs stacked away inside an abandoned Government enclosure a few metres from the Bhangar police sta-

"immediate intervention and proactive measures

BJP to hold protests in K'taka over anti-conversion law repeal plan

viously indicated that the cow

slaughter law passed by the pre-vious BJP-led Government

would be re-evaluated by the current Congress Government.

BJP has called for widespread protests throughout the State.

The warning comes after the

Karnataka Cabinet announced

plans to introduce a Bill to that

effect during the forthcoming

legislative session commencing

Accusing the Congress Government of pushing Karna-taka back into the "Tipu Sultan era" senior BJP leader and for-

Demanding the withdrawal of the anti-conversion law, the



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The political battle between the Congress and the BJP has intensified over the issue of the anti-conversion law in Karnataka. The BJP has threatened to hold "massive protests" across the State unless the Congress Government withdraws its decision to repeal the law that was passed by the saffron party last year.

BJP national general secretary CT Ravi said the 'conversion mafia" in Karnataka "ensures that the anti-Hindu Congress repeals the anti-conversion law brought in by the

Muslim League and it will go to any extent to hurt Hindus", Ravi alleged.

With an eye on the Lok

sabha polls, the two parties have engaged in heated debates on several politically-sensitive matters, including the revision of textbooks in the State. Karnataka's Animal Husbandry Minister, K Venkatesh, had pre-

All K'taka Mins called to Delhi on June 21

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said the entire State Cabinet has been called to New Delhi by Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge for a meeting with the party top brass. They are also likely to meet a host of Central Ministers separately during the visit to discuss various State projects, he said, and did not rule out the possibility of him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There are reports that Siddaramaiah has sought an appointment with the Prime Minister.

answer regarding him and the Chief Minister meeting the All have to work together."

Hindus, ranging from 30 to 40 lakhs, had allegedly been forcibly converted or enticed through inducements like money, love jihad, and promises of medical

India stresses on clear definition for better execution

PNS NEW YORK

 $T^{\text{he 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP)}}$ to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP16), held from June 13 to 15 in New York saw India highlighting the importance of a clear and comprehensive definition of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) for ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level. Justice Arun Mishra, Chair-

person of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India, actively voiced this concern during the 3rd Roundtable on Implementation of CRPD as part of the CoP meeting in New York. Justice Mishra emphasised that although the CRPD incorporates the concept of reasonable opportunity, there is a lack of clarity when it comes to its practical impl Mishra called for a proper definition of the convention to ensure its effective execution and realization of rights for people with disabilities.

He emphasised that the opportunities for employment should not be denied by prescription of any kind of disabilities; full opportunity should be afforded to ensure need-based distributive justice.



2016. "Now the challenge is to create awareness. Disabled are called specially-abled to provide them dignity and improve their mindset. Preparation of education and other material for the primary to secondary level education in sign language, audiovisual mode, print, and electron-

CORRIGENDUM

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

2023 under the Borrower POONAM SHARMA, Having Loan a/c No: LBDEL00004227668, LBDEL00004291302 on The Pioneer (Eng) Delhi/NCR Edition. Due to an inadvertent mistake in the Loan A/c. No was mentioned as LBDEL0000422766, LBDEL00004291302 instead of LBDEL00004227668, LBDEL00004291302 We therefore, request to read it as LBDEL00004227668, LBDEL00004291302. while the other Date : June 17, 2023

Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

OICICI Bank

Rajeev Kumar Manocha (Advocate

Enrl. No. D/9825/22

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Sudesh Anand W/o Late Mr. Sheel

Kumar Anand R/o A-5/17, Ground Floor, Mianwali Nagar, Delhi-110087 has severed all

her relations with her son Anurag Anand S/o Late Mr. Sheel Kumar Anand due to his bad habits and bad conduct. My above named client

has also disowned and debarred her said sor

from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Anurag Anand will do so at

his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Anurag Anand.

City-New Delhi, Pin- 110085

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle Vadodara 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Plot No. 7, Community Centre S.D. Tower, Sector 8, Rohini,

Anotice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Out- standing as on Date of Notice	Date
1.	LADEL00041935749/ Ubaid Ahmad/ B-12 Third Floor Amar Colony/ Lajpat Nagar-4/ Delhi/ Delhi-110024	Swift/ VXI AMT/ MBHCZC63SLG608187	2-Mar-23 Rs.3,92,568/-	08-09 2022
2.	LAGUR00037103934/ Satpal Singh/ Krishan Hans/ 10/19 Hans Enclave Nh-8 Near Dinesh/ Jain Complex Gurgaon/ Gurgaon- 122001	HEXA/ XTA/ MAT614752HRK11000	2-Mar-23 Rs. 3,59,720.4/-	09-11 2021
3.	SPGUR00041619254/ Satpal Singh/ Krishan Hans/ 10/19 Hans Enclave Nh-8 Near Dinesh/ Jain Complex Gurgaon/ Gurgaon- 122001	HEXA/ XTA/ MAT614752HRK11000	2-Mar-23 Rs. 7,49,094/-	09-11 2021
4.	LAGUR00037955107/ Sunita/ Ravi Yadav/ Village Bamroli Sikanderpur Badha (109)/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon- 122001	Swift/ VDi/ MBHCZC03SJH239319	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,49,473/-	31-10 2020
5.	LUGUR00041161263/ Sunita/ Ravi Yadav/ Village Bamroli Sikanderpur Badha (109)/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon-122004	Swift/ VDi/ MBHCZC03SJH239319TP	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,12,161/-	31-10 2020
6.	LAGHZ00037826260/ Deepak Aggarwal/ Flat 5/1 Blding-679/ Shubham Apartment/ Shalimar Garden Extension-I/ Ghaziabad- 201005	DELTA PETROL/ BALENO/ DL8CAV2641	8-Mar-23 Rs. 3,25,039/-	31-12 2020
7.	LADEL00041743456/ Manish Kumar Roshan/ Plot No 127 4th Floor Flat No-401/ Gali No-14 Jain Road Bhagwati Garden/ Extention Dwarka Mor/ Delhi- 110059	VXi/ Swift/ DL8CAZ9869	8-Mar-23 Rs. 4,32,224/-	06-05 2022
8.	LADEL00040770742/ Manoj Kumar/ H No- D-57 Gali No-8A/ Dashrath Puri/ Delhi/ Delhi-110045	SELTOS/ GTX PLUS SMARTSTRM G1.4 T- GDI 6MT/ MZBET811LKN009219	2-Mar-23 Rs. 8,02,552/-	10-12 2022
9.	LANOD00041782980/ Rahul Giri/ 195A/ Vikash Enclave Sec 4/ Old Haibatpur/ Ghaziabad- 201009	Baleno/ Sigma 1.2/ MBHEWB22SLG491072	2-Mar-23 Rs.3,44,484/-	25-07 2021
10.	LANOD00041446016/ Nidhi Khullar/ B-162/ Sector- 51, Near By Sbi Bank/ Noida/ Baraut- 201301	JEEP COMPASS/ SPORT/ MCAAJPAH7JFA528975K	2-Mar-23 Rs. 7,51,730/-	14-05 2022
11.	LAGUR00042534299/ Goddu Kumar/ H No.5 Maruti Kunj Road Vatika Kunj/ Bhondsi 168 Gurgaon Haryana/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon- 122001	Wagon R 1.0/ LXI/ MA3JMT31SLK363376	2-Mar-23 Rs. 3,88,699/-	27-05 2021
12.	LANOD00040971811/ Rohit Chauhan/ House No 21 Shahpur Givar Dhanpur/ Sector 128 Noida/ Noida/ Noida- 201304	BALENO/ ZETA PETROL/ MBHEWB22SKK373159	2-Mar-23 Rs. 6,18,433.8/-	02-04 2022
13.	LAGHZ00038416965/ Mithlesh Tiwari/ Rc 872 Gali No 6/ Vandana Enclave Khora Colony/ Ghaziabad/ Ghaziabad- 201012	Swift/ LXI/ MBHCZC63SJL315604	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,40,935/-	18-08 2021
14.	LADEL00038903733/ Nitin/ Savitri/ 104/1 Sector 1 Pushp Vihar/ Malviya Nagar/ Hauz Khas/ Delhi- 110017	Alto 800/ LXI/ MA3EUA61S00E13713	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,34,363/-	06-05 2022
15.	LADEL00039461426/ Dharmendra Singh/ 352-1 6/F Munirika Village/ South West Delhi/ Delhi/ Delhi- 110067	Alto 800/ LXI/ MA3EUA61S00E47660	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,35,678.22/-	14-09 2021
16.	LANOD00041524877/ Mustak Ali/ Vill- Harola Sector-5/ G B Nagar/ Noida/ Noida- 201301	Baleno/ Sigma 1.2/ MBHEWB22SLA435925	2-Mar-23 Rs.3,55,929/-	03-01 2022
17.	LANOD00041176523/ Vishwadeep/ D 4 Gali No 17 Hindon Vihar/ Noida/ GB Nagar/ Noida- 201301	Swift/ LXI/ MBHCZC63SKL525810	2-Mar-23 Rs.3,22,916/-	03-06 2022
18.	LADEL00043299051/ Rajender Prasad Sharma/ Kh No 993 Ground Floor Kadi Vihar/ Village Kadipur/ Delhi/ Delhi-110036	Swift/ LXI/ MBHCZC63SMA723206	2-Mar-23 Rs. 4,01,941/-	03-08 2022
19.	LADEL00041306128/ Raj Kumar/ D-6/231/1 Sec 6 Rohini/ Delhi/ Delhi/ Delhi- 110085	Wagon R 1.0/ LXi CNG/ MA3JMT31SKL250851	2-Mar-23 Rs.3,96,961/-	08-02 2022
20.	LANOD00041959814/ Kapil Kumar/ H No. 75/ Village Anandpur/ Dadri/ NOIDA- 201307	Creta/ 1.5 SX(O)/ MALPA813LLM039237	2-Mar-23 Rs.6,79,426/-	08-08 2022
21.	LAGUR00042299531/ Nripendra Singh/ H. No 13 Basai Enclave/ Street No 1/ Gurgaon/ Ellenabad- 122001	Wagon R 1.0/ LXi CNG/ MA3JMT31SLK357001	2-Mar-23 Rs. 3,34,630/-	05-03 2022
22.	SPGUR00044106784/ Surbhi/ Himanshu Chawla/ H. No-870/27 Gali No-10 Madanpuri GGN/ Gurgaon/ Gurgaon-122001	Verna/ 1.6 CRDI SX/ MALC841DLJM064204	2-Mar-23 Rs. 8,73,064/-	11-08 2022
23.	LADEL00038468072/ Gurmeet Singh Rana/ H No 10 St No1 Shaheed Bhagat Singh/ Calony West Karawal Nagar Delhi/ Delhi/ Delhi- 110094	I 20/ MAGNA OPTION 1.4/ MALA851CLJM945439	2-Mar-23 Rs. 2,60,642/-	14-11 2022
24.	SPDEL00044847549/ Gurmeet Singh Rana/ H No 10 St No1 Shaheed Bhagat Singh/ Calony West Karawal Nagar Delhi/ Delhi/ Delhi- 110097	I 20/ MAGNA OPTION 1.4/ MALA851CLJM945439	2-Mar-23 Rs. 4,35,728/-	14-11 2022
25.	SPNOD00042372880/ Dayaram Singh/ Vill-Derin Khera Choganpur/ Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh/ 201306/ Noida- 201305	THUNDER BIRD/ UP16BV7374	24-Aug-22 Rs. 7,34,954/-	11-04 2023
	LAXBA00041523926/ Devender Kumar/ Vill- Naya Gaon, Bahadurgarh/ Bahadurgarh-124507	ALTROZ/ XM - Petrol/ HR13Q1071	2-Jun-22 Rs.3,44,514/-	13-12 2021
27.	LADEL00013783653/ Sudarshan Consolidated Ltd/ 304-305 Shivam House Karampura/ Commercial Complex New Delhi/ Junavadaj/ Delhi- 110011	CITY/ ZX 1.5 GXI/ DL4CAH6689	27-Apr-23 Rs. 29,98,439/-	11-01 2021
28.	LADEL00013783717/ Sudarshan Consolidated Ltd/ 304-305 Shivam House Karampura/ Commercial Complex New Delhi/ Junavadaj/ Delhi-110011	CITY/ ZX 1.5 GXI/ DL4CAH6558	27-Apr-23 Rs. 28,09,265/-	11-01 2021
	LAXBA00041512544/ Ravi/ H No 5 Vill Kanaunda Teh Bahadurgarh/ Bahadurgarh- 124507	XUV 300/ XUV 300 W4/ HR13Q3270	30-Nov-22 Rs.8,49,491/-	06-05 2021
30.	LAXBA00042581100/ Jeet/ S O Khajan Singh H No 402/ Bahadurgarh/ Bahadurgarh/ Bahadurgarh- 124507	GLANZA/ GLANZA V CVT/ HR13R2031	30-Nov-22 Rs. 10,47,850/-	11-01- 2022

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Sd/- Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd., Date: June 17, 2023

mer Minister R Ashoka stated, "Congress is the new in Karnataka, it appears that the visit to the national Capital, Shivakumar merely stated, foundation has been laid for the beginning of the Tipu era once "We are in a federal structure. again. Congress has decided to

The BJP plans to stage protests both inside and outside the Assembly, with a meeting scheduled for June 19 to discuss the matter. He further claimed that a significant number of

become the brand ambassador

for religious conversion.

by Cong chief **PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Not giving any direct

Discrimination in adoption

must come to an end. Physical, mental, and emotional stability needs to be defined. Also the concept of severe disability should be properly defined along with the circumstances to take the consent of guardians etc for surgery to avoid its misuse, said Justice Mishra.

Giving a brief insight into the legal provisions in India for the protection of the Rights of disabled people, Justice Mishra said that the standards for accessibility have been defined in with Disabilities, RPWD Act,

ic media is being focused upon?

All future managers must become wealth creators for nation: Pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

tribute to the economic development of the Addressing a gathering of eminent

academicians and graduating students on the occasion of 6th Convocation Ceremony of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, he Union said, "This is the beginning of a new chapter of your life. Be ready for the challenges. Don't remain in your comfort zone. You must not only look forward to becoming job creators but aspire to become wealth creators and contribute to the economic development of the country".

recent analysis of global

Ahealth data from 2000 to

2021 has revealed that deaths

resulting from sickle cell anemia

are 11 times higher than indicated by mortality data sources

alone, as the vast majority of chil-

dren in developing countries go

undiagnosed and untreated for

this genetic blood disorder. The

study, conducted by researchers,

sheds light on the urgent need for

improved diagnosis and treat-

ment of sickle cell anemia world-

wide. India, known for having the

second-highest global prevalence

of the disorder, is taking proac-

PNS NEW DELHI



Pradhan told the graduating students, "The responsibility of our great nation, this entire human civilization rests on the shoulders of the youth. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the progressive education system and the future-oriented IT reforms are paving the strong foundation for the better future of the younger generation.

