

mobs vent wrath on forces

Security forces foil attempts to set BJP leaders houses on fire

PNS NEW DELHI

In a disturbing turn of events on Saturday, Manipur witnessed a fresh wave of violence as mobs clashed with security forces in Imphal, resulting in injuries to two civilians. According to officials, mobs attempted to set the houses of BJP leaders on fire.

These attacks came just a day after a mob of approxi-mately 1,200 individuals, armed with petrol bombs, set ablaze the residence of Union Minister RK Ranjan Singh.

The strife-torn State has been grappling with clashes between the Kuki and Meiti communities for over a month, leading to multiple incidents of mob gatherings, violence, and attempted arson.

The sound of automatic gunfire reverberated through the air, amplifying the already heightened tension in Kwakta of Bishnupur district and Kangvai in Churachandpur

vented any harm.

causing damage.

district, Manipur. In a joint effort to restore peace and control the situation, the Army, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Rapid Action Force conducted marches in the State capital throughout the night.

Their aim was to prevent rioters from gathering. Notably, a mob of approximately 1,000 people tried to set buildings near the palace compound ablaze. To disperse the crowd, the Rapid Action Force resorted to the use of tear gas and rubber bullets

Further incidents unfolded as a mob gathered near the res-



Tyres and construction materials set on fire by miscreants amid ongoing ethnic violence in Imphal East district on Friday PTI

ruptions in the city. idence of MLA Biswajeet,

The gravity of the situation attempting to set the house on fire. However, the Rapid Action has prompted Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom Force successfully dispersed Satyabarta Singh, along with the crowd, averting a potential MLAs, to schedule a meeting disaster. Similarly, another mob surrounded the BJP office in with Prime Minister Narendra Sinjemai after midnight, but Modi. The focus of the meeting will revolve around the recently formed peace comswift action by the Army premittee, following Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the In a midnight act of vandalism, the mob targeted the residence of State BJP president violence-stricken state.

Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi In an effort to restore norin Imphal West. The Army, along with the Rapid Action Manipur malcy, the Government has instructed Force, swiftly intervened and schools to resume classes from prevented the attackers from June 21, as mentioned in an official statement. However, Friday witnessed clashes the ban on internet services in the State has been extended for between the mob and Rapid Action Force personnel after an additional five days until June 20. The clashes initially erupted on May 3 during a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organthe warehouse was set on fire. The situation worsened as the group obstructed traffic by burning tires, logs, and waste in Wangkhei, Porompat, and ised in the hill districts, aimed at protesting the Meitei com-Thangapat areas, causing dismunity's demand for ST status.

review ties with **BJP** PNS NEW DELHI F^{ormer} Deputy

NPP to

Chief Minister and ex-DGP of Manipur, Yumnam Joykumar Singh, has voiced concerns over the ongo-ing situation in Manipur and hinted at a potential reassessment of the alliance between his party, the National People's Party (NPP), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) if the conditions fail to improve in the coming Continued on Page 2

AP/AFP KAMPALA

Mallied Democratic Forces (ADF), linked to ISIS, hacked and burned 37 students, one guard, and two members of the local community to death at a secondary school in Uganda's Mpondwe, 2 km from the

Mpondwe, 2 km from the Congo border, on Friday. Major General Dick Olum told AFP that intelligence sug-gested the presence of the ADF in the area at least two days before the attack, and an probe would be needed to establish

were. That's why they locked the boys' dormitory and set it on fire. They did not lock the girls' section, and the girls managed to get out, but they were cut with machetes as they ran for safety," said Olum.

The ADF has been accused of targeting civilians in remote

Adipurush insult to Hindu religion: Opp; C'garh mulls ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Om Raut's film "Adipurush," based on the Valmiki Ramayana, has ignited a storm of controversy as Opposition parties on Saturday accused the movie of insulting the Hindu religion with its use of "tapori" language and its poor depiction of gods.

Chief Chhattisgarh

Minister Bhupesh Baghel, alleged that the film aimed to tarnish the image of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman,

expressing concerns that the Congress government might consider banning it in the State if demanded by the people. Baghel condemned the film's dialogues as "objectionable and

indecent" and questioned the apparent silence of political parties that claim to be custodians of

religion, taking a direct jab at the BJP. When questioned about

the possibility of a ban, Baghel responded, "The Government will contemplate a ban if there

is a significant demand from the people."

PNS BHUJ/JAIPUR

Chops and business estab-Slishments in Gujarat's Kutch district opened shutters on

Saturday in signs of return to normalcy as authorities stepped

up efforts to restore electricity

in several towns and hundreds

of villages battered by Cyclone Biparjoy. The weather system, which hit the landmass near Jakhau

port as a very severe cyclonic storm on Thursday evening, turned into a deep depression

and will further lose steam to become a depression, the India Meteorological Department

Meanwhile, several places in Rajasthan received heavy rainfall on Saturday due to

Cyclone "Biparjoy". The MeT

department has issued a 'Red

Alert' in Barmer, Jalore and

said in its latest update.

Sirohi districts

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has strongly criticised the movie, condemning its shameful dialogues and its disrespectful portrayal of Hindu gods. AAP MP Sanjay Singh asserted that the film had insulted the Hindu religion, accusing BJP leaders of promoting it

Continued on Page 2



what went wrong. "They knew where the boys' and girls' dormitories

parts of eastern Congo. A able to operate because the cen-

tral government has limited Ugandan military assault forced the ADF into eastern control there **Detailed report on P5** Congo, where rebel groups are

Brahmos drones to be made in UP



PNS LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced on Friday that the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) will not only manufacture nuts and bolts but also cutting-edge technologies such as BrahMos missiles, drones electronic warfare systems, and aircraft.

The UPDIC aims to reduce India's reliance on foreign suppliers in the aerospace and defence sectors, promoting self-sufficiency. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

WINE CUSTOMER KILLED **AS GANG MAN OPENS FIRE**

Gurugram: Two armed men fired more than 15 rounds at a crowded liquor shop in Gurugram, killing a customer and injuring two others, police said on Saturday. The incident captured in CCTV cameras installed at the outlet, took place around 8.30 pm on Friday in Panchgaon in the Manesar area here, they said. Police suspected that the attack could have been carried out by a gang as part of an attempt to take control of the shop.

2 KILLED IN STONE MINE Collapse in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Two labourers were killed coming under the debris of a stone mine collapse in Tonk on Saturday. The victims were identified as Sheru Khan and Dev Lal. The incident was caused by rainwater collected outside leaking into the mine



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Ambedkar's grandson visits Aurangzeb's tomb, stirs row

sunday pioneer

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

 $V_{(VBA)}^{\text{anchit Bahujan Aghadi}}_{\text{former MP Prakash Ambedkar}}$ stirred up hornet's nest in the state political circles on State pointeal circles on Saturday, by visiting the tomb of Aurangzeb at Khuldabad near Aurangabad, offering 'chadar of flowers' and paying obeisance to the controversial Mughal Emperor.

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

On a day when the video clips and photographs of his visit to the Aurangzeb tomb went viral on the social media, Prakash Ambedkar - who is the grandson of late BR Ambedkar - was felicitated by

the trustees of the tomb. Not unknown controversies, Prakash Ambedkar stoutly defended his decision to visit Aurangazeb's tomb by saying: "Aurangzeb ruled the Mughal Empire for 50 years. Can you erase that history? Historian Babasaheb Purandare has written in detail as to why Aurangazeb came to the state. Jaichand also came to the state. It was because of Jaichand, the influence of Mughals spread

across the country". "You can heap abuses on ORONO CONCOLOUS (CONCOLOUS)

Jaichand. But, why do you always curse Aurangazeb?," the VBA chief asked.

Given that his party has forged an electoral alliance with the Shiv Sena (UBT), Saturday's development put the Uddhav Thackeray-led party in an embarrassing situation. However, Prakash Ambedkar dismissed the suggestion that his visit to the Aurangzeb tomb would affect the political prospects of the Shiv Sena (UBT). "My visit to the tomb will not create any

problem for the Sena (UBT) Ambedkar's visit to Aurangzeb's tomb had not elicited any formal comment from either Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray or



In 1653, when Mughal prince Aurangzeb was appointed the Viceroy of the Deccan for the second time, he

made Fatehnagar his capital and renamed it Aurangabad. Aurangzeb, who was the son of Emperor Shah Jahan and his favourite queen Mumtaz (in whose memory Shah Jahan built the monument to love, Taj Mahal in 1653) ruled the Mughal empire between 1658 and 1707 Aurangzeb died on March 7, 1707 at his army camp in Ahmednagar and was later

any of his party leaders till Saturday evening.



expressed their views in the ministerial meeting. While acknowledging the

long-term increase in global food production to meet the needs of a growing population, the G20 Ministers of Agriculture, in the document, said they are gravely concerned by the worsening global food insecurity situation and intensifying malnutrition rates, in several developing and least developed countries.

and nutrition," the G20 Ministers of Agriculture said in The global food insecurity situation and malnutrition rates Agriculture are compounded by poverty, Minister Narendra Singh the Covid-19 pandemic, Tomar said the meeting was deepening climate change and biodiversity loss crises, and attended by the 20 member ongoing conflicts in the world, they said.

Ministers of Agriculture



G20 meet adopts Outcome Document & Chair's Summary

"We are committed to helping vulnerable countries particularly Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) to achieve Developing it," they said.In their 'Call for Action' on 'Food Security and Nutrition, the ministers noted with concern the high prices, ongoing disruptions in global supply chains, and excessive price volatility of food and fertilisers.

Resilient, uninterrupted and reliable supply chains are essential for stabilising the availability and affordability of food for all, especially for people in vulnerable situations,

"In the context of systemic shocks, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, we highlight the urgency of meeting global food security and nutrition needs and facilitating robust food and fertiliser supplies," they said

While stressing the importance of diverse, safe, and sustainably produced nutritious food to improve food security and nutrition, the ministers stated in the document that they encourage initiatives to promote innovations in crop development, production and consumption patterns.

The ministers said they recognise that sustainable agriculture and food production, food security programmes and international trade are critical for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."We should support developing countries to enhance their capacity for sustainable food production, storage, marketing and loss reduction," they said.

To promote food security and nutrition programmess, the ministers agreed to share best practices and experiences with each other. The ministers resolved to collaborate in areas such as climate-resilient

technologies, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches and foster better dissemination of existing traditional and local knowledge for sustainable agriculture. They called for an

integrated and multi-sectoral 'One Health' approach to simultaneously balance and optimise the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, and combat anti-microbial resistance (AMR) to reduce the risks from emerging and currently occurring zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential and other threats to global public health security.

The ministers underscored that policies promoting resilient and sustainable agriculture, food systems and supply chains have enormous potential to bring about inclusive welfare and sustainable development.

Towards universal cessibility and affordability of digital solutions in agriculture, they committed to collaborate with all stakeholders and strengthen capacity-building efforts, including dissemination of digital tools and technology and promoting its adoption by farmers."We stress the necessity for strengthening international cooperation in the exchange of experiences and insights for the use of digital technologies in agriculture and food systems," the document said.

No life was lost during cyclone, major achievement: Shah



PTI BHUJ (GUJ)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said it was a major achievement of the Gujarat government that no death took place on account of cyclone Biparjoy even though it packed a wind speed of 140 kmph while making landfall.

Electricity will be restored in affected areas by June 20, he and casualties of cattle were just said, talking to reporters in Kutch district which bore the brunt of the cyclone. Power supply has been restored in 1,600 villages and fully restored in Junagadh and Porbandar districts, the Union minister said. The state government will soon carry out a survey of damage caused to crops, orchards and fishing boats, and announce a relief package, he said. The state and Union

countries of the grouping, the which is frequently visited by invited countries and representatives of 10 many despite brouhaha at regular intervals by certain In the document, the G20 international organisations.He political parties. Chargesheet filed in Umesh Pal murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The three-day G20 Agriculture Ministers

Meeting that concluded here

on Saturday adopted an

Outcome Document and

Chair's Summary' which

reiterated its commitment to

food security and nutrition for

G20 developing countries was

initiatives for G20's concrete

deliverables - the Deccan High

Level Principles on Food

Security and Nutrition 2023

and 12th G20 MACS

international initiative for

research on millets and other

ancient grains aimed to enhance global food security

"We appreciate India's

envisaged.

the document.