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in his speech said, "India is emerging as a new knowledge economy on the world horizon and it is growing at an exponential pace. Transformational work in every sector driving the nation on the path to become a

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, said the passing out students today are privileged to be the graduates and post graduates in the era, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

You are among the earliest beneficiaries of NEP 2020 and will be the celebrators of century India in 2047, which comes with both challenges and responsibilities. Now it depends on you how to tackle the challenges and discharge your responsibilities, said the Union MoS.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ustralia on Friday appoint-Australia on Them, and a ded Philip Green as the next envoy to New Delhi. He will replace present incumbent Barry O'Farrell, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced. Green was most recently Australia's ambassador to Germany. "The Australia-India relationship has never been closer. Australia and India share perspectives, challenges and a democratic heritage," Wong said, announcing Green's appoint-

ment.
"We are working together, through our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and as Quad partners, to promote a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, where sovereignty is respected," the Foreign Minister said. Green has previously served as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, to South Africa, and to

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on Friday told future managers to become wealth creators and con-

tive measures to address this

issue. The country is in the

process of launching the Sickle

Cell Disease Mission with the

goal of curbing the disease by

2047. Shockingly, in India, 1 in 86

births are affected by Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). The tribal popu-

lation residing in India's southern,

central, and western states is

particularly vulnerable to the

condition, according to esti-mates. The research, published in

The Lancet Haematology journal, is part of the Global Burden of

Disease 2021 study coordinated

by the Institute for Health Metrics

and Evaluation (IHME) at the

University of Washington's School

of Medicine.

ical models demonstrate that the

"total mortality burden" of sick-

le cell disease in 2021 amounted

to 373,000 deaths, significantly

higher than the 34,600 deaths

attributed solely to sickle cell dis-

ease. This increase was particu-

larly prominent in South Asia and

sub-Saharan Africa, where fatal-

ity figures were 67 times higher

and nine times higher, respective-

ly. Sickle cell disease emerged as

a leading cause of mortality

among children under 5 years

old, as well as in youth aged 5-14 years and adults aged 15-49

years. The study reported that

Sickle cell anemia deaths 11 times higher than data half a million babies were born Findings from epidemiolog-

in sub-Saharan Africa

with sickle cell disease in 2021

with 79% of these cases occurring

The research also highlighted the underdiagnosis of sickle cell disease, which not only increases the risk of infection bu also contributes to deaths caused by conditions such as stroke heart problems, kidney problems, and pregnancy complica-tions. In some cases, healthcare professionals may not even be aware of a patient's sickle cell disease or the potential complications associated with it, leading to a failure to attribute the disease as a cause of death.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Burning fingers

There's still time to take steps for safeguarding young lives at institutes prone to fires

t's time again for a quick reality check on the health of buildings in metropolises that host vulnerable populations like children and the elderly, say, in schools, coaching centres or hospitals. In the latest such hair-raising incident, a massive fire broke out on June 15 at a four-storey coaching centre in Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar, resulting in injuries to at least 22 students. With over 500 students enrolled at the institute, they desperately tried to escape a fiery death by smashing windows, using ropes to rappel down the façade and clinging on to ladders. All the students, though scarred by the incident, at least got away with their lives. It is not a happy thing to say, but the situation could have been a lot worse. It's obvious that fire safety protocols in the building were not in shape. While they undertake the routine investigation into the cause of the fire, the authorities concerned should also carry out an audit of the state of fire-fighting preparedness in other adjacent buildings so that proactive steps may be initiated to preempt such tragedies.



And it's not that like the Coronavirus, our nation was suddenly brought face to face with lurking danger: There are umpteen instances where the lure of the lucre, owners' negligence and casual attitude or downright illegalities have claimed the lives of scores of children. The worst case in this century is the July 2004 Kumbakonam school fire in Tamil Nadu, where 94 primary section students were killed after the school's thatched roof caught fire.

It was one of the most significant fire accidents in Tamil Nadu and the second-largest school fire in India in terms of casualties after the December 1995 Dabwali fire tragedy in Sirsa, Haryana, where at least 442 deaths

were recorded. The Mukherjee Nagar incident was a massive tragedy averted by sheer providence; else it could easily have been a repeat of the Surat incident of May 2019 in which 22 students died when the illegal building constructed on a plastic frame caught fire on top of a business centre. Similarly, a fire broke out in August 2022 in Sarvodaya Kanya Bal Vidyalaya, a Government school in East Delhi's Trilokpuri area, and another one in October 2009 injured six students in an MCD school in southwest Delhi. There are many coaching institutes, and other overcrowded buildings in almost all cities across the country, and a good percentage of these don't adhere to any building codes or safety and maintenance standards. Governments and civic authorities across the nation must undertake various preemptive measures based on past experiences. These include stringent safety regulations, fire safety training and infrastructure, adequate staffing and emergency planning, building construction and design, regular inspections and audits, public awareness campaigns, collaboration with fire services, emergency response drills, monitoring and accountability, and a public reporting mechanism. By implementing these measures, Governments can work towards preventing fire tragedies in educational institutes and ensuring the safety and well-being of students, teachers and staff members.



A man plays with a child as raindrops fall in New Delhi on Friday

Terror has taken roots in Bangladesh



Though Bangladesh's incumbent Awami League Government is taking strong action, Sheikh Hasina has a very serious challenge on her hands

n the face of it, any talk of Islamist terrorism posing a threat Bangladesh or the latter becoming a global staging ground for it appears absurd. Things have been improving since the savage terrorist strike at the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka on July 1, 2016, which left 20 persons (guests at the eatery), all five of the terrorists, two police officers and two members of the bakery's staff, dead. According to South Asia Terrorist Portal's Datasheet Bangladesh, from 132 in 2016, the number of deaths-including those of civilians, members of security forces and terrorists from terrorism-related incidents declined to one in 2021 before rising to 18 in 2022 and 53 until June 11, 2023.

Though representing a rising trend, the figures since 2022 are lower than that in 2016. This has resulted from strong action taken by Bangladesh's present Awami League government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In its Bangladesh Mutual Evaluation Report, October 2016, the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) says, 'Bangladesh has made significant progress since the last Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) in 2009, reflecting political commitment and leadership AML (Anti-Money Laundering) /CFT (Countering Financing of Terrorism)." It states, "Inter-agency work to assess TF (Terror Funding) risks shows strengths, but more work is needed to assess foreign TF threats, to further assess ML". It also says that at operational levels "coordination and cooperation occur to a varying degree although recent reforms have sought to address identified issues, particularly between law

The Bangladesh government's efforts to cleanse the educational institutions of those aligned with Islamist terrorist groups have been successful in some measure. It needs to be continued and extended to other areas. In Dr Abdul Gafur, Memorial Lecture titled Bangladesh Moulabader

enforcement agencies (LEAs)."



2006. These elements have to be wrinkled out. Since the 2016 attack, efforts by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter terrorism and transnationa Crime Unit, as well as Rapid Action Battalion's (RAB) campaign in the countryside, has

led to the liquidation of sev-

government with Begum

Khaleda Zia as prime minis-

ter, which came to power in

1991 with the support of the

fundamentalist Jama'at-e-

Islami Bangladesh (now rein-

carnated as Bangladesh

Jamaat-Islami), filled the administration with their sup-

porters as well those of the

fundamentalist Islamists they

courted. It was the same with

the BNP-Jama'at coalition

government that ruled

Bangladesh from 2001 to



AGAINST ISLAMIST TERRORISM IS **FUNDAMENTALLY** IDEOLOGICAL. HENCE, IT IS **IMPORTANT TO** ESTABLISH FIRM **GOVERNMENTAL** CONTROL OVER THE QUALITY OF MADRASAS

eral terrorists and terrorist hideouts. The former, particularly, has been building up special counter-terrorism expertise. Intelligence gathering has improved. There, however, is still considerable scope for improvement.

In Bangladesh, its criticality has been enhanced by three factors. First, terrorist outfits remain. The latest to emerge is the Jamatul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya (JAFHS), formed by former members of three banned militant organizations: Ansar Al Islam, Neo-Jama'at-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh, and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh. The group, active since 2017, adopted its current name in 2019. It has been forging links with other terrorist organisations since then. In February 2023, RAB arrested 17 personnel of the JAFHS and three members of the Kuki-Chin National Front and recovered rifles, bomb-making equipment and other weapons.

Second, Islamist terrorists have been using the Internet and social media to win recruits and spread their fundamentalist doctrines. Bangladesh had 35 lakh Jama'at and its front organi-Internet users in 2008. According to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, the number was 12.61 crore in

March 2023. A report in Prothom Alo cites a report released by Facebook's parent company Meta stating that at least two billion people in Bangladesh logged into Facebook at least once a day during December 2022.

Third, a keen watch has to be kept on the camps of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, particularly those close to Teknaf, the river that constitutes the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. As Eric Hoffer's insightful work, The True Believer, shows, criminals often tend to join fundamentalist mass movements in search of redemption and honourable images. According to reports, the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation has cooperated with the JMB on weapons and explosives training.

Finally, the fight against Islamist terrorism is fundamentally ideological. Hence, besides cleansing educational bodies, it is important to establish firm governmental control over the quality of madrasas which teach around 1.4 million students in Bangladesh. Many of these have been set up by the sations and are the breeding grounds of terrorists.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

English a catalyst in global employability



Job seekers need to be armed with marketable language capabilities and essential soft skills for a globally hyper-connected work forum

Inglish has evolved from a global language to a critical 21st century skill. Proficiency in English opens doors to countless opportunities, empowering individuals to compete, access international education, and thrive in the knowledge-based global job market. Fluency in English is now a prerequisite for many positions. Mastering this language has become a necessity in today's interconnected world. This is evident by the findings of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and consulting firm Sattva's report, which states that English proficiency is a 'must have' for 73 per cent of job roles.

Sustainable Employment and Career Advancement

Proficiency in English unlocks a multitude of benefits. It enables individuals to communicate effectively with colleagues, clients and stakeholders from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, fostering collaboration and expanding business horizons. Moreover, English proficiency empowers professionals to access global resources.

learn english

English proficiency also plays a pivotal role in career advancement. It provides individuals with the confidence and ability to present their ideas persuasively, participate in meetings and negotiations and demonstrate leadership qualities. Additionally, English fluency enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling professionals to navigate complex challenges. **Aligns International**

Workbenches English is imperative to align international workbenches because it is the most widely spoken language. It is the language of international business, science and technology. As a result, it is the language of choice for communication and collaboration between people from different coun-

Consolidating the argument, 'English at Work: Global Analysis of Language Skills in the Workplace' reported in 2016 that 64% of employers in India offer better packages to applicants with quality English communication skills.

In addition, English proficiency serves as a gateway to valuable skilling resources. Many educational programs, online courses and professional certifications are offered in English, providing individuals access to cuttingedge knowledge and skill development opportunities. Soft Skills and Technical **Know-How**

English has been globally proven and accepted as a compulsory skill of this century and potentially of many industrial evolutions to come. Hence, augmenting learners at the university level with English language acquisition abilities is a crucial step to engendering a professional paradigm with job-ready individuals.

Although, the lingering gap is a matter of deep review. As far as adult education is concerned, higher educational institutes may

need a profound re-analysis of new-age industry needs.

Another pertinent method to forge equity in the working tier of India is for multinational corporations to equip their employees with sharp English language skills by adopting Learning & Development interventions. Technology and digital innovations can lead to personalised, scalable, and well-targeted results to accomplish the same.

Better English, Better

Business English is a global catalyst of business acumen and personal success. A pre-requisite for high-end employment, English is declared as the official language of communication by many corporations. Multinationals are vibrant spaces with linguistic, cultural, economic, political and social diversity. The professional population needs to be armed with marketable English language capabilities and essential soft skills to qualify for a globally hyper-connected work forum.

> (The writer is CEO, of Burlington Group of Companies, Asia Pacific)

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT

Sir — From the United Nations to nongovernmental organisations and other non-profit organisations working for the welfare of refugees, they must have rejoiced at the announcement by the Greek government, according to which the Greek government has set up an international naval base off the country's southwest coast. Three days of national mourning have been declared for the 79 people killed in a ship accident in the waters. Is the government of Greece hurt by this accident? Do they have so much sympathy for refugees? So will Greece give shelter to all the illegal refugees who have survived the accident? It's all a show. All European countries like France, Britain, Italy, Germany, Portugal etc. have made strict laws to not allow illegal immigrants inside their territories. If the law was not strict, then the refugees would not have to travel thousands of miles by sea, risking their lives. In February, more than 100 people, including children, were killed when a boat capsized off southern Italy. Thousands of men, women and helpless children die in such accidents every year.

DALIT LEADERSHIP

Sir — Sometimes caste and community matter for parties to climb up the ladder of power. Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has been now lamenting for missing the opportunity to become Chief Minister. He was mum when the tussle for chief ministership was going on between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar. Parameshwara, a Dalit leader, did not stake his claim for chief ministership. Now he has been crying over the spilt milk one month after the election result came out and after Siddaramaiah has settled as Chief Minister for the second time. Cry for 'dalit CM' in Karnataka Congress starts when there is no vacancy. Congress came to power in 2013 under the presidency of Parameshwara. Even then it was the writ of Siddaramaiah, a migrant

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Three years of Galwan clash

ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

f you peep at the bilateral relationship of India and China, after the third anniversary of the Galwan Clash, we both are still standing on the point of difference. So far nothing improved much in these 3 years. Neither China returned to the status quo at Demchok and Depsang Valley, nor did China return us to the Aksai-Chin area. Despite pushing the bilater-

al rounds of talks with the Chinese delegation to fix the matter on an urgent basis, no strong consensus had been reached so far. In the year 2020 June, when the incident took place, India lost 20 soldiers. Then too we are unable to counterbalance Chinese aggression, now too three years later we are yet unsuccessful to lift ourselves above China economically and geopolitically. Our Aatma Nirbharata in defence and halting aggression of external forces is yet a dream vis-a-vis China.

Long story short, we had passed three years in taming China to return to status Quo, which China in particular will never do. However, it is required that we must strengthen ourselves

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

because of which he became the Chief Minister. There is no point for Prameshwara to go back to 2013.

It is the leadership quality that always matters to head a government. In undivided Uttar Pradesh, Kanshi Ram, a Dalit leader, founded BSP. Mavawati who is also a Dalit leader, established her supremacy and could not be sidelined on the ground that she is Dalit. If Dr Parameshwar wants to realise the dream of a Dalit on the post of Chief Minister in Karnataka, he has to take the risk of forming his party. .

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

MANIPUR IS BURNING

Sir — As per reports, the bungalow at Kongba in Imphal belonging to Union Minister of State for External Affairs RK Ranjan Singh was set on fire by a mob on Thursday night and destroyed to show their anger against the Central government. Two days after the sharpest escalation of violence in the state resulted in nine people being shot dead and another 10 being injured, a mob burned down two houses as skirmishes broke out between demonfrom JDS, that ran large over Shivakumar strators and security officials in Imphal on

Thursday. The sameday, a hapless Chief Minister N Biren Singh stated that the government is holding conversations at all levels and gave the assurance that those responsible for the violence would face consequences. The governor has constituted a peace committee and consultation with peace committee members will start. Over 100 people have died and 310 have been injured as a result of recent ethnic violence in Manipur between the Meitei and Kuki communities. Army and paramilitary personnel have been sent in as a response to restore order in the state. The fighting first broke out on May 3 after the hill districts organised a "Tribal Solidarity March" to protest the Meitei community's desire for Scheduled Tribe (ST) designation. The majority of Meiteis, who make up around 53% of Manipur's population, reside in the Imphal Valley. Another 40% of the population is made up of the Naga and Kuki tribes, who live in the hill districts. With this Manipur is burning under the present regime.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN WHEN ON A HIGH, **WATCH OUT**

Good times, such as profits, must be ploughed back for future well-being



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Inen I first came across the following verse of the Bhagavad-Geeta, I wondered what Lord Krishna meant when He stated, "The contact between senses and their objects are givers of pleasure and misery, being temporary, they come and go; tolerate them. (2.14) I could understand tolerating the misery part, but why club misery with pleasure? Isn't pleasure nice, something to feel good about? Over the years, I have understood what the Lord was alerting us about. This is when we make big mistakes.

In good times our weaknesses surface. Senses become demanding. The feeling of high excitement/elation lowers our guard. One feels that one is superior and highly deserving, and one must reward self. Deep desires become dominant, which are mostly to enjoy lustily. And what does our so-called intelligence do? It justifies whatever our minds cook up. One break 'Marvada' (social norms). Then, there is no turning back: one has been tainted for life. The most glaring instances are those when fans of a winning team go berserk. People damage public property besides doing many odd things. One throws caution to the wind and pays its price in leisure. This becomes increasingly difficult if one drinks after such an event. Conscience is covered and sins/crimes may be com-

Different people have different weaknesses, which flare up during good times. Most people throw parties when drinks are gulped as if it did not matter. Then, there is dancing, etc. Hotels have arrangements these days to lift such persons from floors who have exhausted themselves by dancing excessively and taking them to their waiting cars. During good times, 'Shankar' is reinforced. The feeling that I am superior and can do no wrong becomes dominant. The worst lot are the ones, who indulge in immoral behaviour, for which they pay a heavy price. In pleasant times, it is quite common to see people on a high getting into heated arguments and spoiling relationships permanently. Some people take important decisions in a mood of 'I can do no wrong.' and end up mak-



How does one protect oneself from hurting self, and in some cases very seriously? There are two main solutions. One is what we can do in the material sense and the other is spiritual. Materially, we should be much pleased with the arrival of good times, but at the same time we must keep in mind that this is not our final destination; we have to go far. Some sober celebration is fine and then, back to the routine, which has borne fruit. It is the right time for meditating on what we wish to achieve in this life, and the present is not our final destination; we have far to go. We must not stop worrying about our future, not in a fearful sense, but in positive terms.

Spiritual solutions are also available. It is time to strengthen our relationship with God, if we have not already developed it. Good times are the best for this purpose. In bad times, one is only thinking of coming out of them. If the relationship with God has not taken shape so far, the time is right to develop it.

This planet has been created for yoga (connection with God), not bhoga (unlimited enjoyment). All enjoyments must be according to dharma only. (7.11) Our earth's planet is neither heaven nor hell; we are in the middle and must be very careful in what we do. Wise persons always remain in the shelter of God to avoid making costly mistakes. The conclusion is obvious. Good times are for investment in future, just like in business profits are meant to be ploughed back into business. And we need God's protection at such times because our defence mechanism protects us in bad times, but in good times all bets are off; only good Sanskars and God can help us.

(The author is a spiritual writer)

Curb frivolous PILs in national interest



The misuse of public interest litigations adversely affects the democratic process and undermines the credibility of the judicial system

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was introduced in Indian jurisprudence in the 1970s. Justice Bhagwati of the Supreme Court, who is considered the father of PILs, had imagined it to act as a noble legal concept for providing access to justice for the poor and marginalized. Technically a PIL is the power that is given to the public by the court via judicial activism. However, the party that introduced the PIL needs to prove the intent behind it. The party needs to show that the PIL affects the public at large and that a particular case isn't just some random litigation for personal gain or a case to solve any person-

Essentially, the concept of PILs was introduced to enable individuals or groups to file lawsuits on behalf of the public interest". Since its introduction, there have been notable instances where PIL has been an important tool for social change in India and has been used to address a wide range of issues, including environmental protection, human rights, and corruption. However, a more dominant trend has taken hold, and "public interest" is now being substituted for 'private' and 'political' interests.

No matter how much progress PILs have brought to the Indian Judicial system, we cannot unsee the flip side of the coin at any cost as PILs are being abused a lot nowadays. Many PIL activists in India have been using the PILs as a handy tool for harassing the judicial system.

To counter the misuse of PILs, in

2010, the Supreme Court issued guidelines for filing PILs, which included the requirement of the petitioner to disclose their identity, the source of funding, and the reason for filing the PIL. However, despite these measures, PIL Petitioners have devised new ways to flout these guidelines, by making filings through proxy representatives and by maintaining ostensible albeit not real degrees of separation. These motivated PILs often target government officials or other powerful individuals to harass and intimidate them or to derail important govern-

GLARING EXAMPLES

In 2018, the Supreme Court dismissed a PIL which demanded a probe by a Special Investigative Team (SIT) into the death of BH Loya, a Judge presiding over the Central Bureau of Investigation Special Court in Mumbai. He was hearing one of the most high-profile cases in the country, involving the allegedly staged encounter killing of Sohrabuddin Sheikh in 2005. The case had obvious political overtones in as much as the prime accused in the case was the present Home Minister of India.

Again, in 2016, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court of India challenging the appointment of a new Chief Justice of the country. The PIL was filed by a group of lawyers who alleged that the appointment was unconstitutional. In 2022, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court of India challenging the government's decision to increase the price of fuel. The PIL was filed by a group of economists who alleged that the increase was unconstitutional and would hurt the poor. Ultimately this too was dismissed on the ground that Courts cannot interfere in policy or economic matters.



ALTHOUGH THE

PIL TOOK BIRTH AS A NOBLE **CONCEPT TO PROVIDE** ACCESS TO JUSTICE TO THE **VULNERABLE** SECTIONS OF SOCIETY, IT IS **INCREASINGLY** BEING USED AS A TOOL FOR **VESTED** INTERESTS TO **PURSUE** POLITICAL AGENDAS AND HARASS THOSE IN POWER



policy, which the courts are not

that represent a vast number of people and simultaneously limit be imposed on PILs filed by an individual, which mostly are like proxy filings. This would help to ensure that PILs are only filed by groups that have a legitimate interest in the

Secondly, upon admission the Courts could consider necessarily substituting the Petitioner and instead appointing an amicus curia to aid the Court on the issues involved. Thirdly, The Press should also be directed to not publicise the name of the Petitioner in any

manner.

Recently, an effective tactic being adopted by Courts is higher penalties where PILs are found to be frivolous. For example, in June 2022, a Supreme Court Bench ordered the litigant in a PIL

of the 18 minutes of the Court's time spent on hearing the patently absurd and frivolous petition. Although the Court eventually reduced the penalty to Rs. 2 Lakhs, the attitude of the Court revealed the Court's awareness and distaste towards such apparent exploitation of legal process-

stringent measures to ensure that PILs are only filed for genuine causes, and not for political or ulterior purposes. By doing so, we can help to ensure that PILs continue to be an effective tool for to deposit a penalty of Rs. 18 social change and not a weapon Lakhs, being Rs. 1 Lakh for each for political gain.



Emergency remains a blot on the face of our democracy

[The writer is a BJP

MLA from Lucknow, Ex-Joint Director of ED

and a practising

There was no rationale for declaring Emergency; it was Indira Gandhi's fear that public would react sharply for her not obeying the court order

hat has happened before-can it happens again? The answer is -undoubtedly yes," said Nani Palkhivala, the last word in democracy. This was during a speech delivered by the legendary lawyer during the 20th anniversary of the Emergency, the 21-monthlong darkest period in the country's political history when the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi subverted the democratic process as well as the Constitution and jailed all the dissident leaders of both the Opposition and the Ruling parties. Indira wanted to derail the Allahabad High Court verdict that disqualified her from the membership of Lok Sabha and unseated her as Prime Minister for violating the Election Commission rules



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

and the Prevention of Corruption Act. For 21 months, there was no media freedom in India. Censoring officers in all newspaper establishments to scrutinize and clear news for publications. The emergency culminated with the defeat of the Indian National Congress and Indira Gandhi in the 1977 General Election.

Though persons like Indira and her servile Om Mehta (the then minister of home) are still fresh in the minds of the people, how many among us remember Raj Narain (the giant killer who defeated Indira in her home turf of Rae Bareli as well as in the Allahabad High Court) or Jai Prakash Narayan (JP), the person who launched "Total Revolution" against corruption, favouritism and nepotism. Is the new generation being taught about the life and times of JP? Exactly a fortnight before the 48th anniversary of Emergency (11, June 2023 to be precise) M V Govindan, the physical education teacher-turned- CPI(M) State secretary, warned the media from writing anything against his party and its frontal organization Students Federation of India (SFI). What annoyed Govindan was the boldness shown by a section of the Kerala media in bringing to light the massive irregularities employed by a prominent leader of the SFI who managed to pass the post-graduate degree examinations without writing them while another youth leader succeeded in furnishing fake degree certificates as well as experience certificates to get the job of a lecturer in a government-run col-

The reporters who filed the reports as well as the news readers who read the news have been listed as accused in the FIR filed by the Kerala Police. This is happening at a time when the all-India secretary of the party was lambasting the Modi Government for unleashing vendetta against media personalities who do not toe their line of thought.

A couple of months ago, the Police vandalized the offices of "Crime", an investigative publication that "broke" reports about high-level corruption happening in the State. Nandakumar, the editor and proprietor of the publication was subjected to physical tor-

ture of the highest order.

The computers in which he had filed the details of the information were destroyed and he was assaulted and imprisoned. The Kerala High Court had to intervene to get him released from jail. This is the situation in a State ruled by a secular, democratic front that stands for a renaissance in all fields.

Elsewhere in the country, things are not different. The Jantar Mandar gathering of sports personalities is no different. When people do not get a fair deal from the government and when justice is denied to them, it is natural for them to come out protesting to express their indignation. Ignoring such protests is at the peril of the government itself. Indira Gandhi did not

have to declare National Emergency in 1975. She was afraid of the public anger towards her for not obeying the Court order and vacating her chair. The treatment turned out to be worse than the disease and it remains an eternal blot on the face of democratic India.

The Judgement by Kuldip Nayar, and All the Prime Ministers Men by Janardan Thakur are a few of them.

It is sad to see leaders who claim to have worked against the infamous National Emergency days behave with the attitude "Deluge after Me". In Kerala alone, there are more than 200 septuagenarian activists who fought against the national emergency and ended up as victims of police brutality. Though they do not

civil society, hundreds continue to get government pensions for their involvement in Punnapra Vayalar agitation which has nothing to do with democracy or liberalism. There is no shortage of

get anything in return from

political buffoons who sang a paean to the national emergency throughout the dark days and jumped the fence once the Congress was defeated in the polls.

How many of us remember that C Achutha Menon of the CPI was the chief minister of Kerala during the dark days and he had the services of Congress leader K Karunakaran as Home Minister? The CPI leaders look the other way when the topic of emergency is broached by others!

(Writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer. Views expressed are personal)

Xi stresses US-China cooperation

Thinese leader Xi Jinping Usaid the United States and China can cooperate to "benefit our two countries" in a meeting Friday with Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates ahead of a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a time of strained relations.

The state broadcaster CCTV showed Xi saying he was happy to see Gates, who he called an "old friend," after three years without meeting during the pandemic.
"I believe that the founda-

tion of Sino-US relations lies in the people," Xi said to Gates. "Under the current world situation, we can carry out various activities that benefit our two countries, the people of our countries, and the entire human race."

Xi gave no details but emphasised the potential benefits of cooperation that has been hampered by disputes over human rights, Taiwan, security and technology. Gates told Xi he was "very honoured" to meet with Xi. The



visits by leading foreign business people have coincided with efforts by the ruling Communist Party to revive investor interest in China's slowing economy. Apple CEO Tim Cook visited China in

Despite his upbeat Washington in March of trying to hold back China's development with restrictions on access to US microchips and

Tensions between the US and China have festered in recent years, but recently the two sides have held talks on trade and other issues. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to arrive in China on Sunday for a two-day

He will be the first secretary of state to visit China since 2018 and is expected to meet with Foreign Minister Qin Gang and possibly with Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to US officials.

On Thursday, the the Gates

Foundation pledged USD 50 million to bolster the Global Health Drug Discovery Institute's capacity to develop drugs to fight diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

The institute was jointly founded by the Gates Tsinghua Foundation, University and the Beijing municipal government.

Gates' last trip to China was in 2019, where he met first lady Peng Liyuan to discuss the Gates Foundation's efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention.



Buildings are damaged after a tornado struck Perryton, Texas, Thursday.

Tornadoes hit Texas, Florida, killing four

AP ■ PERRYTTON (US)

leanup efforts were beginning on Friday morning after severe storms spawned tor-nadoes that left at least four dead, three in the Texas Panhandle and one in the Florida Panhandle as another series of fierce storms carved its way through Southern states. In Perryton, Texas, Ochiltree County Sheriff Terry Bouchard said three people were killed when the tornado struck on Thursday afternoon and rescue efforts continued.

Another person died Thursday night in the Florida Panhandle when at least one confirmed tornado cut through Escambia County, toppling a tree onto a home, county spokesperson Andie Gibson fold the Pensacola News Journal. Of the homes searched so far in Perryton, all but one of the occupants had been accounted for, so the main priority was going back over the area and the debris field to find that person, Perryton Fire Chief Paul Dutcher said on NBC's "Today" show.

Dutcher estimated that 150 to 200 homes in the community had been destroyed and said that in the downtown area, many storefronts were totally wiped off and buildings had col-

lapsed or partially collapsed.
"You keep hearing people
say, We'll rebuild' and We'll be
back," he said. "And we will. That's the hope we have." But the biggest concern for

now is trying to help the families of those who were killed

carry on, Dutcher said.
"It is such a tragedy,"
Dutcher said. "All the stuff behind me, it can all be rebuilt, but those lives that we've lost is really the tragedy of everything," the fire chief said while standing in front of a collapsed building and a pile of bricks and other debris covered the ground, partially burying a truck.