Union

NEW DELHI

PTI PRAYAGRAJ

Police here on Saturday filed their chargesheet against eight accused in the Umesh Pal murder case.

laid to rest in Khuldabad in a

bare, non-decrepit, open-air tomb as per his own wishes,

The charge sheet was filed by Dhoomanganj ACP Mahendra Singh Deo in a court here, government counsel Gulab Chandra Agrahari said. The charge sheet mentions

Ahmed, Rakesh alias Nakesh alias Lala, Arshad Katra, Niyaz Ahmed, Iqbal Ahmed, Shahrukh, Akhlaq Ahmed, and Khan Shoulat Haneef as accused, he said.

Khan Shoulat Haneef is currently in judicial custody in Naini Central Iail.

Agrahari said the case against the eight men was filed at the complaint of Umesh

Pal's wife Jaya Pal

All eight have been booked under various sections of the

IPC, Explosive Substances Act, and sections of SC/ST Act at Dhoomanganj Police Station. Gangster Politician Atiq

Ahmed, his brother Ashraf, wife Shaista Parveen, and other

Brahmos, drones to...



According to the counsel the first charge sheet in the matter was filed in the court on May 26 with Sadaqat Khan as the main accused. He said that the matter will be heard next on

Governance in Odisha hijacked by junior officer, alleges BJP

PTI BHUBANESWAR

Senior BJP leader Aparajita Sarangi on Saturday attacked the BJD government in Odisha alleging that a junior bureaucrat has hijacked the governance in the State.

Without naming anyone, Sarangi claimed that the secretary-level officer has been working in violation of All India Service Conduct Rules by addressing public meetings, making announcements of projects and getting sponsored receptions, while senior BJD leaders were arranging his programmes.

Reacting to the allegations, the ruling BJD dubbed her as "anti-Odisha.

"It is painful to see BJD MPs, MLAs and ministers have become slaves to this junior officer who has hijacked the state's governance in the name of doing such works at the instructions of the chief minister," Sarangi, the MP of Bhubaneswar, told a press conference. She said if the officer has political ambition, he should quit the government job and join politics

BJD spokesperson Sreemayee Mishra, in a counter press meet, claimed that Sarangi had



attempted to stop development works in the Jagannath temple at Puri and Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar.

Stating that people have voted Sarangi to work for them and not against their interests, Mishra asked: "Have you been able to stop water logging caused by National Highways in Bhubaneswar? Your capital ring road plan is still in pen and paper. Your model railways station or coastal highway - everything is nonexistent.

अदालती सूचना

न्यायालय अपर जिला जज चतुर्थ, देहरादून आज्ञा से श्री शेष चन्द्र, अपर जिला जज चतुर्थ देहरादून । विविध वाद सं0 160 वर्ष 2021

(एम.ए.सी.टी. वाद सं0 554 वर्ष 2010) (दीपक बनाम प्रेम सिंह आदि)

नैशनल इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी लि0, 2 ई / झंडेवाला एक्सटेंशन, दिल्ली–110055 द्वारा णाखा कार्यालय प्रबन्धक नैशनल इंश्योरेंर कम्पनी लिंग राजपुर रोड, देहरादून । प्रार्थी बनाम

(1) श्री प्रेम सिंह पुत्र श्री गोपाल सिंह निवासी मकान नं0 66–राजपुर रोड, देहरादून–240001 (2) श्री कृष्ण कुमार पुत्र श्री भगत राम निवासी बी-1466 शास्त्री नगर, दिल्ली-110052 व वर्त्तमान पता ए-607/2, शास्त्री नगर दिल्ली-110052 नोटिस बनाम विपक्षी सं0 1 से 2

(1) श्री प्रेम सिंह पुत्र श्री गोपाल सिंह निवासी नकान नं0 66–राजपुर रोड, देहरादून–248001 (2) श्री कृष्ण कुमार पुत्र श्री भगत राम निवासी बी–1466 शास्त्री नगर दिल्ली–110052 व वर्तमान पता ए–607 ⁄ 2, शास्त्री नगर

दिल्ली–110052विपक्षीगण विदित हो कि नैशनल इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी लि0 (प्रार्थी / डिक्रीदार ने आप विपक्षीगण के विरुद्ध उपरोक्त न्यायालय में एक वसूली (RECOVERY हेत वाद योजित किया है, जिसमें दिनांक 28 जून 2023 की तिथि सुनवाई हेतु नियत है, एतद् द्वार आप विपक्षीगण को सचित किया जाता है कि उत्त तिथि को इस न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रातः 10 बजे स्व या द्वारा अधिवक्ता जो सम्यक रूपेण अनरिष्ट ह उपस्थित होकर अपनी आपत्ति/सुनवाई प्रस्तुत करे। उक्त तिथि को आपकी उपसंजाति में चूक होने पर उक्त अपील एकपक्षीय सुनी जाएगी व निर्णीत की जाएगी।

आप विपक्षीगण को सचित किया जाता है कि यदि आप दिनांक 28 जून 2023 को इस न्यायालय उपस्थित नहीं होगें तो उक्त विविध वाद की सुनवा एवं निपटारा करने के लिये आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षी आदेश पारित कर दिये जायेंगे। आज दिनांक 06 / 06 / 2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर

यायालय की मुद्रा सहित जारी किया गया। प्रबन्ध-

अपर जिला जज चतुर्थ देहरादून।

ide landfall nea rjoy ma Jakhau on Kutch coast on Thursday evening, felling trees and electric poles and damaging houses.

successfully to face the cyclone,

"We can express satisfaction that nobody has

died in the cyclone that made landfall with wind speed of 140 kmph," he said, adding that it

was a "major achievement".

"Not only that, but the number

of injured persons was only 47

234," Shah added. Cyclone

Shah said. "We

The government's priority now is restoration of electricity, water supply and sending people who are in shelters back to their homes, the Union minister said. "Those who were shifted will be sent back to their homes in a couple of days," he added. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi continuously guided the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gujarat government and all government agencies, Shah said, adding that to come out of this disaster with a minimum damage was a great example of effective teamwork.

From Page 1

Addressing a gathering on "Atmanirbhar Bharat" in Lucknow, Singh emphasised the importance of a diverse manufacturing ecosystem within the UP defence corridor. He stated, "Not only nuts and bolts or spare parts will be manufactured, but drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), electronic warfare systems, aircraft, and BrahMos missiles will also be manufactured and assembled."

Singh highlighted the conducive environment created for defence manufacturing through the establishment of defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Regarding the UPDIC, he revealed that over 95 per cent of the planned 1,700-hectare land has already been acquired. Currently, 36 industries and institutions have been allotted nearly 600 hectares of land, with 109 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

signed, indicating an estimated investment value exceeding Rs16,000 crore.

June 21.

To date, various entities have invested pproximately Rs 2,500 crore in the UPDIC, showcasing significant progress since its launch in 2018. At an event in Aligarh, investments worth over Rs 3,700 crore in defence production were announced, setting a promising trajectory for the corridor's development.

The UPDIC spans across six nodes, namely Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, and Lucknow, aimed at fostering the growth of the defence industry in these regions.

The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor stands as a testament to India's commitment to enhancing its domestic defence capabilities and achieving self-reliance in the sector.

From Page 1

Speaking to a TV channel Singh, who serves as the National Vice-President of the NPP, emphasised the need for proactive measures in the face of the prevailing unrest. Singh highlighted that the NPP will be compelled to reconsider its equation with the saffron party, as they cannot afford to remain passive observers. '

"We can't be mute spectators," Singh, said underscoring the growing concerns within his party. He further emphasized the significance of Article 355, which mandates the responsibility of both the state and central governments to

party and the safety of their safeguard the welfare of the people. Singh expressed MLAs and Ministers. "It is at disappointment over the lack stake, and people are asking of proper planning and questions. Today it's RK execution in addressing the Ranjan, tomorrow it will be situation.

NPP to review ties with...

Expressing doubts about any immediate improvements, Singh stated that the situation in Manipur is only deteriorating. Referring to the recent incident where Union Minister RK Ranjan's house was torched, he questioned the effectiveness of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the state, noting the absence of significant changes in the aftermath.

Singh expressed worries would not see any improvements.

other MLAs and ministers of the BJP, then allies will be targeted," he said. Commenting on the State of governance in Manipur, Singh highlighted the prevailing dual control and confusion. He stressed the importance of clear and decisive leadership to bring about positive change, warning that without a transparent delineation of responsibilities, the situation

about the credibility of the

Adipurush insult to Hindu religion: Opp, Chhattisgarh mulls ban

LOST AND FOUND I, SUDESH KOHLI W/o Late SHRI C.K KOHLI R/O FLAT NO.205, POCKET-D MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-II, DELHI 110091 inform That I am the owner and in 0 possession of BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING No.23-B (PART OF PLOT No.23). Land Measuring Area 72.4 Sq.Yds.i.e.60.53 Sq.Mts. (Size: 42.9 Ft x 14.11 Ft. and Front 15.9 Ft.). alongwith its whole of structure consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor with roof rights, with the rights to further & upper construction upto the last storey, out of Khasra No.490/106, Situated at the abadi of DEH LAL DORA, VILLAGE PATPARGANJ, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi 110091. Some previous original title documents related to the above said property has been lost/misplaced Agreement to Sell, Receipt, Will and other transfer documents dated 25.01.1975 & 06.02.1975. documents dated 12.10.1970. GPA Registration No.380. in book No.4. Volume No.7, on Pages 116 to 117, Dated 12.10.1970 in the office of Sub-Registrar IV Delhi executed by Smt Ram Devi W/o Shri Attar Chand in favour of Shri Attar Chand. I have lodge a lost report in this regarding. paragraph section. The same should be read as June 17, 2023. All other details mentioned in the said Notice will remain same. Vide LR No.552111/2023, Dated 14.06.2023. I have not mortage aforesaid original documents with any person original documents with any per Bank or any other financial institution. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard Date: June 17, 2023 Place: Delhi/NCR SUDESH KOHLI



criticism by stating, "The BJP is a party of ruffians and is this also showing arrogance towards religion. Narendra Modi ji, JP Nadda ji should apologize. BJP members neither belong to Lord Ram nor to the common people, nor are they of any use? Singh also lambasted the filmmakers for using their imagination to distort the

facts of the Ramayana, stating, "In this film, Mother Sita was stabbed based on imagination. Will 'Ramayana' also be changed based on imagination? BJP members are not believers in the Hindu religion; they are destroyers of it.

The Congress y joined the chorus of criticism, labeling the movie's language as "tapori" and accusing it of engaging in the "business of religion." Supriya Shrinate, Congress social media head,

emphasized the contrast between the gentle and charming image of Siyaram imprinted by the author of the Ramayana and the movie's portrayal, stating, "You will gain cheap popularity on the strength of your sycophancy, big shows are also available, but lack of talent definitely comes in the way.

Shrinate further criticised the dialogue writer for referring to Hanuman as 'Tere Baap ki Jali,' describing it as vulgar. She contrasted the movie with the 1987 Ramayana serial by Ramanand Sagar, which effectively communicated India's rich culture, tradition, and moral values. Shrinate

added that the movie, on the other hand, hurts the faith of millions of people with its "tapori language."

Priyanka Chaturvedi, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb

Thackeray) MP, joined in the condemnation, calling out the film's dialogue writing and demanding an apology from the dialogue writer and the director for bringing disrespect to the great Hindu epic Ramayana. Chaturvedi expressed that it was unacceptable to cross all boundaries of "Maryada" (propriety) for quick box office success when making a film about Maryada Purushottam Ram.