Sheriff Bouchard urged

residents to remain home if possible as cleanup efforts began in the town of more than 8,000 about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northeast of Amarillo, just south of the Oklahoma line. Bouchard said in a social media

post that the Thursday tornado destroyed homes, mobile homes, businesses and damaged the local police station. Bouchard did not immediately return a phone call for comment on Friday, but said much of the

county is without power.
"We (the sheriff's office) are probably one of the only places with power in the county, thanks to our generator," Bouchard said. The National Weather Service in Amarillo said the a tornado hit the area

shortly after 5 pm on Thursday. Storm chaser Brian Emfinger told Fox Weather he watched the twister move through a mobile home park, mangling trailers and uprooting

"I had seen the tornado do some pretty serious destruction to the industrial part of town," he said. "Unfortunately, just west of there, there is just mobile home, after mobile home, after mobile home that is completely destroyed." Ochiltree General Hospital

interim CEO Kelly Judice said 50 to 100 people sought medical care, including about 10 in critical condition. Patients had minor to major trauma, ranging from "head injuries to collapsed lungs, lacerations, broken bones", Judice said.

There was no immediate word on the tornado's size or wind speeds, weather service meteorologist Luigi Meccariello

The storm system then moved into Oklahoma, spawning several more suspected twisters in addition to high winds and large hail. Observations Programme Leader Forrest Mitchell at the National Weather Service office in Norman, Oklahoma, said survey crews were expected to head out Friday to southwest and west central Oklahoma and western North Texas to investigate possible tornados.

'Today (Friday), it looks like we may have a bit of a breather, which is fortunate so we can go take care of our surveying needs, and then we have another system coming in (Saturday) that may give us opportunity for severe weather" Mitchell said.

UK engineering graduate charged with murder of British-Indian teen

PTI ■ LONDON

A³¹-year-old man being questioned in police custody in relation to the fatal stabbing of three people on the streets of Nottingham, including British Indian teen Grace O'Malley Kumar, was on Friday charged with three counts of murder. Nottinghamshire Police said Valdo Calocane has also been charged with three counts of attempted murder of three victims injured in the attack and will appear at Nottingham Crown Court on Saturday

Valdo Amissao Mendes Calocane, a mechanical engineering graduate with dual nationality of Guinea-Bissau in West Africa and Portugal and settled status in the UK by virtue of his Portuguese citizenship, was tasered and arrested by officers on Tuesday.

The arrest came hours after Calocane is believed to have stabbed 19-year-old University of Nottingham students Grace Kumar and Barnaby Webber and then went on to kill 65year-old Ian Coates.

The suspect is then accused of ramming into three pedestriwhich two are in a stable condition in hospital and a third has been discharged. According to UK media reports, Calocane came to Britain in 2007 with his parents, originally from Guinea-Bissau – a Portuguesespeaking country in Africa.

His father had been living and working on the island of Madeira when he was granted Portuguese citizenship in 2006 and moved to Britain with his wife and three children later, gaining settled status as European Union (EU) nationals. Locals from the Welsh town they were based in have described the family as hard working devout Christians. The police had revealed on Thursday that the suspect was

a former student of the same university as the two teenage victims and Calocane's name appears on a list of mechanical engineering students who graduated last year. However, the police do not believe that his association with the university is connected to the killings.

At an emotional vigil in Nottingham attended by hundreds on Thursday evening, the relatives of the victims paid moving tributes and urged the people of the city not to hold any hate in their hearts.

Grace O'Malley Kumar's mother, anaesthetist Dr Sinead O'Malley originally from Dublin in Ireland, was supported by husband Dr Sanjoy Kumar and son James as she spoke in memory of her daugh-

"My beautiful baby girl, she wasn't just beautiful on the outside – you must have seen her pictures across media - she was so beautiful on the inside.

She was a treasured and adored child," said Dr O'Malley.
"She wanted very few things in life, she wanted to be a doctor, she wanted to play hockey with her pals, she wanted to have fun, because that's

And, all they were doing was walking home, just walking home after a night out," she said, eaking down in tears.

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman also visited Nottingham to pay her respects and lay a wreath with a handwritten message which read: "In memory of those who lost their lives, those who were injured and everyone who loves them. "We are with you and with all the people of Nottingham," the Indian-origin minister said. The police were given additional time to question the suspect by the court and an investigation supported by counter-terror officials continues, though the attacks are not being treated as a terrorism so far.

15 killed in bus-truck collision Manitoba is incredibly tragic,"

Abus carrying seniors to a casino collided with a semi-trailer truck at a highway intersection in a rural part of the Canadian province of Manitoba Thursday, killing 15 people and injuring 10 more, police said. Rob Hill, Commanding

Officer of the Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said the bus was carrying 25 people and authorities in Manitoba were deploying all their resources to the scene. Ten people were taken to hospitals. TV broadcasters aired

images of what looked like a large van or bus smoldering in a ditch near a transport truck with a smashed engine on a road. The pavement was littered with debris — broken glass, a large bumper and what looked like a walking aid. Seven blue and yellow tarps were stretched out.

RCMP Supt. Rob Lasson said "as of right now the drivers

 $S_{\text{Mohammed bin}}^{\text{audi Crown}} \xrightarrow{\text{Prince}}$

met Friday with French

in Paris as part of an official

visit, during which he will also

participate in a global financ-

ing summit aimed at fighting

change.Macron and the prince

sat down for a one-to-one

working lunch at the Elysee

the talks would focus on bilat-

eral relations between the two

countries and on regional sta-

bility issues, especially after

long-time rivals Saudi Arabia

and Iran restored diplomatic

and defense supplier to Gulf

ing for a global summit next

France is a major weapons

The leaders also are prepar-

The French presidency said

presidential palace.

ties earlier this year.

nations



alive and in hospital." He did not say if they were among the 10 listed as injured. The dead were mainly seniors. Lasson said the bus was

heading south and there would have been a stop and yield sign. He said the bus was crossing the east bound lanes when it was struck by the truck that was going east, adding that who had the right of way is critical to the

Saudi crown prince visits France

week "aimed at bringing

together private and public

funding" to fight poverty, sup-

port climate transition and

protect biodiversity, the French

gather over 50 heads of states

and governments as well as

many NGOs and prominent

The event is expected to

During his stay in Paris,

presidency said.

climate activists.

"The public is reeling and asking a lot of questions and people are trying to determine if their loved ones were involved," Lasson said. "Death on this scale is never normal-

The crash scene was in Carberry, a city 170 kilometers (105 miles) west of Manitoba's

Prince Mohammed is also

expected to push for Riyadh to

host the 2030 World Fair's

the prince has sought to reha-

bilitate his image abroad fol-

lowing the 2018 killing and dis-

memberment of Washington

Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi

Consulate in Istanbul.

His visit to France comes as

capital of Winnipeg.
"The news from Carberry,

center is sometimes like a second home, she said.

Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau tweeted. "I'm

sending my deepest condo-

lences to those who lost loved ones today, and I'm keeping the

been set up at a Lutheran

Church in Dauphin, Manitoba

for relatives. Police said the

people on the bus were from

Dauphin and the areas around

half-mast at the Manitoba leg-

Sand Hills Casino in Carberry

said the van had been sched-

uled to arrive there later in the

day. Kim Armstrong, the

administrator of the Dauphin

senior center, said the bus left

from the senior center

extremely tight knit in the city

of around 8,600 people and the

The senior community is

Γhursday morning.

Flags have been lowered to

spokesperson for the

injured in my thoughts." A family support center has

EU: Illegal drugs inundating Europe, adding to corruption, violence

AP BRUSSELS

New harmful illicit drugs are inundating a flourishing market for traffickers amid violence and corruption hurting local communities across Europe, the EU's agency monitoring drugs and addiction

The grim finding was part of the agency's annual report. It also said that drug users in Europe are now exposed to a wider range of substances of high purity as drug trafficking and use across the region have quickly returned to pre-COVID 19 pandemic levels.

Cannabis remains the most-used illicit substance in Europe, the agency found, with some 22.6 million Europeans over the age of 15 torically high" and new synthetic drugs whose effects on health are not well documented are worrying officials. In 2022, 41 new drugs were reported for the first time by

the agency. I summarize this with the phrase: everywhere, every-thing, everyone," said European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction Director Alexis Goosdeel.

"Established illicit drugs are now widely accessible and potent new substances continue to emerge," Goosdeel added. "Almost everything with psychoactive properties can appear on the drug market." Among the new popular substances, ketamine and

having used it in the last year. nitrous oxide — so-called iaugning gas concern over reported cases of bladder problems, nerve damage and lung injuries associated with users.

Alongside the high availability of heroin on the continent, synthetic opioids are on the rise and have been linked to deaths by overdose in Baltic countries. The report said the opioids situation in Europe is not comparable with the dramatic picture in North America, where overdoses caused by fentanyl and other opioids have fuelled a drug crisis. But the agency warned that this group of drugs is a threat for the future, with a total of 74 new synthetic opioids identified on the market since

UNICEF demands protection for Sudan's trapped children

AP CAIRO

The conflict in Sudan has **1** killed over 330 children and left 13 million more in dire tance, UNICEF said Friday, calling on the country's warring factions to better protect vulnerable young people. For two months, Sudan's

military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded Gen. Mohamed Hamden Dagalo, have been locked in a deadly power struggle. The fighting has killed more than 958 civilians, according to Sudan's Doctors' Syndicate, which only tracks civilian casualties. The true death toll is likely much higher. "Children are trapped in an unrelenting nightmare, bearing the heaviest burden of a violent crisis they had no hand in creating - caught in the crossfire, injured, abused, displaced and subjected to disease



and malnutrition," said Mandeep O'Brien, UNICEF's Representative in Sudan, in a report issued Friday. According to the United Nations' latest figures, the eight weeks of fighting have displaced more than 2 million people across the country, with lawlessness and ethnic violence intensifying across the Darfur region.

It wasn't immediately clear how UNICEF accounted for the 13 million children. There are roughly 21 million children

in Sudan, which had a population of over 45 million before the conflict broke out. Last week, the International Committee of the Red Cross rescued 297 children from an orphanage in Khartoum. The operation came after 71 children had died from hunger and illness in the facility since mid-In West Darfur province,

"at least 14,836 children under five are expected to be severely malnourished," UNICEF said. For weeks, the restive province has been under a near-complete communications blackout. Khamis Abdalla Abkar, the governor of West Darfur, was abducted and killed on Wednesday hours after he accused the RSF and allied Arab militias of attacking local communities across the

province's capital, Genena. Abkar made the accusation during a telephone interview with the Saudi-owned television station, Al-Hadath.

Amazon's \$1.7 bn deal to buy Roomba maker iRobot gets UK approval London (AP): British antitrust

regulators cleared Amazon's purchase of robot vacuum maker iRobot on Friday, but the USD 1.7 billion deal still faces scrutiny in the United States and Europe.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it decided not to escalate its initial investigation because it concluded that the deal would not result in a "substantial lessening of competition" within the United Kingdom. Amazon said it was pleased with the "We look forward to sim-

ilar decisions from other regulators soon," the company said in a statement.

Consumer groups have voiced concerns that Amazon's purchase of Bedford, Massachusetts-based iRobot, which makes the popular

Roomba robotic vacuum

commerce giant's dominance in the smart home market. The acquisition is still fac-

ing a review in the US by the Federal Trade Commission amid worries about Amazon's growing market power. It's also under scrutiny by the European Union's executive arm, which opened a review of the deal this month. The UK watchdog said in

its decision that robot vacuum cleaners and the data they collect aren't generally considered an important gateway to the emerging market for smart home devices It said iRobot has a mod-

est UK market position, already faces "several signifi-cant rivals" and Amazon would have little incentive to give its products special treatment over rivals in its online

Prince Harry and Meghan part ways with Spotify

London (AP): The production company founded by Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, are splitting ways with Spotify less than a year after the debut of their podcast "Archetypes." It is unclear why the podcast, hosted by Meghan, is leaving the platform but Spotify and Archewell Audio said in a joint statement that the decision was mutual. Archewell landed a multivear partnership with Spotify in 2020 to create podcasts and shows that would tell stories through diverse voices and perspectives.

The podcast premiered in August last year with tennis great Serena Williams as a guest and it was an instant hit.

It topped Spotify charts in seven countries, including the US and the UK, and it won the top podcast award at the People's Choice awards last

Greek coast guard defends rescue op as questions mount

AP ■ ATHENS

Greece's coast guard defended its actions on Friday in the deadly sinking of a ship carrying hundreds of migrants off the country's south coast, indicating that a 72-hour rescue operation would be extended. Patrol boats and a heli-

copter continued to scour the area where the fishing vessel packed with hundreds of people capsized and sank early Wednesday. Rescuers pulled 104 people from the water and later recovered 78 bodies, but the rescue operation has failed to locate any more since late Wednesday. Several hundred others are believed to have gone down with the vessel which sank while travelling across the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy. The rescue operation has created political controversy as Greece heads to a

general election on June 25, and

triggered large protests in Athens that turned violent late Thursday and led to 21 arrests. Left-wing opposition leader

Alexis Tsipras visited survivors and said the coast guard should have towed the ship to safety as it approached Greek waters -a concern echoed by human rights organisations. 'The Greek government

had specific responsibilities toward every passenger on the vessel, which was clearly in distress," Adriana Tidona of Amnesty International said. This is a tragedy of unimaginable proportions, all the more so because it was entirely preventable." Coast guard spokesperson Nikos Alexiou said the vessel was being followed by the coast guard and private vessels in international waters before it sank and denied reports citing survivors that a patrol boat had tried to tow the

Pak 'largely spared' as Biparjoy weakens | Pak FM blames geopolitics

PTI KARACHI/ISLAMABAD

 $P_{\text{the full fury of Cyclone}}^{\text{akistan was largely spared}}$ Biparjoy, which weakened into a severe cyclonic storm on Friday after making landfall in the Indian state of Gujarat, prompting authorities in Sindh province to lift the emergency measures imposed in the coastal areas. "Thank God; we are safe

from the destruction of the cyclone. But it might take us some time to send people back to Sujawal," Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman said.

People in Sindh's coastal city of Keti, who braved the cyclone threat and a warning of monsoon rains, are now returning to their homes after the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said the cyclone has weakened into a 'severe cyclonic storm" from a "very severe cyclonic storm".

"The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' over

crossing the Indian Gujarat coast (near Jakhau port) has weakened into a Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS)," the Met Office said in its latest adviso-

"The system is likely to weaken further into a Cyclonic Storm by noon today and subsequently into a Depression by today evening," the alert added. Biparjoy, (meaning disaster or calamity in Bengali), completed landfall on Thursday night, authorities said. "Pakistan was prepared but largely spared the full force. Sindh's coastal areas." full force. Sindh's coastal areas, like Sujawal, were inundated by high sea levels but most people had been evacuated to safe ground," Climate Change nister Rehman tweeted.

She said the authorities would hold a meeting to discuss how to send the affectees back to their homes. In a notification, the Karachi city commissioner's office said the earlier notification to cancel/reschedule exams



People wait in the rain for their turn to receive free food distributed by volunteers outside a camp of internally displaced people from coastal areas in Sujawal, Pakistan's southern district in the Sindh province

and other education-related activities had been recalled. "All educational activities including examinations may

resume in all educational institutions of Karachi Division by Saturday," the notification said The Sindh government had

evacuated as many as 67,367 people from the three vulnerable districts — Thatta, Sujawal and Badin — and 39 relief camps were set up to house them. Cyclone Biparjoy, which ripped through Kutch and parts of the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, has left a trail of destruction. Biparjoy unleashed destructive wind speeds of up to 140 kmph, blowing off roofs of houses, uprooting trees and electric poles in several parts while seawater entered villages located in low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, as Pakistan's

Karachi city was once again spared of the devastations of a cyclone, it ignited an old debate if the city was yet again saved by its 'patron saint'.