Meanwhile, the Hindu Sena filed a writ petition against the film in the Delhi High Court, urging that 'Adipurush' should not be certified for public exhibition. The petition claimed that the movie "hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community by depicting religious leaders, characters, and figures in an inaccurate and inappropriate manner.'

Starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, 'Adipurush' has faced severe backlash since its release, despite being one of the most highly anticipated films of the year. Critics have targeted its improper dialogues and crass depiction of Hindu mythological figures. One particular instance that has drawn significant criticism involves a popular tale from the Ramayana in which Lord Hanuman sets Ravana's Lanka on fire. In the film, Lord Hanuman is made to say, "Kapda tere baap ka. Tel tere

baap ka. Aag bhi tere baap ki. Toh jalegi bhi tere baap ki." As the controversy surrounding 'Adipurush' continues to escalate, the film's creators and actors are under mounting pressure to address the concerns raised by various and

groups individuals.

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used by drug peddlers STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

NEW DELHI

 $F_{\rm Municipal\ Corporation\ of}^{\rm or\ the\ first\ time,\ the}$ Delhi (MCD) has sealed 25 properties which were being used for drug trafficking purposes. These properties are likely to be demolished. This comes after Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's direction to send a strict message against drugs trafficking and deter such activities.

According to Raj Niwas officials, the properties were sealed by the MCD on recommendation of the Delhi Police. Interestingly, 24 out of the total properties sealed by MCD are residential properties and they were conveniently being used by drug peddlers without raising a suspicion. Out of the 25 properties, 07 properties have been sealed in Shahdara (North) zone followed by 04 properties each in Central and Narela zones.

Saxena, while chairing the fifth meeting of the State Level Committee of NCORD (National Narcotics Coordination) on April 27, directed the agencies concerned to seal the properties/buildings being used to peddle drugs and begin proceedings to demolish those. Apart from sealing/demolishing the properties, the LG has also directed the Transport Department, Delhi government, to make

necessary provisions for cancelling the permit of the vehi-cles involved in drug trafficking. Subsequently, the proper-

ties were sealed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on the Delhi Police's recommendation. During the meeting, Saxena had directed the Delhi

<u>inday pioneer</u>

Police and other concerned agencies to ruthlessly curb the drugs menace. Apart from seal-ing/demolishing the proper-ties, the Lt Governor also directed the city government's Transport department to make necessary provisions for can-celling the permits of vehicles

used in trafficking drugs. The steps aim at making Delhi 'drug-free', with active participation of all stakeholder agencies of the State and the entral Government.

The LG noted that drug trafficking was not merely a petty criminal act but an international design to weaken the country. He exhorted the law enforcing agencies to work in a mission mode to fight this

menace. To tackle the menace of drug abuse, a joint operation of crime branch and district units of Delhi Police - Operation Kawach — was launched across the national capital last month. More than 100 locations were raided across Delhi and 31 drug traffickers and 12 bootleggers were arrested.

MCD seals 25 properties Makers of Adipurush face AAP, BJP's ire

Film made to tarnish image of Lord Ram, alleges AAP

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Acontroversy erupted after the release of "Adipurush" starring Prabhas as Ram, Kriti Sanon as Sita, and Saif Ali Khan as Ravan after AAP and the Delhi BJP slammed the makers for "objectionable and indecent", dialogues.

The AAP has alleged that the film was made to tarnish the image of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman. "Adipurush", a retelling of the epic Ramayana directed by Om Raut, was released on Friday.

The AAP said the movie once again proved that BJP is a cheap, 'sadak-chhap' party as the movie received blessings from several BJP and ally leaders including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Eknath Shinde,

Devendra Fadnavis, Manohar Lal Khattar, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pushkar Singh Dhami, and Narottam Mishra. "The BJP is not of the Ram, aam (general public) or

kaam (work). It only does its dirty politics," AAP Raiva Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said at a press conference.

"The dialogues are so derogatory like kapda yere baap ka, tel tere baap ka, jale-

gi bhi tere baap ki/teri bua ka bagicha hai ktya jo hawa khane chala aya. Manoj Muntashir wrote whatever he was asked to write," the AAP MP said.

"The BJP has deliberately insulting Hinduism, Lord Shri Ram & Mata Sita by endorsing 'Adipurush' across the country. Even after the clear insult of Hindu deities, BJP leaders are promoting

the film, PM Modi and JP

Nadda should apologise to the country," Singh added. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Saturday demanded that the Censor Board temporarily bar screening of the film "Adipurush" until a re-examine of its "controversial" scenes and dialogues. "Adipurush" has been panned on social media over its

poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla coming under fire for Lord Hanuman's dialogues in the "Lanka Dahan" sequence, among others.

Citing the public criticism, Kapoor requested Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur that the film's controversial scenes and dialogues should be reexamined.

In a tweet in Hindi, Respected Anurag Thakur ji, film Adipurush is being opposed everywhere. Therefore it is requested that its controversial scenes and dialogues should be re-examined. The Censor Board should temporarily suspend its censor certificate and its exhibition should be banned till it is reviewed again."

AAP slams BJP over Vikas Yatra amid Manipur violence

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday slammed the BJP over its 'Vikas Yatra' in Delhi for holding it at a time when Manipur was racked with sectarian violence, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to contain the situation there swiftly.

Addressing a press con-ference, AAP Chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar accused the BJP government of failing to control the situation in Manipur which has been in grip of tribal tension for more than a month.

Kakkar spoke about the burning of houses of Union Minister of State Rajkumar Ranjan and another female minister by rioters to indicate the escalation of tension in the state.

She said these incidents have "sparked widespread distress among the people of Manipur and raised serious questions about the ruling BJP's ability to maintain law and order in the region." "In light of these dis-

tressing events, AAP demands immediate resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N



Biren Singh. It urges Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take swift action, provide clarity on the situation in Manipur, and take decisive steps to bring an end to the violence," she said.

Kakkar said the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar started his 'Vikas Tirth Yatra' on Saturday to woo the voters ahead of the 2024 general elections. She also contrasted the BJP celebrating its nine years at the Centre with the arson and mayhem in Manipur.

She criticised the BJP's 'vikas model' saying everyone gets a taste of it when they go out to buy fuel or groceries or milk at an inflated price.

"Everyone has seen this vikas model in the nation, under which farmers, instead of getting right compensation for their crops, are caned by the central government's police," she said.

Forest around Malcha Mahal set to get facelift

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The forest around the 14th L century monument Malcha Mahal — at the central ridge and its immediate vicinity is all set to get a facelift as Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday directed the authorities concerned to immediately commence the five-layered plantation of various flowering trees in the forest on the side facing the Sardar Patel Marg. Jacaranda, Gulmohar, Chinar, Bougainvillea and Amaltas trees will adorn the Central Ridge area near Malcha Mahal.

Saxena, who planted trees near the gate leading to the monument built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, directed officials that the plantation of flowering trees like Jacaranda, Gulmohar, nvillea an China should be completed by August situated 1.5 km from the main 15, according to Raj Niwas offiroad, deep inside a forest in Chanakyapuri. During his visit, Saxena was informed that agencies Marg, which houses the elite of



concerned will do the facelift of the forest area facing the Sardar Patel Marg, which is the main road that is traversed by visitors and dignitaries coming to and going from the national capital to the Indira Gandhi

International Airport. The Tughlaq-era hunting lodge, built by Feroz Shah laa in th

It is named after Malcha

the city, including diplomats, businessmen and authors. The Mahal was lying abandoned for centuries before it came to limelight for serving as home to a mysterious family, claiming to be descendants of the Nawab of Awadh, whose last member, 'Prince' Ali Raza, died in 2017. Raza, known as Cyrus, was found dead inside the mahal on September 2, 2017, having led a life in abject penury, devoid of any material comforts that one associates

alone a royalty.

In another move that will

Explain reasons for salaries non-payment to board staff, HC asks Waqf Board CEO

In a development, the Delhi High Court has directed the chief executive officer of Delhi Waqf Board to come before it and explain the reasons for non-payment of salaries to board employees for several months in spite of a court order directing clearance of the out-

Board Employees depicts a "very sorry" state of affairs as admittedly the employees have not received their salaries for near-

The authorities have been "totally insensitive" to the plight

as to when salaries would be paid and now the "usual and casual response" is that the mat-

ter is under consideration and there is deficiency of funds. 'In this view of the matter, this court deems it appropriate to direct Md Rehan Raza, Chief Executive Officer/Respondent No. 1 (Delhi Waqf Board) to remain present in Court on the next date of hearing i.e. 11.07.2023 at 2.30 pm, to explain the alleged non-compliance of the orders passed by this court and non-performance of the statutory obligations of the Delhi Waqf Board to pay salaries and

allowances to its employees," said the court in its order passed on June 1. "It appears that the respondents are totally insensitive to the

BJP leaders inform traders about Modi's Govt work

STAFF REPORTER MEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and MP Sushil Kumar Modi and MP Hansraj Hans on Saturday held a meeting with the traders at Khatu Dham Mandir Hall, Alipur and discussed about the work done by the Modi government for the traders and about current business conditions in detail.

They also lashed out at the Arvind Kejriwal government for giving step motherly treatment to traders in the national capital

On this occasion, Sachdeva said that the Kejriwal government has always been giving step-motherly treatment to the businessmen. Many times promises are made to help the but as soon as the elections are over, these promises also get lost in those markets.



Asia where there are both retail and wholesale markets but in the name of convenience there is nothing here and there is a mess of encroachments.

Sachdeva suggested to the Kejriwal government that the rate of VAT on diesel in Delhi should be reduced slightly, so that commercial transport owners can buy diesel for their vehicles from Delhi itself, so that the

This earning to the exchequer during May 2023 is 12 percent more than a year ago i.e. May 2022. This shows that year after year the exchequer is getting more money from GST than before He said even at the world

of the Ministry of Finance, in the

month of May 2023, the gov-

ernment received a revenue of

Rs 1.57 lakh crore from GST.



even with a commoner, let

Marg, the official said.

help further enrich and strengthen the ecological character of the ridge, the LG asked for water bodies to be developed in the existing natural depressions in the ridge forest, which is spread over 3.5

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

standing dues.

Justice Jyoti Singh said the petition of the Delhi Waqf

ly nine months. of the employees working at Delhi Waqf Board who were finding it difficult to make two

Liquor mafia kills man at wine shop

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

wo armed men fired more than 15 rounds at a crowded liquor shop in Gurugram, killing a customer and injuring two others

According to police, the incident, captured in CCTV cameras installed at the outlet, took place around 8.30 pm on Friday in Panchgaon in the Manesar area.

Police suspected that the attack could have been carried out by a gang as part of an attempt to take control of the

shop. Police said two armed assailants reached the shop and asked the employees sitting at the cash counter whether it was owned by Kuldeep Singh. Thereafter, they threatened the employees and started firing at the roof first and then at the customers. They fired around 15 rounds before fleeing the spot, they said.

Three customers Sandeep, a resident of Bhahila village in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, Devraj Sharma and Rajendra Prasad, residents of Alwar in Rajasthan

-- were hit by bullets and rushed to a hospital, the police said. Doctors declared Sandeep as brought dead, they said, adding Sharma and Prasad, who were critically injured, are undergoing treatment at the facility.

The liquor shop owner, Kuldeep Singh, said that a week ago he had received a call from a foreign number wherein the



caller, who identified himself as Lipin Nehra, the brother of jailed gangster Pawan Nehra, threatened him that he should hand over the shop to him.

After the firing incident, he again received a call from the same number and the caller claimed responsibility for the attack, Singh, a resident of Bohra Kalan village, said. "I was at the office behind

the liquor shop and came out after hearing the sound of firing. When I shouted for help, the two accused fled from the scene. In the hospital, I again got a call from the foreign number and the caller claimed that it was the consequence of not handing over the shop to him. He again threatened to kill me," he said in his complaint to the police.