"Some local people of Karachi and especially the devotees of Dargah Abdullah Shah Ghazi here believe that Karachi is spared from hurricanes due to the miracle of the sacred person buried here," according to a media report.

Putin touts Russian eco

President Vladimir Putin on Friday touted Russia's prospects at the country's main international economic forum despite heavy international sanctions imposed because of the war in Ukraine. Western officials and investors steered clear of this year's St Petersburg International Economic Forum that for decades has been Russia's premier event for attracting foreign capital and is sometimes likened to the Davos World Economic

The Kremlin earlier also banned journalists from countries that Russia regards as 'unfriendly" from covering the proceedings that began Wednesday and continue through Saturday.

Moscow has imposed that designation on scores of countries including the United States, Canada, European Union members and Australia in connection with sanctions imposed over the fighting in Ukraine. Nonetheless, Putin said at the forum's plenary session, "We haven't turned onto the self-isolation path. Quite the opposite — we have widened contacts with reliable and responsible partners in the countries and regions that serve as the engine, the drivers of the world's economy today. I'd like to reiterate: These are the markets of the future; everyone clearly understands list of foreign businesses attending, but the programme for the more than 100 panel discussions showed a marked majority of speakers hailing from

Washington-based global lender were ongoing and the ninth review would be complete this month. The International

bursement is still pending due

6 billion to Pakistan on fulfil-

ment of certain conditions.

The plan was derailed several times and the full reimto insistence by the donor that Pakistan should complete all formalities. Dar said on Thursday that although demands for

for stalled IMF loan

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has blamed

geopolitics for a stalled IMF

loan package and said that

global institutions wanted the

cash-strapped country to

default like Śri Lanka and then

take part in the negotiations.

He said no reason had been given by the IMF for the

"unnecessary delay" behind the ninth review, which has

been pending since November.

country would meet its oblig-

he was quoted as saying by the

He alleged that geopolitics was behind the stalled loan

programme as global institu-

tions wanted Pakistan to

default like Sri Lanka and then

negotiations with the

Dar, however, said the

enter negotiations, it said.

Dawn newspaper.

Dar also reiterated that the

arranging guarantees for USD 3 billion from friendly bilateral partners had been met as committed earlier, the remaining USD 3 billion have been assured by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

ations with or without the IMF bailout package. "IMF or no IMF, Pakistan will not default," The minister said China realised the politics behind the unnecessary delay and its commercial banks agreed to roll over loans to Pakistan.

He said the assurance of USD 3 billion was given by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to the IMF, besides USD 400 million from the World Bank RISE project and USD 250 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

His remarks came after the IMF raised several issues in Pakistan's budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, calling it a

"missed opportunity".

The government unveiled

a Rs 14.4 trillion budget for 2023-24 in the National Assembly last week as it battled to fend off a looming default due to shrinking foreign

Dar said IMF's reservations on the current budget might be valid, but the IT, agriculture and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sectors were the "drivers of growth" and exemptions given to these sectors were inevitable to ensure the country's economic growth, which currently stands at 0.29

"How can we achieve growth without facilitating certain areas of the economy?" he asked. He said a return of USD 2.5 billion was expected from the IT industry this year, which would increase to USD 4.5bn

He said exemptions have been given by keeping in view the potential growth of the IT industry. Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing unbridled pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation and making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make

Sri Lanka can't allow imports of vehicles, says minister

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka cannot afford to resume vehicle imports since the country is still grappling with an acute shortage of US dollars, a senior minister said on Friday, nearly a week after the cashstrapped government lifted import restrictions on nearly "The exchange rate of the

supply and demand. We don't spend our reserves to maintain the dollar rate now," Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, the state minister of finance said. Last week, Siyambalapitiya

US dollar is now determined by

hinted that the government may resume vehicle imports to boost tax collection. Things got complicated,

however, when the govern-ment had to spend nearly USD 80 million last week to import "If USD 75-80 million

could make such an impact, then we need to closely consider the impact when vehicle imports are allowed as they consume a large volume of dol-lars," Siyambalapitiya explained. Going forward, the minis-

ter said that the proposal to import vehicles must be studied in depth.

"As a country, we are trynomic crisis. Therefore, instead of taking decisions based only on the outer surface, we should examine all the aspects and explore deeply the impact on the entire economy," he added.

Last week, the finance ministry lifted import restrictions on 286 items.

Nevertheless, Sri Lanka's economy shrank 11.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2023 from the previous year, government data revealed. While the agricultural sec-

tor had expanded by 0.8 per cent, the industry and service sectors had declined by 23.4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively during this quarter, it added. Last year, Sri Lanka

plunged into its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 due to plummeting foreign exchange reserves that caused severe shortages of essential items and triggered massive public protests. In April 2022, Sri Lanka declared its international debt default due to the forex crisis.

In March this year, Sri Lanka secured a USD 3 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund

Missiles target Kyiv as African leaders push for peace, grain

delegation of leaders and Adelegation of reacts and senior officials from Africa arrived in Ukraine seeking ways to end the invaded country's nearly 16-month war with Russia and to ensure food and fertiliser deliveries to their continent, though an air raid in Kyiv during their Friday trip provided a reminder of the challenges they face. The delegation including

the presidents of South Africa, Senegal, Zambia and the Comoros Islands first went to Bucha, a Kyiv suburb where bodies of civilians lay scattered in the streets last year after Russian troops abandoned a campaign to seize the capital and withdrew from the area.

The delegation's stop in Bucha was symbolically significant, as the town's name has come to stand for the brutality of Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The Russian occupation of Bucha left hundreds of civilians dead in the streets and in mass graves. Some showed signs of South African President

Cyril Ramaphosa said last month that Ukrainian Volodymyr President Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed to separate meetings peace mission.

The delegation was set to travel to St Petersburg later Friday, where Russia's top international economic conference is taking place, and meet with



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, right, and other African leaders attend a commemoration ceremony at a mass grave site in Bucha, Ukraine.

Putin on Saturday. It includes senior officials from Uganda, Egypt, the Republic of the Congo as well as South Africa, Senegal, and Zambia, Comoros While in Bucha, the visi-

tors placed commemorative candles at a small memorial outside St. Andrew's Church, near one of the locations where a mass grave was unearthed. Shortly after, air raid sirens

egan to wail in Ukraine's capital. Mayor Vitali Klitschko reported an explosion in the Podilskiy district, one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. "Russian missiles are a

more war, not peace," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted.

The Ukrainian air force said it shot down six Russian Kalibr cruise missiles, six

Kinzhal hypersonic ballistic missiles and two reconnaissance drones. It gave no details on where they were shot down. Officials who helped lay

the groundwork for the delegation's talks said the African leaders not only aimed to initiate a peace process but also to assess how Russia, which is under heavy international sanctions, can be paid for fertiliser exports that Africa desperately needs. They are also set to discuss the related issue of ensuring more grain shipments out of Ukraine amid the war and the possibility of more prisoner swaps.

must protect lives - Ukrainian lives, Russian lives, global lives," Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema told The Associated Press. "Instability anywhere is instability everywhere."

Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a deal in 2019 to provide USD **Pakistan Senate clears** bill to grant EC to announce poll dates

PTI ISLAMABAD

bill aimed at empowering Abili aimed at emponent of the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce election dates without the consent of the President was passed in the Senate on Friday despite opposition from lawmakers from ousted prime minister Imran Khan's party.

(Amendment) Bill 2023, which replaced the erstwhile Elections Act 2017, was moved by Pakistan's State Minister Shahadat Awan in the upper house.

The statement of objects and reasons of the legislation states that the Constitution envisages the duty of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to organise and conduct elections honestly, fairly, and in accordance with the law. Law Minister Azam Nazir

Tarar said the right to choose the date for polls had been

"But Ziaul Haq (former military dictator) gave this right to the President through an amendment," he

Opposition senators, par-

ticularly those belonging to former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have outrightly rejected the amendments.

The Constitution is very clear about the date of the elections and it gives both the president and governor the power to announce the date for polls," Leader of the Opposition Shahzad Waseem said.

The bill was introduced after the ECP shot a letter addressed to both houses of the Parliament, urging them to grant it more powers.

Subsequently, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani set up an eight-member bipartisan parliamentary committee in April to examine the amendments proposed by the ECP. Khan was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in the National Assembly. Since then, the cricketer-turnedpolitician has been demanding early general elections in

The PML-N-led coalition government has rejected his demand and senior ministers have said that elections will be held according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Amnesty Int'I concerned over Pak govt's bid to 'silence critics'

Lahore(PTI) A leading human rights organisation has expressed extreme concern over the crackdown launched by the Pakistani authorities to "silence critics" of the federal government and the powerful Army for the slew of cases registered against journalists following the dramatic arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan last month.

"At least seven journalists and commentators have been charged with offences against the state and anti-terror laws in the past four days," Amnesty . International said in a statement on Thursday.

"The use of these laws to silence commentators and journalists is a violation of the right

to freedom of expression," the statement said. The seven individuals referred to in Amnesty International's statement include journalists Shaheen Sehbai and Wajahat Saeed Khan, anchorpersons Sabir Shakir and Moeed Pirzada, army-officers-turned-

Haider Raza Mehdi and an individual identified as Syed Akbar Hussain. They are the latest to face action as part of the government crackdown on Khan and his party the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party members following the incidents of violence across the country on May 9. Police in the southern Tank district have registered a case on a citizen's complaint against journalists Sehbai, Khan, Raja and Mehdi for "abetting mutiny and waging war against Pakistan," the Dawn newspaper reported on Friday.

China flays EU Parl's resolution on HK's shrinking freedom

hina's Foreign Ministry Condemned a resolution passed by the European Parliament concerning Hong Kong's shrinking rights to free speech, even as Beijing seeks to restore economic links with the EU. The EU body overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on Thursday citing the deterioration of the city's freedoms since the imposition by Beijing of a sweeping national security law in 2020.

It urged the Hong Kong government to release and drop all charges against activist publisher Jimmy Lai, who was arrested under the security law, along with other prodemocracy activists.

It also renewed its call on

the EU to introduce targeted sanctions against officials responsible for "the ongoing human rights crackdown in the city," including Hong Kong leader John Lee.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's office in Hong Kong issued a statement late Thursday alleging the parliament was trying to use Hong Kong to contain China's growth, saying such a strategy was "doomed to failure."

Parliament was interfering with China's internal affairs and trampling on the principles of international law

small number of foreign politi-

cians cannot shake the (Hong

Kong) Government's firm

determination to administer

The statement said the EU 'The political drama of a

Hong Kong according to law and hold crimes accountable," the statement read. Hong Kong, a former

British colony that returned to China's rule in 1997, was promised the right to retain its Western-style freedoms for 50 years after the handover. But after the 2019 prodemocracy protests that spi-

raled into violence, Beijing

has steadily tightened its grip on the semi-autonomous Since then, large numbers of democracy supporters and a portion of the educated middle class have left the city, and the US has imposed sanctions against past and present Hong Kong leaders over the harsh

crackdown on rights in the

international financial hub.

Beijing and its local allies, who now control local government entirely, see the movement as a Western plot to contain China and have ruthlessly prosecuted opponents.

Another major source of contention is China's alleged 'secret overseas police stations," which have been reported across North America, Europe and in other countries where Chinese communities include critics of the Communist Party who have family or business contacts in

China denies that they are police stations, saying that they exist mainly to provide citizen services such as renewing driver's licenses. In its statement on

Thursday, the parliament said

https://ccmt.admissions.nic.in

it "condemns the attempts made by Chinese authorities to target their diaspora communities in the EU.

"Finally, Parliament calls on the Chinese authorities to repeal the National Security Law and to stop impeding the work of journalists," the statement said. The resolution was adopted by 483 votes in favour. nine against and 42 abstentions.

China's response dismissed the politicians' works as "nothing more than a botched political performance."

In separate statement on Friday, the foreign affairs office also lashed out at a US State Department report on human trafficking in Hong Kong, saying it was "full of political bias" and used human rights as a tool to stigmatize others. The US report said the

Hong Kong government did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, although it was making significant efforts to do China has also been ran-

kled by EU politicians making visits to Taiwan and hosting politicians from the self-governing island that Beijing considers its own territory and threatens to invade. The escalation of the diplo-

matic row between China and the EU comes days before Chinese Premier Li Qiang's planned visit to Germany and France next week, marking his debut on the international stage as China's second-rank-

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE TD/TM/GEN-235(Vol-VII)/23/1238

Name of the Work: "Allotment of 05 (Five) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License Fees Rs. 2,89,90,830/-, Wharfage Fees Rs. 18,98,620/-, Last date & time of ns. 16,36,020/-, Last date at time of submission of bid: 30.06.2023 up to 15:00 hrs, Date and time of opening (technical bid): 30.06.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Refer our Website for details ttps://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app http://paradipport.gov.in/.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sd/-Traffic Manager Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/24/2023-24 dtd.16.06.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Aijaz Hussain Shah and Sh. Shawkat Hussain Shah both sons of Sh. Haji Saffuddin Shah are the 'Title Holders' in possession of 'Entire First Floor of Freehold But! Up Residential Property Bearing Plot No. A-14, Laipat Nagar-III, New Delhi-110024 admeasuring 200.00 sq. yards', hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Sale Deed dated 20.02.2007, registered as Registration No. 1825, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 7019, pp. 125–135 on 20.02.2007 in the Office of the Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi. That the Original Documents w.r.t. the Schedule Project of the Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi. That the Original Documents w.r.t. the Schedule Ptol, i.e. (i) Lease Deed (24.04.54), (ii) Sale Deed (24.10.69), (iii) Mutation Letter (18.08.70), (iv) Lease Deed (19.40.76), (v) Permission Letter (04.06.80), (vi) Relinquishment Deed (18.08.81), (vii) Mutation Letter (28.11.81), (viii) Conveyance Deed (23.12.93), (ix) Mutation Letter (14.09.95), (x) Collaboration Agreement (02.12.2005) and (xi) Sanction for Construction Letter, have been lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 14.06.2023 bearing LR No. 550965/2023 is filled with Delhi Police. This notice is thus sissued to the Public at Large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned bot/ misplaced original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. either in the Schedule Property by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Giff, Trust, Encumbrance etc., or objection, by it interests, possession the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and as waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell the Schedule Property so resently intended.

Office Addr

Building collapse claims Indian worker's life **PTI** ■ SINGAPORE of search and rescue operations. cue workers had to cut, break structure around 6 pm.