Police said an FIR has been registered against an unidentified caller and shooters under sections 302 (murder), 307 (murder attempt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (common intention), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and section 25/54/59 of the Arms Act at Manesar police station.

Prima facie, the court said, there is scant regard for court Saxena suggested that the plantation should be done in a orders, as despite there being an assurance on the last date of grid pattern to provide the area with a colourful glimpse. hearing, there was no certainty

needs no emphasis that they are finding it difficult to make two ends meet and fend for themselves and their families," it said.

plight of the employees who are

Sachdeva said that Sadar Bazar is the biggest market in ing today. According to the data

Modi said that due to the steps taken by the Modi government for the traders business in India is continuously increas-

able investment option for any company today and the reason behind this is the far-reaching thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Atishi visits primary school in London, says insight gained will help reinvent MCD schools

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi vis-ited a community-based school for children from low-income groups in London, to gain insights into its "successful education model" with an aim to improve civic schools here, her office said on Saturday. The Delhi Minister is currently on a visit to the UK

She visited the Tollgate Primary School, "a community-based institution catering to the academic needs of children from low-income groups and diverse cultural backgrounds in London, known for providing highquality education," her office said in a statement. During her visit, she was deeply impressed by the school's unique approach to education.

The school challenges the conventional 'blackboard-faced' model of a classroom, instead fostering group-based, community learning,



allowing children to interact and learn with remarkable freedom.

"The most captivating aspect of classroom learning at Tollgate is the use of roundtables, where students sit and learn together in a group," Atishi was quoted as saying in the statement.She said the insight gained during the visit will help reinvent primary education in schools run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), according to the state-

ment.AAP is the ruling party in Delhi government and the MCD.

Moreover, the school's commitment to promoting students' excellent work was evident throughout the galleries and classrooms, she said. The students' artwork and achievements were prominently displayed, celebrating their accomplishments. Teachers at Tollgate are trained to cultivate basic skills in each student through diverse methods and practical applications in everyday knowledge, the minister said.

"Learning from Tollgate Primary School will aid us in reinventing our MCD schools and creating a conducive learning environment for our students. Following the success of Delhi government schools, our primary focus is now on developing MCD schools into world-class institutions, with the aim of eliminating long queues outside private schools for nursery admissions,"

Psychology (H), MBA at open learning school

STAFF REPORTER MINEW DELHI

Delhi University has announced admission to two new courses BA (Hons) Psychology by the Campus of Open Learning, School of Open Learning. The admission for the upcoming batch 2023-2027 is being started from June 18.

Giving information in this regard, Director of SOL, Prof. Payal Mago informed that BA (Hons) Psychology course will provide comprehensive education to the students in the field of psychology.

She informed that the admission process for Master of Business Administration (MBA) will also start from the last week of July.

Prof Mago said that Students pursuing BA (Hons) Psychology shall be learning the complete understanding of human psychology, behavior and cognition in this course. For students to be prepared for a successful career in psychology, this course aims to equip them with the information, skills, and practical experience they need. Students can anticipate receiv-

the course material which entails a variety of psychological areas includ-ing, but not limited to, social psychology, cognitive psychology, and abnormal psychology etc.

Prospective students with a passion for psychology who desire to enroll in the BA (Hons) Psychology Course are encouraged to apply beginning on June 18, 2023, the details shall be available on the Delhi University's portal or the Campus of Open Learning's (https://sol.du.ac.in). website

Prof. Mago also informed that the varsity also announced that the MBA admissions process will also begin in the final week of July. (Details shall be available on the university website). The MBA programme at Campus of Open Learning, School of Open Learning is renowned for their emphasis on practical learning, eminent faculty, and industry-relevant curriculum. To prepare students to become future business leaders, the curriculum imparts fundamental knowledge and skills in disciplines such as strategic management, entrepreneurship, and

business analytics." Atishi added. ing a well-rounded education through College student falls to death from 8th floor of Noida building

STAFF REPORTER NOIDA

A²¹-year-old college stu-dent from Mathura died after he allegedly fell off the eighth floor of a tower in a posh group housing society in Noida, police said on Saturday. The police said they are yet to ascertain whether the student accidentally fell off the building or it was a suicide.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Noida 1) Rajneesh Verma said the incident took said. place around 11.15 pm on Friday at the Lotus Boulevard

society in Sector 100. "A security guard of the society informed the police that a person has fallen on a balcony of the first floor of tower number 10 from an upper floor of the building

and suffered severe injuries, including on his head," Verma

"A police team immediately reached the spot and took the person to the district hospital where doctors declared him brought dead," the officer said.

The family of the deceased was informed after which his identity was established as



Gantavya Sharma, a native of Mathura district, he said.

An official of the local Sector 39 police station said Sharma studied in a college in Mathura and had come to visit his relatives who live in the Lotus Boulevard society. "The relatives live on the

out of the flat and then the incident happened. It is yet to be ascertained if it was a suicide or an accident," the official said. The relatives of Sharma are into construction business, the official added.

them after which he stepped

Police said the body has been sent for post-mortem and further legal proceedings are being carried out.

mday pioneer NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

MANIPUR VIOLENCE **Opp parties urge Modi to** intervene, seek meeting

PTI NEW DELH

en Opposition parties of Manipur led by the Con-▲ gress on Saturday ques-tioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the continued violence in the north eastern state, while urging him to meet them and make an appeal for peace.

Addressing a press conference with other leaders, Manipur's three-time former chief minister O Ibobi Singh said they have sought a meeting with the prime minister and were awaiting his response before he leaves for his foreign tour on June 20. The Congress leader said

that the violence was continuing in the state since May 3 and the "silence" of Prime Minister Modi is "hurting" Manipur.

"There is a hue and cry everywhere, with 20,000 people, including women and children, taking shelter in camps. However, the prime minister has not yet expressed anything regarding Manipur. Is Manipur a part of India or not? If it is, why hasn't the Prime Minister of India spoken about it," he asked.

Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said the leaders of 10 opposition parties had sent an email to the prime minister on June 10 for a meeting with them but have not received any response. He said the letter of request for a meeting with the PM has also been hand-delivered to the Prime Minister's Office on June 12.

Ramesh said when violence broke out in Manipur 22 years ago, the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had called an all-



Congress leader Jairam Ramesh (C), party MLA from Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh (3L) and leaders of like-minded Opposition parties during a Press conference over violence in Manipur, in New Delhi PTI

party meeting twice on the demand of all the parties. Vajpayee had also appealed

for peace then, he said, urging Prime Minister Modi to issue a similar appeal now.

There is only one reason why Manipur is burning and it is the ideology of the RSS and the politics of the BJP. It is not just Manipur, other states of the north-east are facing huge issues. This is the time of dealing with all militant organisations," he claimed.

"Manipur was burning 22 years ago on June 18, 2001. State Assembly, Speaker's bungalow, and CM Secretariat were burnt and remained blocked for 3 and a half months.

"At that time Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India and on the demand of various parties, an all-party meeting was called twice and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee appealed for peace. Today people from 10 parties are

waiting to meet PM Modi, but PM Modi is silent," he said.

Ibobi Singh said their intention is not to take political advantage. "We simply seek peace. Please help us," the former state chief minister said.

Five-time MLA of JDU Nimai Chand Luwang, who was part of the delegation that had met Vajpayee, said even after the visit of the Home Minister, the violence in Manipur continues unabated.

The current BJP government has failed miserably in addressing the situation in Manipur. We want the prime minister to intervene and bring a solution to stop the violence in Manipur," he said.

Manipur PCC President Keisham Meghachandra said, 'We, leaders of 10 like-minded political parties, have arrived in Delhi to secure an appointment with PM Modi, as he appears unconcerned about the issues plaguing Manipur."

Sources said that the Congress has convened a meeting of opposition leaders here on Monday if there is no response from the prime minister to their request

The other leaders present at the press conefrence were JD(U) state president KSH Biren Singh CPI state council secretary I Thoiren Singh, CPM's Kshetranayam Shanta, Trinamool Congress state convener Thokchom Ínocha Singh, AAP coordinator Thingyam Vishwanath Singh, All India Forward Block leader KH Gyaneswar Singh, NCP's state president Soram Ikoyama Singh and Shiv Sena Shiv Sena (UBT) leader T Debanand Singh, along with a representative Revolutionary Social Party.

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said Mani-pur requires a "political solution" not a mere deployment of police and military to handle law and order as the Modi Government "is seeking to do".

Everyone can make promises but Modi Govt's 'strong point' is delivery: EAM

PNS NEW DELHI

Highlighting the achieve-ments of the Modi Government, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Saturday said everyone can make promises to people but the present Government's "strong point" is that it delivers services and projects in a given timeframe.

Making this assertion in a function held at Badarpur as part of the BJP's mega outreach campaign — 'Sampark se - to mark the Samarthan' completion of the nine years of the Narendra Modi government, he also emphasized the government's commitment to infrastructure development. "After elections, they for-

get (their promises made to people), but in Modi 'sarkar', people today are seeing the delivery (of services and projects)," Jaishankar told reporters after attending the function at the site of an Eco Park being developed at NTPC's Thermal Power Plant area in Badarpur.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses during the 'Vikas Tirath Yatra', at Badarpur in New Delhi, on Saturday

The Eco Park project is around it. Modi 'sarkar' doescurrently underway, and South Delhi MP and BJP leader n't just offer promises. It completes what work it starts in a Ramesh Bidhuri said the park given timeframe, and delivers is planned to be inaugurated in it, shows it to people," he said. Interacting with media, the

Union minister said, the "strong point" of the Modi government is "delivery", as Jaishankar praised the NTPC for the project and the party MP and other local leadership for working on such a green project. "This Eco Park everyone can make promises. "For Modi government, 'vikas' will become a new lung of is the first commitment, so it's a 'teerth' (pilgrimage) of com-mitments," Jaishankar said. The BJP has organised a "Vikas Delhi. I congratulate all who are part of this project, and it will not only help in mitigating Teerth Yatra", which began from Eco Park at Badarpur, and pollution, but enhance ease of living of people and ease of Jaishankar and several senior BJP leaders were part of it. doing business too by proPeople in Badarpur will also see "which government delivers and which government only promises," Jaishankar said without naming anvone. As an External Affairs Minister, "I can tell you that I visit countries across the world see many cities and capitals," he told reporters. He said he want ed the best practices in the world to come to India.

It is also Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision "as whenever he sees abroad a process, say of cleaning a river or building a station or adoption of a new technology, he wishes to bring those best practices to India too," aishankar said.

Jaishankar with Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and others participated in the 'Vikas Tirath Yatra.' It was organised to inspect developmental projects in Meethapur, Badarpur, Tughlakabad, Kalkaji, Khanpur and Chhatarpur.

India, Lanka to review ties during Modi-Ranil meet

a report by Sri Lankan newspaper Daily Mirror.

India will be the sixth country visited by Wickremesinghe since he was sworn into power last July. So far, Wickremesinghe has been to five countries — the UK, Philippines, Egypt, Singapore, and Japan. He is scheduled to visit France later this month.

While attending Nikkei's Future of Asia conference in Tokyo last month, the Sri Lankan President called for open dialogue between Japan, China, India, and the ASEAN nations.

China, India, and Japan are among Sri Lanka's top foreign lenders. India has played a major role since the island country plunged into crisis last year after its foreign exchange reserves dried up.