20-year-old Indian worker Awas killed when a concrete wall collapsed on him during the demolition of a building structure in Singapore's Central Business District, officials said on Friday. The Indian national

employed by Aik Sun Demolition and Engineering was found dead under the rubble after part of the Fuji Xerox Towers building in Tanjong Pagar collapsed during demolition works on Thursday. Rescuers found the body of

the worker, who has not been identified, late on Thursday night after more than six hours

His body was pinned under 2m of debris, The Straits Times newspaper reported. In a separate report, the

newspaper identified the victim as Vinoth from Tamil Nadu. "I can only keep crying. It is very sad. He is my family, my baby He grew up in my home and I took care of him. How long can I continue to cry," it quoted his grand-uncle Raja Manickam, who was also Vinoth's local guardian in Singapore. Vinoth had a diploma in

mechanical engineering from a college in Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and arrived in Singapore in September 2022. Following the incident, res-

and dig through the rubble, but the weight of the concrete slab, estimated to be at least 50

tonnes, complicated efforts. "Following an intensive search operation, a worker who was earlier reported missing was sighted to be pinned under a collapsed reinforced concrete structure at about 6 pm. The worker had no pulse and was not breathing," The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) said in a statement. The body was recovered at about 9.45 pm on Thursday and was pronounced dead at the scene by a paramedic. The worker was found pinned under a collapsed reinforced concrete

He had no pulse, was not breathing and his body was recovered after a nearly fourhour effort to free him from the rubble. The developer, City Developments Limited (CDL), said in a statement on Thursday that it is deeply saddened by the incident. "We share our deepest condolences with the family for

their loss and are working with Aik Sun to offer our assistance. Our immediate priority is the well-being of the affected workers, and we are working closely with our contractors to provide the necessary support," a spokesperson for the developer said.



राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरूक्षेत्र NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA) KURUKSHETRA-136119

Advt.No.16/2023

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra, an Institution of National importance declared by an Act of Parliament, offers several undergraduate, postgraduate & doctoral programmes in Technology, Science, Humanities, Management and allied areas and also provides excellent ambience for academic research and co-curricular activities. For the academic session 2023-24, NIT, Kurukshetra offers 18 M.Tech. Programmes in vari-

ous Engineering Departments & Schools and 03 M.Sc. Programmes in the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. For further details please visit Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in. Admissions in M.Tech. Programmes Kurukshetra

Admissions in M.Sc. Programmes https://ccmn.admissions.nic.in The last date of online submission of application form is 24.06.2023.

Registrar I/c

Admission to M.Tech. & M.Sc. Programmes for the Academic Year 2023-24

Kurukshetra

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time highs

Change -+466.95

TOP GAINERS

On firm global equities, foreign fund inflows

quity benchmark indices
Sensex and Nifty closed at
fresh lifetime highs on Friday following gains in banking, financial and capital goods stocks amid a firm trend in the global market. A strengthening rupee and foreign capital inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58. During the day, it rallied 602.73 points or 0.95 per cent to 63,520.36.

The index scaled its earlier lifetime high of 63,284.19 on December 1 last year. The NSE Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its lifetime peak of 18,826. Its previ-

ous record peak was 18,812.50. On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 758.95 points or 1.21 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 262.6 points or 1.41 per cent.

"Markets surged strongly on Friday and inched closer to the record high, tracking firm global cues.

"After the firm start, the Nifty index hovered in a narrow band in the first half. However, a sharp surge in the latter half helped the index to test 18,864.70 but it finally settled at 18,826 levels.

"Recovery in banking and financials combined with buy-ing in FMCG, pharma and energy majors largely aided the rebound. Besides, the continued buying in midcap and smallcap space further added to the positivity," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The buoyancy in the global markets, especially the US, is helping the index to maintain a bullish tone amid mixed domestic cues, Mishra added.

Buying in index major Reliance Industries and HDFC twins also helped the markets to rebound. Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer in the Sensex

pack, rising 2.21 per cent, followed by Titan, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Power Grid and Tech Mahindra were the laggards. In the broader market, the

0.76 per cent and the midcap index jumped 0.71 per cent.

Among the indices, financial services climbed 1.21 per cent, bankex jumped 1.03 per cent, capital goods (1.02 per cent), industrials (0.91 per cent), FMCG (0.80 per cent), consumer durables (0.78 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.74 per cent). IT, oil & gas, realty and teck were the

laggards.
"Global stocks were headin more ed for the best week in more than 9 weeks after a series of Central Bank decisions, lifted by bets that the Federal Reserve will soon end its tightening cycle and China will introduce fresh stimulus measures," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities,

TOP GAINERS

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green.

Equity markets in Europe were trading with gains. The US markets ended significantly higher on Thursday.
"The domestic market

rebounded with strong buying in banking, pharma, and consumer stocks, along with positive cues from global markets. The US market's optimism was bolstered by better-thanexpected retail sales, reflecting the robustness of the economy.

"Furthermore, jobless claims remain elevated, and a decline in import prices raised hopes for a prolonged pause in interest rate hikes by the Fed, contradicting their announce-ment of potential future rate hikes made the previous day," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

The rupee rebounded by 34 paise to close at a month high against the US dollar on

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.62 per cent to USD 75.20 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 3,085.51 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

'We reiterate our positive view but suggest limiting positions citing intermediate choppiness. Instead of waiting for a new high in the index, we feel participants should maintain their focus on identifying stock-specific trading opportunities," Mishra said.

Pvt banks' slippages, write-offs from Covid recast nearly double than that of PSBs: Report

PTI MUMBAI

Private sector banks' slip-pages and write-offs from loans restructured after the COVID-19 pandemic are nearly double than that of their state-owned peers, a report said on Friday.

Private sector banks have seen slippages and loan writeoffs at 44 per cent, as against 23 per cent in case of public sector banks, the report by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said, calling the trend "surprising". The domestic rating agency analysed annual results of lenders for FY23. It found that the peak of restructured assets in bank books was in September 2022, when the overall quantum of recast loans had touched Rs 2.2 lakh crore.

"While there could be some more slippages, banks are of the view that the performance of the restructured portfolio would broadly mirror the performance of the overall portfolio," it said.

It can be noted that in the aftermath of the pandemic, which led to a hasty lockdown that led to a contraction in the economy, the RBI had announced a restructuring scheme followed by another one.

Ind-Ra said the COVID restructuring experience has been relatively benign, despite the unpleasant experiences in the past with similar schemes. On the overall asset quality front, it said banks are "close to

a clean slate" as all of them reported improvement on asset front in FY23.

"Banks are seeing the bestever asset quality in the past 10 years," it said, adding the gross non performing assets (GNPAs) ratio for the banking system improved to 4 per cent at the end of FY23.

GNPAs improved to 5 per cent in FY23 from the peak of 14.1 per cent in FY18, while the same for private sector banks stands at 2.3 per cent from 6.3 per cent. "Both categories of banks

For state-owned banks,

are also seeing a convergence in their asset quality and credit cost related parameters," it said. Explaining the reasons for

the improvement, Ind-Ra said banks have strengthened their processes with the use of tech-nology and rule-based app-roach to credit, stringent KYC norms, and centralising the sanctioning authority over the past many years.

The pandemic helped weed out weak borrowers in almost all segments, it said, adding that nearly 40 per cent of the stock of loans are the ones made after FY21 with tighter credit norms and filters.

"Over the next two-three years, as banks' risk appetite increases and competition intensifies, banks would look for growth opportunities and build risk," it said, cautioning that lenders build up risk in good times.

BSE smallcap gauge climbed Fitch affirms stable outlook to \$362.5 mn debt of Adani Green Energy RG2

Fitch Ratings has affirmed 'BBB-' rating on Adani Green Energy Ltd Restricted Group 2's USD 362.5 million senior secured notes (bonds), implying a low risk of default.

Assigning a stable outlook, the rating agency said that credit assessment is supported by the company's 570MW solar portfolio across two Indian states and long-term fixed-price power purchase agreements (PPAs).

The Adani Green Energy

Limited Restricted Group 2's (AGEL RG2) consists of 570 MW of polycrystalline solar projects, a proven technology with a long operating history, a Fitch rating issued on Friday said. "We regard the operation of these types of solar projects as straightforward and the solar modules are provided by inter-nationally known suppliers" it

It stated that Fitch Ratings has affirmed the AGEL RG2's USD 362.5 million senior secured, largely amortising notes due 2039 at 'BBB-'. The Outlook is Stable, it held.

Explaining about rating rationale, it explained that the AGEL RG2's credit assessment solar portfolio across two Indian states, moderately volatile generation record at portfolio level, long-term fixed-price power purchase agreements (PPAs), commercially proven technology, experienced operations and maintenance contractors, and strong credit metrics.

The restricted group's (RG)



(DSCR) of 1.44x is stronger than that commensurate with a 'BBBrating for the asset portfolio, reflecting considerable rating

The credit assessment is constrained by India's (BBB-/Stable) 'BBB-' Country Ceiling, it explained. The RG is made up of three subsidiaries of India-based Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL). The US dollar notes are issued in part by each of the three SPVs (special pur-pose vehicle) in the RG: Wardha Solar Maharashtra Private Ltd, Adani Renewable Energy (RJ) Limited and Kodangal Solar Parks Private Limited.

The notes are stapled together to mimic the structure of a restricted pool. The issuers dirare not merely lenders to the operating entities, unlike other rated issuance from most Indian RGs. All covenants or triggers

are on an aggregate basis.

Each SPV guarantees the note obligations of the other two SPVs, although the notes constitute each issuer's obligations only on a several basis.

case debt-service coverage ratio Risks' it stated that governance weaknesses at the sponsor level and other group entities, including a highly concentrated shareholding structure across group entities and aggressive debtheadroom at the current level. funded investments at some entities, can expose all Adani group-related companies to higher contagion risks than previously considered, which can affect their financial flexibility.

"We believe these group-related risks to be lower for the AGEL RG2 due to legal ringfencing as per a strict cash flow waterfall mechanism in the US dollar notes. The group is reevaluating its investment plans, especially in non-infrastructure businesses," it stated.

The Adani family recently sold USD1.9 billion in shares a US-based fund, it noted. Two of the boards at Adani group companies - Adani Transmission Ltd (BBB-/Stable) and Adani Enterprise - approved a plan to raise a total of about USD2.5 billion from the stock market. The additional funding will support financial flexibility across Adani group entities, About 'Group Governance mitigating the risks, it held.

India's forex kitty declines by \$1.32 bn to \$593.75 bn

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 1.318 billion to USD 593.749 billion for the week ended June 9, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves had jumped by USD 5.93 billion to USD 595.067 billion for the previous reporting week.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an alltime high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is redefining the role of National Assessment Centres (NACs) to

make faceless assessment in Customs more efficient, its chief Vivek Johri said on

The CBIC in September last year launched the risk-based faceless assessment

consignments. For this, 11 Customs

Commissionerates were partially re-orga-

nised commodity wise as NACs, with pan-

Addressing the CII National Conference on Trade Facilitation, Johri said there are

gaps in Customs faceless assessment and the

fine the role of NACs to rationalise the whole

process and make it more efficient," he said.

"We are on the drawing board to rede-

department is looking at them.

India jurisdiction



by global developments.

For the week ended June 9, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 1.128 billion to USD 525.073 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

faceless assessment more efficient: Johri

The CBIC has already reduced the num-

'We are trying to reactivate them and

Speaking on trade facilitation, Johri said

ber of NACs from 11 to 8 to promote spe-

make them strong, and ensure that there is

least divergence of practice in assessment which continues to be a matter of concern

that CBIC is looking at reducing average

lisation and make them strong

for trade," Johri added.

include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange Gold reserves dropped by USD 183 million to USD 45.374

Expressed in dollar terms,

the foreign currency assets

billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 2 million to USD 18.187 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve posi-

tion with the IMF was down by USD 8 million to USD 5.115 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.



taken for the release of cargo imported through seaports, inland container depots (ICDs), air cargo complex (ACC) and Integrated Check Post (ICPs) is 85:42 hrs, 44.16 hrs and 31.4

Addressing the event, CBIC Member V Rama Mathew said several dynamic reforms, such as SWIFT 2.0, are in pipeline which will greatly rationalize the documentation procedure for PGAs.

She stated that there is a lot of focus on artificial intelligence and blockchain technology to facilitate smooth auto population of data and ensure data integrity as well as authenticity.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of LED lighting solution provider IKIO Lighting Ltd made a remarkable market debut on Friday, ending with a gain of nearly 42 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 285. The stock made its debut at Rs 391, a jump of 37.19 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 49.96 per cent to Rs 427.40. Shares of the company ended at Rs 403.75

apiece, up 41.66 per cent. ON the NSE, it listed at Rs 392.50, a gain of 37.71 per cent. The stock ended with a jump of 41.92 per cent at Rs 404.50 per

In the broader equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent up at its record closing high

of 63,384.58. The NSE Nifty finished with a gain of 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent at its lifetime closing peak of 18,826.

Clinical makeover new launches

PNS NEW DELHI

India's leading brand for clear aligners and skin solutions, MakeO, formerly Toothsi, is launching experience centre nationwide to offer expert-led treatments for teeth, skin, and hair, featuring complimentary consultations with certified professionals.

Within 48 hours, those seeking teeth straightening receive a free customised plan. "Our tech enabled centres offer first-of-its-kind services under one roof for free diagnosis and treatment planning," shares Dr Arpi Mehta, co-founder & CEO, MakeO.

Aiming ₹1 lakh cr turnover for Patanjali **Group in next 5 years: Baba Ramdev**

 P^{atanjali} Group is looking to clock a turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore in next five years as it expands reach to all sections of consumers with different offerings, its leader Baba Ramdev said on Friday. Group firm Patanjali Foods (previous-

ly Ruchi Soya) will also play a significant part in achieving the milestone, having set a target of Rs 45,000-50,000 crore turnover in next five years. As part of its portfolio premiumisation

strategy, Patanjali Foods introduced a new range of offerings in nutraceuticals, health biscuits, Nutrela millet-based cereals, and dry fruits. "It is our vision to take the turnover of Patanjali Group to Rs 1 lakh crore in next

crore," Ramdev said while addressing a press conference here. Patanjali has been focussing on self reliance in India, challenging the multina-

5 years and that of Patanjali Foods, which

is our listed company to up to Rs 50,000



Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

tionals in the domestic market, he said adding,"Today we have overtaken all the MNCs except Unilever, which is still ahead

"Two decades back, when I had said we will make Patanjali's turnover at Rs 10,000 crore, at that time many had thought that Baba was being overconfident. Then again when I said about Patanjali's aim of a turnover of Rs 20,000 crore and compete with the likes of Unilever, some had asked us to be within our limits. Today, I proudly say that the turnover of Patanjali group has reached near Rs 45,000 crore level," he

Ramdev said the group has been offering a variety of affordable products for the masses through Patanjali Ayurved and now it is trying to tap the "emerging upper-middle class" through the premium products offered by Patanjali Foods.