Doval: India wouldn't have been partitioned

G20 Edu working group to share best global practices in tech-enabled learning, skilling

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA PUNE

With an aim to consolidate a common framework and curriculum to tread in education sector amongst the G20 mem-ber countries, the Education Working Group for the ongoing G20 summit on Saturday resolved to share some of the best practices from across the globe in the areas of Tech-enabled learning, skilling and future of work, and strengthening research

and promoting innovation. The five day schedule of the EWG is the last one being held at Pune with the earlier slots conducted at Chennai, Amritsar and Bhubneshwar to be followe

Ministerial level meeting to give the final



Union MoS Education Annapurna Devi, Maharashtra Education Ministers Chandrakant Patil and Deepak Kesarkar; Education Secretary, Sanjay Kumar at the exhibition grounds of the EWG G20 in Pune on Saturday

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, DoSE&L, Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi, Actor, filmmaker and languages expert, and several senior officials of the Ministry of Education and State Education Departments. Speaking on the occasion, Annapurna Devi highlighted the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy i.e. NIPUN Bharat Mission, which emphasizes the need to attain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy goals nationally in a time-bound (2026-27) manner.

Chandrakant Patil highlighted Multilingualism as the key that empowers us to navigate through the growing diverinaugurating the Jashn-e-Dal orld and the n

Pak agencies trying to sustain militancy, claims J&K DGP

PTI SRINAGAR

val here

There are attempts to keep militancy, which is "gasping and dying", alive by Pakistani and dying, alive by Pakistani agencies but the anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) is doing its job, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh said on Saturday. Talking to reporters after



Sri Lankan President's visit may take place on July 21 wherein he will hold delegation-level talks with Modi and meet President Droupadi Murmu, sources said here on Saturday. He may also meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and

December.

National Security Advisor(NSA)Aiit Doval. This will be Wickremesinghe's first visit

to India as President after he replaced former leader Gotabaya Rajapaksa amid a major economic crisis in the country last year. The two countries may sign a grid con-nectivity agreement ahead of the Sri Lankan President's visit to New Delhi, according to



India extended economic aid worth over

three billion dollars to help Sri Lanka tide

over the crisis.

if Netaji was alive

PNS 📕 NEW DELH

India would not have been par-Ltitioned had Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose been alive, at the of Independence, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said on Saturday while delivering the 1st Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial lecture in Delhi, orga nized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) Doval praised Netaji's audacity at various stages of his life, highlighting his courage to challenge Mahatma Gandhi.

"But Gandhi was at the prime of his political career. Then he resigned, and when he came out of Congress, he started his struggle afresh," Doval stated. "I am not saying good or bad, but there are very few parallels in Indian history and world history of people who had the audacity to sail against the current - and not an easy current," he added, acknowledging that Netaji was a lonely figure without the support of any country except Japan.

"The idea that came to his mind was 'I will fight the British; I will not beg for freedom. It is my right, and I will have to get it.' India would not have been

partitioned if Subhas Bose was there. Jinnah said I can accept only one leader, and that is Subhas Bose," Doval emphasized.

Shifting focus to the need for skilling the Indian workforce, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval urged the Indian industry to prioritize critical and emerging technologies to make the workforce globally competitive and propel the country's trajectory development Recognizing India's crucial role in providing a workforce globally, Doval emphasized that ade quate skill development of human resources would enable

India to achieve greater success. "Our biggest strength is our human resource — a highly motivated and committed workforce. We need to develop their skills to make them globally competitive," Doval emphasized. He further stressed the importance of focusing on critical and emerging technologies, urging industry leaders to be innovative, cost-effective, and globally

competitive through investments in these areas. Doval urged embracing critical and emerging technologies to secure a prominent position in the global market

shape to education vision which could be practiced across the member nations which includes USA, UK, China, South Korea, Russia, Argentina amongst others. India recently had opened the doors for foreign institutions of repute to open their campus and the university regulator UGC has already notified the rules.

Opening the gala event at Pune University campus, Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi highlighted that the present Working Group Meeting is an opportune moment to organise various events to create more awareness on India's G20 presidency as well as renew our resolve towards universal attainment of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

On the occasion, the MoS Education also inaugurated the multimedia exhibition showcasing best practices in education, digital initiatives, research and skill develop ment in the Savitribai Phule Pune University

A separate conference to provide an opportunity to identify and discuss the best practices of states in creating an environment that facilitates FLN was also held where the main speakers included veteran actor Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi of the famous teleserial 'Chanakva'

Over 100 exhibitors, including Google, UNICEF, NSDC, NCERT, National Book Trust, Indian Knowledge Systems Division (IKS), startup initiatives and all State Governments are participating in the exhibition.

The event was also graced by Chandrakant Patil, Minister, Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra; Deepak Kesarkar, Minister, School Education, Government of Maharashtra; young generation the skills to choose the right path in this multilingual world while recognizing their own diverse linguistic backgrounds, as talked about extensively in the National Education Policy, 2020.

Sanjay Kumar lauded the precursory event of the G20 Working Group meeting, the large-scale Janghabidari events, all over the country that created widespread awareness of FLN, NEP, and G20 in India, a movement that has touched more than 4 crores cople in the country.

The exhibition showcased the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam and Jharkhand presenting the best practices in Foundational iteracy and Numeracy of respective states.

Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary, School Education proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the members involved in the functioning of the day's events.

visits and bilateral exercises.

fire understanding between India and Pakistan along the LoC is being respected "by and large" by both sides. However, there have been some infiltration attempts by terrorists, Singh said.

"Ceasefire understanding is being respected by and large by either side but in between some activities, some infiltration bids, have taken place, especially in the Rajouri-Poonch sector and the Kupwara sector. We have taken action against the infiltrating groups," the director general of police (DGP) said.

Singh said while some infiltration attempts have been successful, the number of terrorists who have managed to sneak in has been very low. "There are attempts to keep militancy, which is gasping and dying, alive through such activities by Pakistani agencies but our antiinfiltration grid along the LoC is alert and they are doing their

During Rajnath's visit to Vietnam in June 2022, major job," he said. "Nearly half a dozen similar attempts were foiled earlier as well. There were a couple of successful infiltration bids in the Poonch-Rajouri area in which dreaded terrorists from Pakistan came in and they targeted ordinary people and some security personnel at some places as well. Operations are going on to track them and foil such con-



spiracies," the DGP said.

On the operations in Poonch and Kupwara on Friday, Singh said two infiltration attempts were foiled.

Yesterday, two infiltration attempts took place in Poonch and the Jumagund area in Kupwara where infiltrators from Pakistan tried to come in. In Poonch, they did not get a chance to enter and their attemp was foiled and they were forced to retreat under the cover of foliage. We recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which the terrorists had brought along. In Kupwara, five terrorists, who had come from Pakistan, were killed," he said.

The DGP said youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir have seen through the evil designs of the enemy and chosen the path of

peace and development. "I also congratulate the youth of Kashmir and Jammu. They have finally seen through the evil designs of our adversary and have chosen peace over death and destruction. There are hardly any people joining terror-ist ranks," he said.

On the Amarnath Yatra, Singh said all arrangements have been made for the pilgrimage which is scheduled to begin from July 1.

Vietnam, India to discuss defence ties tion in UN Peacekeeping, ship

PNS NEW DELHI

ndia and Vietnam will review L the entire gamut of their bilateral defence and strategic ties here on Monday during talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart General Phan Van Giang. He will be on a visit to India between June 18-19.

The visiting dignitary will hold a bilateral meeting with Rajnath to carry forward the

India-Vietnam defence cooperation. Both sides will also exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Γhe Minister of National Defence of Vietnam will also undertake a cultural visit to Agra, during his stay in India, the defence ministry officials said here on Saturday.

India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Part-nership. Bilateral defence rela-tions form a significant pillar to



this partnership. Defence engagements between the two nations have diversified to include wide-ranging contacts between the services, militaryto-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes, coopera-

overarching guiding documents namely 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' and a Memorandum of Understanding on 'Mutual Logistics Sup-

port' were signed that have significantly enhanced the scope and scale of defence cooperation between both the countries.

Take action against poaching in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Pradhan urges Forest Min, Odisha CM

PTI NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday urged his Cabinet colleague Bhupender Yadav and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take cognizance of incidents of poaching in the Similipal Tiger Reserve

and said stringent action on all fronts and effective enforcement of the law are required to deter poachers. Pradhan's reaction comes after 40-yearold forester Mati Hansda was shot dead allegedly by poachers in the sanctuary in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.

The incident occurred when a Forest depart-

ment team was patrolling inside the sanctuary. A gunfire exchange broke out between the team and six armed poachers at the Badachachran beat house on Friday night, a forest official said on Saturday

Reacting to the incident, Union Education Minister Pradhan, said in a

tweet, "Another forest official shot dead by poachers in Similipal Tiger Reserve is a matter of great concern for every wildlife enthusiast and conservationist?

Losing "determined officers like Mati Hansda" who gave his all to protect wildlife is always disheartening, the minister noted.

VHP launches mass protest against K'taka Govt's decision to repeal anti-conversion law

PTI NEW DELHI

The Vishva Hindu Praishad on Saturday condemned the Karnataka government's decision to repeal the anti-conversion law introduced by the previous BJP regime and launched a mass protest against

In a statement, VHP general secretary Milind Parande termed the state government's decision as "the culmination of

Muslim and Christian appease-ment" and said its a "blow to Hindu values".

He said the state government could have amended the law if there were any shortcomings in it.

"But, it seems that the Congress government has bowed down before the illegal conversion gang. Their the pressure on the state government is clearly visible with its decision," the VHP leader charged. Using gas stoves at 350 degrees can cause leukemia, blood cell cancers: Study

PNS 🗖 NEW DELHI

Using gas stoves at 350 degrees Fahrenheit can raise indoor levels of benzene above those typically released by secondhand tobacco smoke and can cause leukemia and other blood cell cancers, researchers have revealed.

The study is published in the ournal Environmental Science & Technology.

'Benzene forms in flames and other high-temperature environments, such as the flares

found in oil fields and refineries. We now know that benzene also forms in the flames of gas stoves in our homes," said senior study author Rob Jackson, a professor of Earth system science at Stanford University's Doerr School of Sustainability.

"Good ventilation helps reduce pollutant concentrations, but we found that exhaust fans were often ineffective at eliminating benzene exposure," Jackson added in a Stanford news release.

> The researchers noted that Technology.

the new study is the first to analyze benzene emissions when a gas stove or oven is in use.

Previous studies have focused largely on leaks from stoves when they are off, the Stanford researchers noted Unburned gas samples taken from 69 Boston-area cooking stoves contained at least 21 hazardous air pollutants, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene and hexane, according to a June 2022 study published in Environmental Science &

world 05



sunday pioneer

AP KAMPALA

Ugandan authorities recovered the bodies of 41 people, including 38 students, who were burned, shot or hacked to death after suspected rebels attacked a secondary school near the border with Congo, the local mayor said on Saturday.

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

At least six people were abducted by the rebels, who fled across the porous border into Congo after the raid on Friday night, according to the Ugandan military.

The victims included the students, one guard and two members of the local community who were killed outside the school, Mpondwe-Lhubiriha Mayor Selevest Mapoze told The Associated Press.

Mapoze said that some of the students suffered fatal burns when the rebels set fire to a dormitory and others were shot or hacked with machetes.

The raid, which happened around 11.30 pm, involved about five attackers, the Ugandan military said.

Soldiers from a nearby brigade who responded to the attack found the school on fire, "with dead bodies of students lying in the compound, military spokesman Brig. Felix Kulayigye said in a statement.

That statement cited 47 bodies, with eight other people wounded and being treated at

a local hospital. Ugandan troops are "pursuing the perpetrators to rescue the abducted students" who were forced to carry looted food toward Congo's Virunga National Park, it said.

Ugandan authorities said



the Allied Democratic Forces, an extremist group that has been launching attacks for years from its bases in volatile

eastern Congo, carried out the raid on Lhubiriha Secondary School in the border town of Mpondwe. The school, co-ed and privately owned, is located in the Ugandan district of Kasese, about 2 kilometres (1.2 miles) from the Congo border.

"A dormitory was set on fire and a food store looted. So far 25 bodies have been recovered from the school and transferred to Bwera Hospital," police said in a statement. Joe Walusimbi, an official

representing Uganda's president in Kasese, told the AP over the phone that some of the vic-"were burnt beyond tims recognition."

Sunak joins raid, 105 illegal migrants arrested

attraction for migrants con-

sidering making dangerous

Winnie Kiiza, an influential political leader and a for-

mer lawmaker from the region condemned the "cowardly attack" on Twitter.

She said "attacks on schools are unacceptable and are a grave violation of children's rights," adding that schools should always be "a safe place for every student."

The ADF has been accused of launching many attacks in recent years targeting civilians in remote parts of eastern Congo. The shadowy group rarely claims responsibility for attacks. The ADF has long opposed the rule of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a US security ally who has held power in this East African country since 1986.

The group was established in the early 1990s by some Ugandan Muslims, who said they had been sidelined by Museveni's policies.

At the time, the rebels staged deadly attacks in

Ugandan villages as well as in the capital, including a 1998 attack in which 80 students were massacred in a town not from the scene of the latest attack. A Ugandan military assault later forced the ADF into eastern Congo, where many rebel groups are able to operate because the central government has limited control there. The group has since established ties with the Islamic State group.

In March, at least 19 people were killed in Congo by suspected ADF extremists.

Ugandan authorities for years have vowed to track down ADF militants even outside Ugandan territory. In 2021, Uganda launched joint air and artillery strikes in Congo against the group.

Pak receives USD 1 billion from China

PTI ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has received USD 1 billion from its close ally China to support its critically low foreign reserves amidst the uncertainty to revive a stalled International Monetary Fund loan.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday night con-firmed having received the amount from China without sharing any other details about it.

It would add to the reserves which had fallen to almost USD 3.9 billion in recent weeks

Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had paid back USD 1 billion to China last Monday against a due amount of USD 1.3 billion and it was hoped that the amount would be returned.

Pakistan's economy is tethering on the verge of default as the IMF is pushing the county

to its limits to fulfil demands which Islamabad insists had been already met - to provide the remaining USD 2.5 billion out of a bailout package of USD 6.5 billion agreed in 2019. The entire amount is unlikely to be paid as the programme is ending on June 30 but Pakistan is pushing for a tranche of USD 1.1 billion as a symbolic gesture of endorsement of its policies by the Washington-based fund. The country is not getting

multilateral loans or even bilateral assistance without the support of the IMF. Only China has stood fast to help Pakistan while Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also been selectively supportive. Dar earlier lashed out at the IMF and alleged that geopolitics was behind its loan package as global institutions wanted Pakistan to default like

Sri Lanka and then enter nego-

tiations.

ister.

Nawaz, the daughter of the party supremo, Nawaz Sharif, was chosen as the senior vice president. The decision was taken in a meeting on Friday of the PML-N general council, which also chose several office bearers, including Ahsan Iqbal as

PTI ISLAMABAD

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

has picked Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif as the party's president while Maryam

secretary general. Among other party leaders, Marriyum Aurangzeb was picked as the secretary of infor-

mation, Ataullah Tarar as the deputy secretary, and Ishaq Dar as the secretary of finance Earlier, finance minister and overseas affairs.

The elections were uncontested, apparently indicating a show of unity within the PML-N, but actually an indication of the iron grip by the Sharif family members who virtually hand-picked every office hold-

er of the party. Shehbaz was elevated in 2018 to hold the reins of the party after his elder brother as well as former premier Nawaz Sharif was first disqualified as prime minister and later barred by the country's apex court to lead the party as the president.

It is believed that Nawaz Sharif, who is living in London since 2019 when he went there for treatment, actually calls the shots in the PML-N by working in the shadows and every decision in the party is taken with his consent.

Insiders say that he even makes top appointments in the government and was instrumental in the elevation of Ishaq Dar as finance minister last year in place of Miftah Ismail.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speaking after the election as president expressed his earnest desire to work as a "soldier" of his elder brother who,

Pakistan PM urges Nawaz to return

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged his elder brother and the supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to return from London and lead the poll campaign of the party in the general election and become the premier of the nation for a record fourth time, a media report said on Saturday.

PML-N picks Shehbaz as president

Addressing a meeting of the central general council meeting of the party on Friday where he was re-elected as the president of the PML-N, Shehbaz, 71, indicated that Nawaz Sharif would return to the country soon, Geo News reported

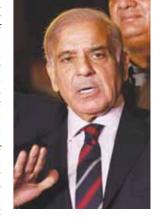
"I was waiting for my elder brother — who has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons - to return to Pakistan and then hold the party meeting so he could hand over the PML-N's presidency back to him," he

said during the meeting. Nawaz Sharif, 73, has been living in London since November 2019 for medical

he said, would come back before the election to lead the

"The political and economic landscape of the country will see a major change once he (Nawaz) returns to Pakistan," he said.

The prime minister talked about the economic challenges and the efforts to fulfil the conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to get a stalled loan and said the effort was to make a "short-term agreement" with the global lender.



treatment after a Pakistani court allowed him a fourweek reprieve. Nawaz Sharif, who has

served as the prime minister of Pakistan for three non-consecutive terms, was serving seven-year imprisonment in the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore in the Al-Azizia corruption case before he left for London. Shehbaz said that a meet-

ing of the central general council was held as the election commission's sword was hanging.

He also praised Dar for improving the economic conditions of the cash-strapped country.

Maryam Nawaz, who is considered the real heir of Nawaz Sharif, in her address said Shehbaz never made any decision without consulting his brother, highlighting their close partnership and the overarching role of the self-exiled

former premier. She also condemned the May 9 violence and said those responsible would be pun-

vows of acting against the culprits, leading to an ongoing

crackdown against those

involved. Law enforcement

agencies have arrested over

10,000 workers of Khan's

Pakistan party across Pakistan,

4,000 of them from Punjab

province. Pakistan's National

Assembly has adopted a reso-

lution demanding that the per-

petrators of the May 9 violence

be booked under the stringent

The crackdown launched

'Imran not a key player in Pak politics'

PTI 📕 LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak joined the UK Home Office enforcement officials on a raid as part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal migration, which ended in the arrest of 105 foreign nationals from across 20 nationalities.

Sunak, 43, dressed in a bulletproof vest, attended one of the actions in Brent, north London, earlier this week to observe Immigration Enforcement officers at work as part of their "day of action".

The British Indian leader

stand for this," she said. the operation uring



Of those arrested, over 40 were detained by the Home immigration bail. It is also

17 in Sudan

n airstrike in Sudan's cap-killed at least 17 people, includ-ing five children, health officials said, as fighting continued between rival generals seeking to control the country.

It was not clear whether the

Airstrike kills

the military and a powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces.

Imran Khan would never be a key player in the national politics of Pakistan again, İnterior Minister Řana Sanaullah has said, hinting at the disqualification of the embattled former prime min-

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has been slapped with a slew of cases, ranging from terrorism to murder, since his ouster through a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April last year.

tics," Sanaullah told Geo News, adding that the 70-year-old Opposition leader will never be a key player in Pakistan's political scene again.

The federal government has repeatedly hinted that Khan could be disqualified for his alleged role in the attacks on key army and government buildings after his arrest on May 9.

The minister claimed that if the PTI thinks its vote bank will increase following the instances of violence on May 9, the party is living in a fantasy. "The people have seen their real faces. He's a 'scourge' upon

is to cause destruction in the country," he said.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad.

Workers from Khan's party allegedly vandalised over 20 military installations and government buildings, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters

Army Act. in Rawalpindi was also attacked after May 9 violent protests by the mob for the first time. Khan was later released on

have thrown PTI into a deep bail. The violence elicited a existential crisis with dozens of strong reaction from leader brought indecency into poli- the nation whose only agenda ernment and military with party recently.

Office pending their removal from the UK, with the remaining suspects being released on

and illegal journeys to the UK. Operations such as today send a clear message that we will not

PTI ISLAMABAD AP CAIRO

The attack was one of the deadliest of the clashes in urban areas of Khartoum and elsewhere in Sudan between

lade cracking wn on illegal migration one of his government's top priorities ahead of a general election, expected next year. "Illegal working harms our

communities, cheats honest workers out of employment and defrauds the public purse as no taxes are paid," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

"As the Prime Minister has set out, we are committed to tackling the abuse of our laws and borders. We know the prospect of black-market employment is a significant

which took place across the UK on Thursday, Immigration Enforcement officers arrested 105 foreign nationals found working without the right to do so during 159 raids on sus-

pected illegal work establishments. The arrests took place at commercial premises including restaurants, car washes, nail bars, barber shops and convenience stores. Suspects were arrested for offences including illegal working and possession of false documentation, with sums of cash also seized at some locations.

a number of the arrests will result in a voluntary departure from the UK, the Home Office said.

"This result demonstrates the dedication and professionalism of our officers to take action against immigration offenders, as well as employers who are not complying with the rules. Our enforcement teams are working around the clock to deter immigration offending and help protect the public," said Eddy Montgomery, Director of Enforcement, Compliance and Crime at the Home Office.

drone. The military's aircraft have repeatedly targeted RSF troops and the RSF has reportedly used drones and anti-aircraft weapons against the military.

The conflict in Sudan broke out in mid-April, capping months of increasing tensions between the leaders of the military and the RSF.

Saturday's strike hit the Yormouk neighbourhood in southern Khartoum, where clashes have centred in recent weeks, according to Sudan's Ministry of Health.

Joe Biden calls for tighter gun restrictions

made a passionate call for tougher gun restrictions on Friday, celebrating the one-year anniversary of the first significant piece of federal firearms legislation in nearly three decades but declaring it was only an "important first step." He urged voters to defeat lawmakers who resist.

"Prayers are fine. They're important ... but it's not going to stop it," Biden said, pressing Congress to take more aggressive steps to restrict access to guns. "You have

to do something." "If this Congress refuses to act, we need a new Congress?

Biden applauded the crowd at a gun safety summit in Connecticut - full of survivors of gun violence and family members of victims — for turning "your pain into purpose" and vowed not to let up on his advocacy for tougher laws.

He spoke on the anniversary of last year's legislation that tightened gun access, signed a few weeks after a gunman took

WEST HARTFORD: President Joe Biden to take action. You have to move. You have the lives of 19 elementary school children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas. A decade earlier, 26 children and staff were killed in the Sandy Hook school massacre less than an hour's drive from Hartford.

Last year's law toughened background checks for the youngest gun buyers, sought to keep firearms from domestic violence offenders and aimed to help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier to take weapons away from people judged to be dangerous.

Need for better US-Chinese communications: Blinken

AP WASHINGTON

Shortly before setting out for Beijing, Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday emphasised the importance of the US and China establishing better lines of communication. He will be the highest-ranking member of the Biden administration to visit China.

The US wants to make sure "that the competition we have with China doesn't veer into conflict" due to avoidable misunderstandings, Blinken told reporters in Washington.

Blinken, speaking along-side Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, said his China trip is the outgrowth of a meeting in Bali last vear between Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden.

The two agreed that China and the United States, the world's biggest two economies and increasingly top rivals for global influence, must maintain contacts and and take steps to avoid unintended conflicts

Blinken's trip came within a day of happening in February but was delayed by the diplomatic and political tumult brought on by the discovery of what the US says was a Chinese

spy balloon flying across the United States.

Biden and Xi had made commitments to improve communications "precisely so that we can make sure we are communicating as clearly as possible to avoid possible misunderstandings and miscom-munications," Blinken said Friday. "The place you start is with communicating."

US allies and others are signaling that they want the two rivals to "responsibly manage this relationship and look for areas where our cooperation might produce results that benefit not only our own people but people around the world, including in the region," he said.