At global level also, he said Patanjali is moving towards becoming a leading company in the FMCG segment with its reach touching around 200 crore people in 200 countries

"In India itself, we have reached 70 crore people and aim to reach more than 100 crore eople. We are making various preparations for this. We have reached the masses and are looking to cater to the upper-middle class with our premium products like soya chunks, premium oil and other Nutrela products," he said

Patanjali Foods CEO Sanjeev Asthana said the company currently has a turnover of Rs 31,000 crore

Rupee spurts 31 paise to a month high against US dollar on stocks rally

The rupee rebounded by 34 paise L to close at a month high against the US dollar on Friday amid domestic equity indices surging to record high levels and losses in crude oil prices. FII inflows into local equities and the greenback trading near one-month low levels also bolstered the rupee sentiment, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened higher at 81.97 and moved in a range of 82.02 to 81.86 in the day trade. The unit settled at 81.94 against the US dollar, reflecting gains of 31 paise over the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled



to a strong greenback overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities. Crude oil prices were trading lower on Friday with the benchmark Brent crude slipping 0.58 per cent to USD 75.23 per barrel. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was marginally up 0.08 per cent at 102.20.

EV space, to invest ₹70 crore in phase-1 PTI MUMBAI

Musashi India enters

Tapanese auto parts maker Musashi on Friday announced its entry in the electric mobility space in India in collaboration with BNC Motors and said it will invest Rs 70 crore in the first phase of the business.

Musashi India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Musashi Seimitsu Industries, manufactures transmission components for IC engine-powered two and four wheelers.

The company said it will use its platform of design and engineering capability to manufacture its new EV unit consisting of a motor, PCU, and gear box,

The company said it will manufacture the e-Axle at its Bengaluru plant, starting

Musashi will spend Rs 70

crore in phase-1 to set up an assembly line for the product at its manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, it said. 'We are bringing Musashi's expertise and advanced technol-

ogy to the electric mobility sector in India. Our focus is to provide components that are essential for the growth and success of electric vehicles," said Toshihisa Otsuka, CEO India and Africa Region, at Musashi Seimitsu Industries. The company said it is

expanding into e-mobility through a strategic collaboration with Bharat New-Energy Company (BNC) Motors in

The company has already signed an initial pact with Strom in Thailand, EV Go in Vietnam, and Arc Ride in Kenya, and will supply them e-Axle manufac tured in India.



Gold jumps ₹510, silver rises by ₹450 Gold price jumped Rs 510 to Rs 60,210 per 10 gram in

the national capital on Friday amid strong cues in internation al markets, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the vellow metal had settled at Rs 59,700 per 10 gram. Silver also climbed Rs 450 to Rs 73,050 per kg. "Gold advanced in the Asian trading hours on Friday, with spot gold in the Delhi markets trading at

overseas markets, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,962 per ounce and USD 23.95 per ounce, respectively.

The dollar index dropped to a fresh five-week low and settled lower by 0.81 per cent at 102.12 in the previous session on the back of weak US macro data and hawkish comments from the European Central Bank presi-

dent that indicate another inter-

est rate hike in July, Gandhi said.

Rs 60,210/10 gram, up Rs 510 per 10 gram," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In

Spain strike late against Italy to reach Nations League final

nain's Joselu pounced with two minutes remaining to snatch a 2-1 win over Italy on Thursday and set up a Nations League final clash against Croatia.

Luis de la Fuente's side shaded a tight battle in Enschede to progress to Sunday's final, where Zlatko Dalic's outfit are lying in wait after beating hosts the Netherlands on Wednesday

Yeremy Pino sent La Roja ahead after three minutes but Ciro Immobile netted from the penalty spot to level and the game seemed destined for extra-time before Joselu prodded home from point-blank range to win it.

The victory eases pressure on De la Fuente, who had been heavily criticised after March's loss to Scotland, in what was only his second game in charge.

Joselu, who has three goals in three games under the new coach, who handed him his debut, managed to stay onside and convert after Rodri Hernandez's effort was deflected into his path.

The poacher, 33, was relegated with Espanyol this season but netted 16 times

"I am very happy for everyone, the group and the coach deserve it," Jesus Navas, who became Spain's oldest ever player at 37, told Spanish broadcaster TVE.

"We played with great intensity, we're delighted and we can be very proud of getting ourselves into the final.

"It's a beautiful and hard-fought triumph, this is the way we have to go to



De la Fuente handed new "signing" Robin Le Normand his debut alongside another French-born centre-back, Aymeric Laporte, at De Grolsch Veste.

The Manchester City defender and his team-mate Rodri were playing after tasting Champions League success last Saturday, with the latter scoring the winning goal against Inter Milan in the final.

Mancini lined up with three at the back giving veteran centre-back Leonardo Bonucci a start despite his patchy season with Juventus.

Italy immediately paid the price, with captain Bonucci robbed on the edge of his own box under pressure from Gavi and Yeremy Pino, with the latter driving into the box and firing past Gianluigi Donnarumma. However the Azzurri quickly pulled themselves level, when Le Normand handled Nicolo Zaniolo's effort. Striker Ciro Immobile dispatched the penalty, back with the side for the first time since their catastrophic World Cup play-off defeat by North Macedonia in March 2022.

Sassuolo midfielder David Frattesi

ran onto Jorginho's chip and slotted Italy's second past Unai Simon, chosen in goal over Kepa Arrizabalaga, but it was ruled out for offside. Alvaro Morata forced Donnarumma into a solid save down to his right as Spain played on the counter-attack, willing to go long to find the Atletico Madrid striker in an end-to-end affair, the 40th "Mediterranean derby"

Spain thrashed Italy 4-0 in the Euro 2012 final and won in the 2021 Nations League semi-finals, while Italy won Euro 2020 after beating Spain on penalties in the

Mbappe says PSG 'my only option for now'

Kylian Mbappe on Thursday said staying at Paris Saint-Germain was his "only option" for now" after the France superstar told the club he would not be extending his contract beyond 2024.

"I've already answered this question, I said that my goal was to carry on at the club, to stay at PSG, it's my only option for now," Mbappe told a news con-ference ahead of Friday's Euro 2024 qualifier against Áibraltar in Portugal.

Mbappe earlier this week sent a letter to the club confirming he would not take up an option to remain at the French champions until 2025.

"I didn't think a letter could kill or offend someone," Mbappe said on Friday

He told AFP he had never discussed extending his contract with PSG beyond next year.

That immediately raised the prospect of the 24-year-old forward, one of the most coveted players in world football, following Lionel Messi out of Parc des Princes this summer.

Mbappe said he wasn't surprised by suggestions PSG could look to cash in by selling him now, rather than allowing him to leave for nothing at the end of next season.

'No, there's not much that shocks me," he said.

The France captain also

denied interfering with the to push" for the player to stay in national team's preparations by sending the letter four days "I accept everything, people

After playing Gibraltar in Faro, World Cup runners-ups can talk, criticise, I understand, he said. "People don't have all the ins and outs. I know why I do what I do and I say what I say. There's no problem with that.' "I have a responsiblity as

captain. A few noises won't make me run away from this responsibility. It's not my temperament to run away," he

before the Gibraltar fixture.

Mbappe also touched upon comments from President Emmanuel Macron, who on Wednesday said he would "try

France. "He wants for me to stay in Paris and my goal is to stay, so we're on the same wavelength," said Mbappe

France host Greece on Monday in Group B of Euro 2024 qualifying.

Mbappe was named as France's new captain before

they began Euro qualifying in March with wins over the Netherlands and Ireland. With the Dutch currently

focused on the Nations League finals, France can all but wrap up qualification by claiming back-

Spain morale is sky high after Italy win: Coach



(NETHERLANDS)

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said his team's morale was

"sky high" after they beat Italy on Thursday to reach the Nations League final against Croatia. La Roja snatched a late win-

ner through Joselu after Italy's Ciro Immobile cancelled out Yeremy Pino's opening goal. The coach had been criti-

cised heavily after his first two matches in March, the second of which was a defeat by Scotland. "(I feel) satisfaction and pride, I think we played an

extremely high-level game," De la Fuente told reporters. "We followed what we had

prepared to the letter. We're

happy and our morale is sky-

The coach handed Robin Le Normand his debut after the French-born defender obtained Spanish nationality in May, and the Real Sociedad player impressed despite conceding an early penalty for handball.

We have seen him so many

times, I was very calm, he's shown he's top draw, he's coolheaded, he's another player for the cause and the future of Spanish football," said De la

"He is very calm, he doesn't get nervous in tough situations. There was the accidental situation, he had the bad luck of hitting the ball with his hand. "(But his level) doesn't surprise us,

that's how he is, he's very good." Italy coach Roberto Mancini said he wished he had approached the second half with

more attacking intent.

The coach stuck to the 3-5-2 formation he opted for at the start and watched his team fade as Spain took control.

"I think it is a significant defeat because I care about it and I would have liked to have make it to the final," said Mancini.

We could have gone to a back four, knowing we would have given them a bit more ball than they ordinarily have.

"Maybe we could have taken up a higher block and been more attacking. We dropped off too much in the second half, absolutely.'

minute when Mexico's Gerardo



Frenchman Garcia named new Napoli boss

AFP NAPLES (ITALY)

Rudi Garcia said on Thursday

Rudi Garcia said on Thursday

"as motivated as ever" after the Frenchman was named coach of runaway Italian

Ex-Roma boss Garcia, 59, takes over from Luciano Spalletti who left his position after guiding the southern club to their first Scudetto in 33 years.

Garcia was sacked by Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr in April with the Saudi Arabian side second in the table just months after the five-time Ballon d'Or winner joined in a deal worth tens of millions of

"What a pleasure to take on the Napoli project. What a please to return to Italy," Garcia said on Twitter.

"I am as motivated and as ambitious as I have ever been," he added. Earlier, Napoli president

Aurelio De Laurentiis confirmed Garcia's arrival before the club announced the news on social

"I have the pleasure of announcing that, after having met and spent time with him during the last 10 days, Mr. Rudi Garcia will be the new coach of Napoli," De Laurentiis said on

"A sincere welcome to him and a big good luck!" he added. Fluent Italian speaker with Lille in 2011, before guiding Roma to Champions League qualification in 2014 and 2015.

He has also coached Marseille and Lyon in his home-

Italian media had reported that former Barcelona and Spain coach Luis Enrique was the favourite to replace Spalletti and ex-Paris Saint-Germain boss Christophe Galtier was also linked with the job.

De Laurentiis had said he had a shortlist of 40 names to succeed the colourful Spalletti. Garcia will have big boots to

fill by following 64-year-old Spalletti, the oldest coach to win the Scudetto and the man who led Napoli to the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time.

The Italian has departed Naples for a return to his Tuscan vineyard on gardening leave with sporting director Cristiano Giuntoli having also vacated his position.

Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag enter semifinals

In the final match, seventh seed Prannoy prevailed over Naraoka, seeded third, to book his semifinal berth



PTI JAKARTA

rndia's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty shocked top seed Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto to sail into the men's doubles semifinals before HS Prannov entered the last-four stage of men's singles competition at the Indonesia

Open here on Friday. Prannoy registered a win over Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

However, world championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the men's singles competition after going down fighting to China's Li Shi Feng in the quarterfinals.

The first Indian to take the court, Srikanth lost 14-21 21-14 12-21 in one hour and nine minutes against world No. 10 Feng.

The win enabled Feng to restore parity as far as his headto-head record against Srikanth

No news from Hamilton on future

is concerned, which stands at 1-

The seventh seeded duo of Satwik and Chirag then displayed a flawless game to outwit İndonesia's Alfian and Adrianto 21-13 21-13 in 41 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will play the winner of the quarterfinal between Koreans Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo and Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin.

In the final Indian match of the day, seventh seed Prannoy prevailed over Naraoka, seeded third, 21-18 21-6 to book his semifinal berth.

Prannoy will take on the winner of the match between top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark and Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou

In the battle between Srikanth and Feng, the Chinese came out on top in the first game bounced back with five straight points, with the Indian guilty of

Srikanth, who opened up an early 2-0 lead before Feng

despite taking more time to get

It was world No. 22

off the blocks

committing too many unforced The initial lead was all Srikanth could manage as his Chinese opponent upped his

game as the match progressed to take a 11-7 lead at the game Feng's court coverage and

anticipation was way better that his opponent, who made a number of mistakes near the net.

Barring a few glimpses of his old self, Srikanth looked completely off colour as Feng continued to increase his lead, executing drop shots with precision and body smashes to easily pocket the first game.

Pulisic double fires US over Mexico

AFP ■ LAS VEGAS

hristian Pulisic scored twice Cas the United States beat Mexico 3-0 on Thursday to set up a CONCACAF Champions League final showdown with Canada after a stormy battle that saw both sides finish with nine

Chelsea winger Pulisic opened the scoring in the 37th minute and then drove in a second a minute after the interval slotting home a low cross from Tim Weah, who had been sent clear down the right by a fine long pass from Weston McKennie.

The game at Las Vegas's Allegiant Stadium turned ugly in the 69th minute when Cesar Montes was shown a red card for an ugly wild kick at US debutant Folarin Balogun and McKennie was also dismissed for his role in the fracas which

Substitute Riccardo Pepi made sure of the win with the American's third goal in the 78th minute after an offside flag was over-ruled after a VAR

Two more red cards followed in the 85th we're in the finals.

Arteaga and the US's Sergino Dest were sent off after another mass brawl

The match was stopped in the final minutes due to a homophobic chant from Mexico supporters, triggering the stadium warnings of a potential suspension of the game. There were also objects and drinks thrown from the stands on to the field and the referee blew for time with around half of the announced 12 minutes off stoppage time still to play.

Pulisic expressed satisfaction with the result but frustration that the game was allowed to spiral out of control.

"It's a great scoreline for us, it's a big win and we're into the finals," Pulisic said. "But the game didn't need to turn into all this madness that it

"They really need to control the game much more. It's sad. And now we're missing two good

players just because everyone's losing their heads. "I'm a little bit upset but at the end of the day

before Canadian Grand Prix ewis Hamilton arrived at one of his favourite

Lewis Hamilton arrived at one of the Communication Thursday to praise Mercedes' progressive work but had no news on his future with the team before this Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix.

The seven-time world champion and seventime winner of the Canadian Grand Prix, a record he shares with seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, said he was "buzzing" after his and team-mate George Russell's double podium fin-

Hamilton's contract with Mercedes ends this

But, asked about a keenly-anticipated meeting with team chief Toto Wolff, to finalise his next deal with Mercedes, he said: "We never hooked up."

Pressed on the subject, he laughed off a suggestion that he had been to share a pizza with Wolff and explained there was no fresh developments to "No, we never had a pizza!" he said.

"I've seen Toto and we talked several times. We have a great relationship so there is nothing else to say at the moment.



He added he wanted to see if the upgraded Mercedes car that carried him to second place in Spain would remain as competitive this weekend.
"We've gone through a tough patch and we're kind of like on that up now," he said.