Chinese officials have expressed suspicion of US efforts to establish reliable, high-level crisis communications, saying the US wants them so as to dodge repercussions for provocative actions. Defense Secretary Lloyd

Austin, speaking to reporters at the NATO defense ministers' meeting in Brussels on Friday, said he was confident that he and his Chinese counterpart would meet "at some point in time, but we're not there yet?

NATO secures undersea cables against Russian sabotage threat

AP BRUSSELS

 $\mathbf{N}_{\mathrm{Friday}}^{\mathrm{ATO}}$ launched a new center on Friday for protecting undersea pipelines and cables following the stillunsolved apparent attack on the Nord Stream pipelines and amid concern Russia is mapping vital Western infrastructure for energy and the internet in waters around Europe

"The threat is developing," Lt. Gen. Hans-Werner Wiermann, who heads a special cell focused on the challenge, said after NATO defense ministers gave the greenlight for the new center, located in Northwood, northwest London.

"Russian ships have actively mapped our critical undersea infrastructure. There are heightened concerns that Russia may target undersea cables and other critical infrastructure in an effort to disrupt Western life," he told reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels. NATO was spurred into action after an apparent attack on two Baltic Sea gas pipelines in September. The suspected attacks on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, which were built to carry Russian natural gas to Germany, are still being investigated. No blame has been officially attributed, but NATO has boosted its presence in the Baltic and North Seas since then, with dozens of ships, supported by maritime patrol aircraft and undersea equipment like drones.

Åbout 8,000 kilometres (5,000 miles)

of oil and gas pipelines crisscross the North Sea alone, and systems, networks and grids are impossible to watch 24/7. Around 100 cable cutting incidents are reported every year around the world, and it is often hard to tell whether they are deliberate.

'There's no way that we can have NATO presence along also these thousands of kilometers of undersea infrastructure," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters after chairing the meeting. "But we can be better at collecting ... intelligence, sharing information, connecting the dots, because also in the private sector there is a lot of information" about ship movements and maritime surveillance, he added.

Rather than trying to watch it all, the new center and NATO allies are focusing on high-risk areas. Pipelines in shallow waters that can easily be reached by divers are considerably vulnerable. Potential damage to data cables can be mitigated more easily by simply dropping in more cables

Whatever the target, NATO believes it's important to catch saboteurs as they prepare their attacks.

'To support the center, allies have decided to set up a critical undersea infrastructure network, bringing together NATO, allies and private sector actors. This will help to help improve information sharing about evolving risks and threats," Wiermann said.

Zelenskyy urges African leaders to pressure Putin on prisoner release

AP KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed to a group of African leaders to ask his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to free political prisoners from Crimea and beyond - saying it could be an important part of their trip to Russia on Saturday.

Seven African leaders - presidents of Comoros, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia, as well as Egypt's prime minister and top envoys from the Republic of Congo and Uganda — visited Ukraine on Friday as part of a self-styled "peace mission" to both Ukraine and Russia to try to help end their nearly 16-month-old war.

The African leaders were traveling to meet with Putin on Saturday in the Russian city of St Petersburg. The mission to Ukraine, the first of its

kind by African leaders, comes in the wake of other peace initiatives such as one by China, and it carried extra importance for the African countries: They rely on food and fertilizer deliveries from Russia and Ukraine, whose war has impeded exports from one of the world's most important breadbaskets.

This conflict is affecting Africa negatively," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said at a news conference alongside Zelenskyy and the four other African heads of state or government, after the leaders met for closed-door talks Friday afternoon.

WORLD BRIEFS

SAUDI FM VISITS TEHRAN TO RESTORE TIES

TEHRAN: Saudi Arabia's top diplomat arrived in the Iranian capital on Saturday, the latest step in the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two Mideast rivals, Iranian state media reported. The state-run IRNA reported that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan is going to meet his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian in Tehran. Prince Faisal is expected to officially inaugurate the kingdom's embassy, later on Saturday, in the capital. Both nations reopened their diplomatic missions in recent weeks. In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies after seven years of tension. It was a major diplomatic breakthrough brokered by China, lowering the chance of further conflict between Riyadh and Tehran - both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region.

7 INJURED AS HOT AIR BALLOON CATCHES FIRE

BERLIN: Seven people were injured when a hot air balloon caught fire on Saturday morning during takeoff from a village in central Switzerland, authorities said. Authorities in the canton of Zug said seven people - four women and three men, aged between 28 and 62 - were in the balloon's basket in the village of Huenenberg, southwest of Zurich. Two women and one man were seriously injured, while the other four occupants suffered minor injuries. The injured were taken to the hospital by the ambulance service and by private individuals, according to a statement.

INDIAN ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF WFUNA

NEW YORK: A senior Indian advocate was unanimously elected vice-chairman of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), a global UN advocacy body. The WFUNA is a global non-profit organisation representing and coordinating the membership of over 100 national United Nations Associations (UNAs) and their thousands of constituents. Suresh Srivastava, a senior advocate and secretary general of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA), got unanimously elected as vice-chairman of the world body during its executive committee meeting on Thursday, according to a UNA press release. As the new vice-chairman of WFUNA, headquartered at the United Nations premises in New York, Srivastava will play a key role in shaping the organisation's policies and priorities.

Fast-track claim settlement for Biparjoy, directs Irdai

inday pioneer

PTI 📕 NEW DELH

Insurance regulator Irdai has asked insurers to settle claims in the states affected by cyclone Biparjoy in an expeditious manner.

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

In a circular to CEOs of all general insurance companies, and standalone health insurance companies, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) said it needs to be ensured that all claims are surveyed immediately and claim payments/on account payments are disbursed at the earliest and in any case not exceeding the stipulated timeline.

"The insurer shall encourage the policyholder to use electronic communication wherever possible for correspondence while initiating the claim and filing all the relevant documents. Efforts shall be made to ensure that digital processes are resorted to the extent possible for assessment of claims," it said.

Cyclone Biparjoy is likely to have caused loss to property (homes and businesses) and infrastructure in various states.



The regulator has asked tlement teams for speedy processing and settlement of the insurers to mobilise all resources to ensure immediate claims, it said.

service response, including Districts reporting large engaging the services of invesnumbers of claims may be tigators, surveyors and loss overseen by a designated adjustors for quick settlement District Claims Service Head, of claims arising out of the the circular dated June 16 said. havoc created by the cyclone. Insurers have been advised

to settle claim payments/on The insurers have been advised to communicate the account payments at the earliest and also encourage policynomination of a senior executive in each affected state / UT holders to use electronic communication wherever possible to the Chief Secretary/Officer concerned of the state immefor correspondence, it said.

Biparjoy made landfall on the coast of Kutch on Thursday Ínsurers will be responding/assisting the claimants night with a wind speed of 115-125 km/hour, causing loss to through their 24x7 helplines, special claims desks at district level with delegated claims setproperty and infrastructure in states impacted by the cyclone.



rounds have been completed, so I would look at it from the point of view that both governments have to find common ground because like with any agreement it has to be a win win scenario - one which works for both sides," he said.

for both sides: FICCI president

India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA since January last year, with a goal towards a comprehensive pact that is expected to significantly enhance the bilateral trading relationship worth an estimat-

ed GBP 34 billion in 2022. competitive, confident and looking to engage with the world," said Panda. "We hope that this is something that will be con-"I think what FTAs need cluded and we have offered to ensure is that they provide a level playing field and are whatever inputs we had to provide as a Chamber to the rules-based. It's all about give government of India, or some of our members have also individually provided feedback. So, based on that we're comernments are engaged in intense discussions and 10

fortable that common ground will be found for an FTA which is broad-based and works in the interests of both coun tries," added Panda.

As the Managing Director of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), Panda said, one of the priority areas he has been focussed on relates to critical minerals and for India to develop a strategy in this important field.

"When we talk about growth today, the focus is not just on growth but on inclusive and sustainable growth. And talking about the sustainability part of it, when it comes to electric mobility or renewable energy or high-end industrial applications, all of these ultimately boil down to some critical mineral or the other," explains Panda.

India-UK FTA has to be win-win | World Bank approves \$150 mn loan to support **Resilient Kerala Program**

IANS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

 $T_{
m Directors\ has\ approved\ a}^{
m he\ World\ Bank's\ Board\ of}$ \$150 million loan to support the Resilient Kerala Program to continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks.

This financing complements the World Bank's earlier investment of \$125 million and the overall support of the two projects is expected to protect nearly 5 million people from the impacts of floods.

Auguste Tano Kouame, the World Bank's Country Director for India, said through this additional financing, the World Bank will continue supporting Kerala in increasing its resilience to climate change.

"The project will focus on addressing coastal erosion along vulnerable areas of the state - impacting millions of lives," said Kouame.

The additional financing will expand and deepen the state's resilience to mitigate impacts of coastal erosion by

building a shoreline management plan.

The plan will assess the current and future shoreline changes in the state and create policies to address the risks to environmental resources, human settlements, and infrastructure along the coast.

The project will help the state develop a climate budget and a roadmap to help fill gaps in the state's open data and digital systems to reduce people's vulnerability to natural hazards. Currently, satellite maps, risk maps and sectoral data are not integrated into a single platform, leading to gaps in plan-ning and execution of public sector investments.

Need to upgrade skills of property brokers for better real estate consultancy services: FICCI-JLL report

PTI NEW DELHI

ndustry body FICCI and real Lestate consultant JLL India have pitched for formal training and certification courses for property brokers to upgrade their skills, enabling them to help clients in taking informed decisions

FICCI and JLL India have jointly come out with a white paper titled '(Re)Shaping Real Estate Professionals', which highlighted that the real estate agent registration grew from 33,270 in January 2019, to 71,514 in January 2023, across the country under the Real as RERA law.

diately.

A delegation led by Vineet Nanda, Chairman - Regional Urban Infra Committee, FICCI, recently presented the white paper to Arun Kumar Gupta, ACS, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, according to a statement.

Nanda, Director Sales & Marketing of realty firm Krisumi Corporation, briefed Gupta about the education programme available currently to skill brokers, also called as channel partners.

Estate (Development and RERA, only 30 per cent of the Regulations) Act, 2016, known channel partners are registered across India," Nanda pointed out.

'The team members associated with the channel partners are not skilled. Contrary to this, all other investment instruments such as stock market, commodities market, financial markets have to take certification courses to become acquainted with the market and its regulatory environment," he observed.

Nanda recommended that the state government should further regulate the environ-"Presently, despite the ment by spreading the educa-

tics was behind its loan pack-

age as global institutions want-

ed Pakistan to default like Sri

Lanka and then enter negotia-

ing an option to keep its econ-

omy afloat in the absence of

IMF support. The policy option

It is hoped that China will

USD 9 billion loans with dif-

Pakistan feverishly explor-



tion programme and tie-up with universities that offer cer tified courses.

This will ensure upgradation of skills to earn more as well as creation of new job opportunities, he added.

The report highlighted that real estate agents/brokers are one of the most important parts of the ever-growing real estate sector, which is witnessing a huge interest from domestic and global investors.

While the real estate market is evolving and customer demands are shifting, the services supplied by brokers are falling short," it pointed out.

The report emphasised on the need to educate the real estate sales professional who act as intermediary between seller and buyers in each real estate transaction.

"This will help in bringing more trust and comfort to both buyers and sellers and help them make informed decisions," it said.

The report suggested that training programmes should be curated in a comprehensive manner, enabling brokers to get a thorough knowledge of the real estate sector, including current regulations; com-

munication and marketing skills; and use of social media and other digital tools.

'Training programmes must include accreditation or certification, which can help brokers market themselves as industry experts," the report said

At present, it said there are limited government and commercial institutes that help to upskill brokers.

However, real estate brokers in most of the developed countries undergo a formal training and certification program after which they are eligible to get a license.

Pak receives USD 1 billion from China

PTI ISI AMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has received USD 1 billion from its close ally China to support its critically low foreign reserves amidst the uncertain ty to revive a stalled ernational Monetary Fund



tions

K'taka keen to operate new airports, says Minister Patil

IANS 📕 BENGALURU

chambers has said.