"It feels like we had wins at some races - but it's just about perspective because of course we haven't been in first place. "The steps we've taken at the last race as a team

to be on the podium with both drivers, that was "We're just focused, we know where we need

there, but we know that together, we can get there if we just keep our heads down. The science, the engineering at our team is fantastic, we've got a great development team. I honestly think we've got the best development

to go. We don't know everything about how to get

"It's as good\n't know if this track suits our car, but the weather may change that and then we'll

He has a career total of a record 103 victories, but he has not won since the 2021 Saudi Arabian

Root, Bairstow revive Eng after Aus threaten to take command



AP BIRMINGHAM

ustralia threatened to take control of the first day of The Ashes series before an unbeaten 64-run partnership between Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow lifted England to 240-5 at tea on Friday in an evenly balanced contest.

Root was 66 not out and his Yorkshire clubmate Bairstow had 33. The pair came together after Harry Brook was out in bizarre fashion and captain Ben Stokes lasted only eight balls. England scored at nearly five

runs an over in the morning but refrained from all-out "Bazball" attack, settling for a mix of some 54 singles and 12 fours but no sixes to go to lunch on 124-3 against an uncharacteristically cautious Australia.

Brook won't want to watch replay of his dismissal - not that he was looking the first time - and Stokes was out for a single to Josh Hazlewood (2-44) in wicketkeeper Alex Carey's third catch of the innings. Root and Brook brought up their 50 partnership at almost a run a ball.

Australia needed wickets

and broke through, though not in a way it expected. Lyon (2-71) bowled Brook when the batter's thigh pad sent the ball looping into the air and seemingly away from his crease before dropping centrally and spinning back onto the stumps, with Brook

taking no preventive action. Stokes came in to huge cheers and almost got out in the same over, putting his wicket in peril with an ambitious reverse sweep. The captain was caught behind shortly after at the other end, appealed and walked off when the screen showed a def-

England was 176-5 and the game moving Australia's way until Root and Bairstow joined

Zak Crawley (61) was earlier dismissed by seamer Scott Boland off the last ball before lunch. Australia had set mostly defensive fields after losing the toss on an excellent wicket to bat on in hot and sunny conditions.

Australia captain Pat Cummins said he would have also batted first, no surprise given his team boasts the top three-ranked Test batters in

Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith and Travis Head.

Australia has not won an Ashes series in England since $2001\ but$ entered the game as the newly crowned world test champion after beating India on Sunday. It hammered England 4-0 in the last Ashes series in 2021-22, meaning Australia needs only to draw the best-offive contest to keep cricket's famed urn. A moment's silence before the game paid tribute to victims of a knife and van attack in Nottingham, England, including two cricket-loving students.



'Like Ashwin against me': Stokes reveals Warner factor

IANS NEW DELHI

England captain Ben Stokes Prevealed that Stuart Broad's dominance over David Warner was a major factor in his selection for the Ashes opener, starting on Friday.

During the 2019 Ashes campaign, Warner was troubled by Broad's deliveries from around the wicket. In 10 innings, the opener was dismissed seven times by the English bowler, resulting in an average of less than 10 for the

Asked if that was a factor in Broad's selection, Stokes said, "I'd be lying if I said no," as quoted by cricket.com.au.

The English captain compared Broad's impact on Warner to Indian spinner R. Ashwin's record against him. He also applauded the fast bowler for his consistency throughout the years.

"It's just one of those things like (India's Ravichandran) Ashwin against me. 'Broady' has been an unbelievable performer

over many years.
"What the Ashes brings, it's so hard to look past someone like that. It's so hard to look past Jimmy and 'Robbo' as well, he's been incredible over the last year in all conditions. I'm very happy with the team we've ended up picking," Stokes said.

Warner showed signs of

form during his first-innings hand of 43 in the World Test Championship (WTC) Final last week and has vowed to be more aggressive against Broad than he was four years ago.

Australian skipper Pat

Cummins has also expressed his confidence that Warner will prevail over his long-time nemesis.

"I'm sure he's thought about it a lot over the last couple of years hoping to get another crack at it. Davey will have all his plans in place. I'm sure you'll see a bit more of an aggressive Davey than what you saw in 2019 and he's itching to get out there and have another chance at it," Cummins said.

West Indies, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka head into WC Qualifier unbeaten

PTI DUBAI

West Indies, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka will enter the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifier high on confidence, having won both their warm-up matches ahead of the tournament.Netherlands and Nepal will also both enter the group stages on the back of victories, with the Netherlands overcoming Ireland while Nepal beat Oman.

POWELL POWERS WEST INDIES TO BIG WIN AGAINST UAE: Bighitting Rovman Powell's rapid centu-

ry helped the West Indies defeat UAE by 114 runs at Takashinga, Harare on Nicholas Pooran's 74 had helped

the Windies to a commanding position before three wickets in nine balls saw his side slip to 198-7 midway.

But Powell combined with Keemo Paul to put on 139 for the eighth wick-105 from just 55 balls as the Windies posted 374 for nine.

The UAE had a centurion of their own in the form of Basil Hameed, who batted valiantly to reach 122 not out as his side fell 114 runs short.

Yannic Cariah was again the star of the West Indies attack as he took four for 58 to back up his four-wicket haul in the first warm-up game



AFTER DOMINANT SCOTLAND VICTORY: Brandon McMullen fell one run short of a half-century as Scotland were bowled out for 163 having been put into bat by hosts Zimbabwe.

The right-hander put on an innings-high partnership of 47 runs Pross for wicket before the latter was bowled by Brad Evans for 32. McMullen was unable to build another partnership before he was dismissed by Ryan Burl for 49, with late cameos from Jack Jarvis (26) and Christopher McBride (20) pushing Scotland past 150. In response, Zimbabwe chased the modest total

inside 25 overs with six wickets to spare. Sikandar Raza top scored with 44

from 28 balls while Joylord Gumbie and Craig Ervine both made 37, with Micheal Leask's two quick wickets only providing temporary resistance.

KARUNARATNE CENTURY SETS UP BIG WIN FOR SRI LANKA: Dimuth Karunaratne made a sparkling century as Sri Lanka hander 198-run defeat in Bulawayo.

Karunaratne was joined at the crease by Kusal Mendis in the seventh over with Sri Lanka 39 for one, before the pair combined for a 191-run partnership to power the Lions to 392 for

Mendis departed for 105 from 91 before Karunaratne retired not out on 111 from 100 balls to leave time for strong middle-order striking from Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka, who added 112 for the fifth wicket.

After losing both openers for just 10 runs to begin their response, the USA rebuilt through Monank Patel who scored 68 before becoming one of three wickets in an over for Matheesha Pat-

hirana to leave USA on 106 for seven. Shayan Jahangir was left stranded on 63 not out as Usman Rafiq was run out with USA falling 198 runs short.

BARRESI GUIDES NETHERLANDS

TO WIN: Ireland were bowled out for 193 in the 40th over with Harry Tector, who made a century against USA earlier in the week, one of seven players to score single figures against Netherlands as Scott Edward's side shared the wickets around. Lorcan Tucker rebuilt from 58 for

five in the 20th over, helped by a quickfire 46 from 25 balls from Gareth Delany, who became Shariz Ahmad's

Tucker was stumped by Edwards for 74 off the bowling of Clayton Floyd before Craig Young fell three balls later to Saqib Zulfiqar to bring Ireland's innings to a premature close.

Wesley Barresi's 90 helped see the Netherlands home, with Barresi and Max O'Dowd putting on 89 for the second wicket, though Ireland did not go down without a fight.

Three balls after O'Dowd departed, Noah Croes was also dismissed by Ben White, who returned figures of five for 61 as Ireland reduced Netherlands to 114 for six in the 19th over.

Barresi was dismissed 10 runs short of a century but Aryan Dutt and Logan van Beek calmly knocked off the remaining runs to see the Netherlands home by two wickets.

NEPAL HOLD ON TO DEFEAT OMAN: Captain Zeeshan Maqsood rescued Oman after they slipped to seven for four, going on to make a runa-ball century. Maqsood combined with Shoaib Khan to steady Oman, putting on 84 runs for the fifth wicket before compiling an 115-run partner-

ship with Ayaan Khan. The left-hander was dismissed for 109 as Sompal Kami struck twice in the penultimate over before Khan departed in the final over for 56, Kami claiming figures of five for 57 to leave Oman

In reply, Nepal made a strong start as opener Kushal Bhurtel scored 101 before retiring as he and Bhim Sharki added 115 runs for the second wicket.

With Nepal needing just one run to win, Oman hit back with three guick wickets as Aqib Ilyas took four for 42 before Sandeep Lamichhane hit a six from the first ball that he faced to secure

Handling Indian superstars has got Menon 'match ready'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Umpiring at home over the past three years under the constant pressure put by the big Menon grow immensely as an ICC Elite Panel umpire, preparing him well for his muchawaited Ashes debut next month.

After being inducted into the ICC Elite Panel in June 2020, Menon did majority of India's home games due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions put in

place for foreigners. He also got to officiate in couple of T20 World Cups in UAE and Australia and he was

in England last year for their home series against South Africa, taking his match tally to 15 Tests, 24 ODIs and 20 T20 Internationals since June 2020. In an exclusive interview to

PTI ahead of the Ashes, Menon said it was a blessing in disguise that he got to do so many games over the past three years.

"It has been a amazing experience working in Indian subcontinent in the first two years, doing Test matches and then getting to officiate in T20 World Cups in Australia and Dubai. I am working with best match officials and players has added to my umpiring experience. I character, how I behave under pressure, so lots of positives.

Menon is expected to be part of the umpiring team in the last three Ashes Tests. Having done most of games in a pressure cooker environment at home, Menon finds officiating in overseas games much easier",

Bangladesh close in on victory against Afghan

Day 3. Afghanistan trails by 617 runs with two days left and

would need to rewrite the record

books to get an unlikely victo-

captain Hashmatullah Shahidi

had to retire after being hit in the

head by a bouncer from fast

attack struggled to create any chances, while the Bangladesh

batters got enough loose deliveries to punish with ease after

resuming Day 3 at 134-1.

wicket partnership.

bowler Taskin Ahmed.

To make matter worse, its

Afghanistan's bowling

Opener Zakir Hasan scored



Najmul Hossain and Mominul Haque both hit a century as Bangladesh closed in on a victory in the one-off Test against Afghanistan after setting up an improbable 662-run target for the opponent on Friday.

Najmul followed his 146 from the first innings with 124, making him the second Bangladesh batter to hit a century in both innings of a Test.

the first Mominul, Bangladeshi to achieve the feat, brought up his first century since April 2021 with an unbeaten 121 as Bangladesh declared

its second innings on 425-4. Afghanistan batted 11 overs to score 45-2 before bad light

After playing in limited-overs style, Najmul completed his fourth test century off 115 balls, nudging occasional bowler Hashmatullah Shahidi behind square for a single. Left-arm wrist spinner Zahir Khan momentarily inter-

vened in Bangladesh's run-fest, taking two wickets in three After hitting 15 boundaries in his 151-ball knock, Shanto fell, clipping one to short midwick-

miscued a reverse sweep, after hitting a six on the previous delivery Mominul and Liton Das then denied Afghanistan any success, with the former guiding a short delivery of pacer Yamin Ahmadzai over the keeper for a

Veteran Mushfiqur Rahim

Liton, who was not out on 66 on his captaincy debut, picked up his 16th half-century, also hitting a boundary through fine leg against Zahir.

boundary to reach his 12th cen-

Paceman Shoriful Islam them gave Bangladesh a breakthrough with his first delivery, trapping Ibrahim Zadran lbw for duck.

Abdul Malik edged a deliv-ery of Taskin behind wicket as Bangladesh lost two wickets for seven runs in the second over. Rahmat Shah was batting on 10 with Nasir Jamal on 5.

71 off 95 deliveries before per-Bangladesh put up 382 in its ishing while going for a third run, ending a 173-run secondfirst innings before dismissing Afghanistan for 146.



Ind women's cricket team to tour Bangla for white-ball series

IANS NEW DELHI

The Indian women's cricket team will be back on the international circuit through a tour of Bangladesh for the whiteball series in July. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side last played on the international circuit when they lost to Australia by five runs in the semi-final of the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in February.

"Yes, we will be playing a white-ball series against India women's national cricket team in July and all the matches will be played at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium," Shafiul Alam Chowdhury Nadel, Bangladesh Cricket Board's women's wing chairman, was quoted as saying in a Cricbuzz report.

The report also said it will be the first time in 11 years that the Sher-e-Bangla National

Cricket Stadium will host women's international matches, with all games between India and Bangladesh to be day-night affairs. The last time the Bangladesh women's team played at this venue was in 2012 against South Africa. It added that the Indian

team will arrive in Dhaka on July 6 to play three ODIs and as many T20Is. The T20Is are scheduled on July 9, 11 and 13 while the three ODIs, which are part of the 2022-25 ICC Women's ODI Championship cycle, will be played on July 16, 19 and 22. The Indian team members recently underwent a High-Performance training and conditioning camp at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, with men's head coach Rahul Dravid and NCA head VVS Laxman giving

them pep talks during the camp.

SA women cricket team's first tour of Pakistan confirmed

Couth Africa women's cricket Steam will undertake their first-ever tour to Pakistan in August/September which will kick-start a busy 2023/24 international cricket season for the Pakistan women's cricket team, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday.

South Africa will play three T20Is and three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 ODIs in Karachi from September 1-14. Pakistan is presently sitting second on the points table with five wins in nine ODIs (three series), while South Africa has played only one series of three ODIs and has six points.

"I am extremely excited to be back to play a bilateral series in Pakistan. Having visited Pakistan earlier this year for the women's league exhibition matches, I was truly impressed by the warm hospitality and the

passionate cricket fans. The players were very friendly, it was really great to be there and experience the country. Pakistan is always a very competitive and dangerous side in their own backyard, so I feel it's going to be a good series. The ODIs being a part of the ICC Women's Championship is very important for women's cricket, and we all are looking forward to it," said South Africa skipper

Sune Luus. It will be South Africa's first international assignment



since their remarkable runnersup finish in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup on home soil in February. South Africa will be the fourth high-profile national women's side to tour Pakistan in recent times, after West Indies, Sri Lanka and Ireland made trips to the country in the last few years. "We are pleased to anno-

unce the Proteas Women's firstever tour to Pakistan. This tour not only signifies the strengthening of bilateral relations between our nations but also highlights the ICC's commitment to globally competitive women's cricket through the Women's Future Tours Programme. We are confident that this tour will pave the way for further collaborations and opportunities in the future."

"These six matches will also

team with an opportunity to further establish themselves among the elite in international cricket. Success during this tour will contribute to a seamless journey towards the upcoming tours and the ICC Women's T20 and 50-over World Cups, which will take place within the next two years," Pholetsi Moseki, the CEO of Cricket South Africa. In head-to-head encounters

between South Africa and Pakistan, the Proteas have had the upper hand, with a 76% win rate. Out of 24 matches played, South Africa has won 19 ODIs, with one match ending in no result. In the T20I format, the competition has been closer, with South Africa recording 11 wins and seven defeats against the hosts.