Indian

ans.

President of the Federation of

Commerce and Industry

(FICCI), was in the UK this

week for the FICCI Forum of

Parliamentarians, a bipartisan

initiative for political outreach.

was briefed on areas of interest

in the bilateral relationship

over a series of discussions with

businesses and parliamentari-

nesses are concerned, we are

and take. Clearly, both gov-

The delegation from India

"As far as Indian busi-

Chambers

of

The government is mulling bringing the responsibility of operation and maintenance of new airports under the ambit of the Karnataka State Industrial and Corporation (KSIIDC), official release from the large and medium industries ministry stated on Saturday.



Facebook, Instagram suffer global outage again IANS NEW DELHI

 $F_{fered\ an\ outage\ in\ the\ early}^{acebook\ and\ Instagram\ suf$ hours on Saturday as the platrms failed to ioad and Instagram stories showed an error message while being loaded. Several users reported they were not able to send or receive messages on WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger too. "We're aware some of you might be experiencing issues with IG (Instagram) at the moment. We're working to get things back to normal as soon as possible. Sorry for the inconvenience and thanks for the patience," Instagram said in a tweet.



loan

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday night confirmed having received the amount from China without sharing any other details about it. It would add to the reserves which had fallen to almost USD 3.9 billion in recent weeks.

Earlier, finance minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had paid back USD 1 billion to China last Monday against a due amount of USD 1.3 billion and it was hoped that the amount would be returned.

Pakistan's economy is tethering on the verge of default as the IMF is pushing the county to its limits to fulfil demands which Islamabad insists had

been already met - to provide

the remaining USD 2.5 billion out of a bailout package of USD 6.5 billion agreed in 2019.

The entire amount is unlikely to be paid as the programme is ending on June 30 but Pakistan is pushing for a

tranche of USD 1.1 billion as a symbolic gesture of endorse-

ment of its policies by the announced by Dar shows that Washington-based fund. Pakistan will pay multilateral The country is not getting loans on time while discussing the rollover of bilateral loans multilateral loans or even bilatwith individual countries. eral assistance without the support of the IMF. Only China has stood fast to help Pakistan roll over USD 4 billion of bilateral loans as the country looked

while Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also been selectively supportive. Dar earlier lashed out at the

ferent nations in the next fiscal IMF and alleged that geopoliyear beginning July 1.

KSIIDC is a body functioning under the department of large and medium industries.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil stated that talks will be held with the union government about the operation and maintenance of new airports.

Further, he said. "Shivamogga airport is ready to commence operations and the directorate of civil aviation has given approval for the forward to rolling over about same." Likewise, the government also intends to operate and maintain the Vijayapura and Hassan airports which are

is being followed in 2-3 other under construction, Patil said. states also, he explained. It would be good if we

operate and maintain the new airports on our own hereafter and it is going to fetch finan-cial benefits, he opined.

Citing an example he said that the Shiradi airport is being operated and maintained by the Maharashtra government itself. This model

The state has set up an

airport in Kalaburagi at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore. However, this has been handed over to the airport author ity. Instead of this, there will

be local benefits if we run ourselves, the minister claimed.

The outage lasted for more than two hour before it was resolved.

Website outage detector portal Downdetector also showed spikes for all of Meta's platforms

According to a company spokesperson, a technical issue

Indian talent, innovation create and empower Google products globally: Top company official

PTI WASHINGTON

ndia is one of the most Limportant markets for Google and a source of incredible talent and innovation that help create and empower the company's products globally, a top official at the tech giant has said.

Karan Bhatia, Google's global head of government affairs and public policy, told PTI on Friday that the company is very excited about India and its trajectory.

"India is one of our most important markets around the world. It's really a second home to us. We've been in the country for almost two decades now. We have thousands of employees there. It is both a source of incredible talent and innovation that really help create and empower Google products around the world," he said.

It is also a dynamic market where you see an explosion in both internet usage and in new small businesses and startups, Bhatia said.

said, India has been an incredible story that has seen an explosion in the use of the internet, particularly in rural regions which are experiencing the fastest growth in penetration, and growth in terms of

digital-first businesses. We're seeing more unicorns, more startups, more

companies that are thinking digitally first. And then, you're seeing a government that really understands the important role of digitalisation, digital policies," Bhatia said.

He said across the board, there is an ecosystem that exists in India that is driving forward the country's presence in the global digital network

"Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi has had a digital-first mindset, from the outset. You can see the way he has encouraged the government's adoption of digital technology. You look at something like Aadhar. So, there certain-

ly is a significant component

that has been the result of the

government's leadership," he In the last nine years, he said

Bhatia served as the Deputy US Trade Representative from 2005 to 2007. He is credited with leading the negotiation of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement and the Open Skies Agreement with India.

We are excited at the Prime minister's visit for many reasons. We see a lot of opportunity for ongoing growth in that relationship on the peopleto-people side, on the businessto-business side.

"I would love to see us three years from now have double the level of partnerships between the US and India in the digital space and think that's a realistic possibility," he said

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. They will host Modi at a state dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on June 22.



Bhatia said Google is playing an important role in this field. "We're doing it through our products where we continue to build and develop new products for the Indian market and frankly in India for the global market. We're also doing it through some of the partnerships that we have with startups," he said.

He said Google launched the India Digitization Fund, a USD 10 billion investment by the tech giant in Indian companies, a couple of years ago. "We're partnered with Jio,

Airtel, and also with small new startups, which are really the source of so much innovation," he said.

Bhatia said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US President Joe Biden here next week will send a "clear signal" to their governments that they want to see this relationship, commercial relationship grow, particularly in the tech-

nology and digital area. "I think that is at a very high level, the biggest thing that can be done. There are always regulations and policies that are

evolving, particularly in the technology space that can sometimes create challenges, and sometimes create impediments

'It's important that those policies be looked at through the framing of how we drive these two economies together and allow them to grow together and to continue to work more effectively together. That would be the biggest thing that I would hope for," he said.

Bhatia said Google considers itself an AI-first company and has been investing in this area for years.

"Indeed, many of the products that you're using today from Google have already got AI embedded in them, including products that actually are working in India and working better in India than ever before," he said.

'Our new language capabilities in Google are being made available through artificial intelligence, but there is a lot of opportunity to continue to do things, which is one of the reasons why we were recently

proud to announce a new partnership with IIT Madras, to help grow our AI capabilities and presence there.

He said Google is also working with a lot of Indian companies on artificial intelligence solutions to some of their opportunities and challenges, he said, adding the US and India could be two AI superpowers working together.

"We've been part of the dialogue. Google obviously is at the forefront of emerging and critical technologies both in the United States and India. It's good for there to be a high-level dialogue around what are the enablers and the impediments to increasing collaboration in that area," Bhatia said.

Many companies, including Google, are looking to grow in India and continue to invest in India, he said, adding there has obviously been a strong appetite.

"I think the prime Minister is right to be focused on this because it is a very competitive global environment right now," he said.

Earlier this month, Instagram briefly went down for thousands of users globally, including in India, after it faced a technical issue that

impacted its services. People took to Twitter to report the problems they were facing with the app, including posting memes and GIFs. In May, Instagram came back to life after being down for

over an hour as users witnessed errors saying the app couldn't refresh, and the website went blank for some users.

caused some people to have trouble accessing Instagram globally.

There are a lot of countries around the world that are looking to try and attract companies with tracked investment, particularly in the technology space because this is what is going to shape economic development trajectories, he said, adding that the fact that India's plays such a priority on this makes a lot of sense.

"The Indian government, like every government around the world, continues to invest in digital and technology infrastructure, continuing to invest in people skills. How do you help everybody have the basic knowledge of how to utilise technology, how to utilise the internet. That is a second big area of focus. "Third, the government

itself is an adopter of technology and certainly we've seen the Indian government do that. And then lastly, creating the right policy and regulatory environment, one that allows innovation to exist, allows these cross border partnerships," he said when asked about the areas of improvement in India.

sport 07



CROATIA AIMING FOR FIRST MAJOR TROPHY AP ROTTERDAM

uka Modric has been Croatia's driving force on the way to Sunday's Nations League final, where they could earn their first ever major trophy against a Spain team he knows inside out.

Questions surround the veteran midfielder, 37, over his future both in international football and at club level with Real Madrid, with his contract set to end this month.

Before resolving them, Croatia captain Modric is aiming to lead his country, with a population of only four million people, to glory in Rotterdam at De Kuip.

The Balkan nation has consistently overperformed on the world stage over the past 25 years, starting with their third place finish at

the 1998 World Cup. They followed that up by reaching the 2018 World Cup final, where they were beaten by France, and again finished third in Qatar last year, eliminating favourites Brazil along the

way. "We have once again become a power-house in football, showing that despite all our problems, we have quality and character," said Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic.

"Now we need to stay calm and smart, not rush anywhere, towards that gold. That's my great wish ... bronze, silver and gold.

Modric, who made his international debut in 2006, earned his 165th international cap against the Netherlands on Thursday.

He converted a penalty to help fire Croatia into the Nations League final with a 4-2 extratime triumph, one step closer towards that elusive "gold"

The midfield maestro pulled the strings for his country, getting the better of Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong, but Manchester City's Rodri will provide an even sterner test.

City's Champions League final hero is the key piece in Luis de la Fuente's La Roja, who

are still finding their footing. Joselu's later winner to help them beat Italy in Enschede calmed the storm around Spain and they can end a trophy drought of over a decade, with their last triumph coming in Euro 2012

With Luis Enrique at the helm they lost in the 2021 Nations League final against France



a couple of months after they defeated Croatia in a thrilling 5-3 triumph to reach the Euro 2020 semi-finals

Despite having the richer history on paper, thanks to their 2008 and 2012 Euros wins and lifting the 2010 World Cup, as well as having a greater player pool to draw from, Spain will not underestimate Croatia or Modric.

"Luka Modric is another example of a sportsman, a player that at his age still has that hunger and ambition to win things, he's never tired of it," said Joselu.

"He's an example for all kids out there and another sign that age means nothing.

There are some reports Modric may retire from international duty after the Nations League but the player said he would decide his future after the tournament.

"I always enjoy playing for the national team, it's not because it could be my last competition or my last match," said Modric.

"Every single match, every training session is a joy. As long as I feel I can help, there's no reason for me not to be here.

Nations League victory could provide a triumphant moment to bow out on or prove the springboard for an assault on Euro 2024 next summer

Modric has proved relentlessly he still has the legs to compete at the top level, playing 119 minutes against the Netherlands in the semifinals

"Luka is unique, unrepeatable in the whole world, he is an icon wherever he goes," said

Dalic. "When he was substituted he received an

Croatia triumphed in extra time, just as they did against Brazil and Japan in Qatar, and England, Russia and Denmark in 2018.

Spain have had plenty of 120-minute plus games themselves in recent years, but avoided t on Thursday thanks to Joselu's strike. De la Fuente hoped his players would recover in time for Sunday's final after having a day fewer rest than Croatia.

"Extra time wears you down but with a win you recover more easily," said the Spain coach. "This group of players have played so many

games, but I'm very optimistic. Italy face hosts the Netherlands in the third-

place play-off match on Sunday afternoon.



AP ROTTERDAM

Spain midfielder Rodri Hernandez hopes to restore his team's "winning culture" by beating Croatia on Sunday and winning the Nations League. Manchester City's goalscoring hero in their Champions League final triumph over Inter Milan last weekend noted

only two players in Spain's squad had won trophies with the national team — Jordi Alba and Jesus Navas.

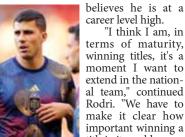
Sevilla wing-back Navas lifted the 2010 World Cup with La Roja, while Alba was part of the side which won Spain's last trophy at Euro 2012, over a decade ago.

"It will be very important to win again, after all this time, bringing Spain back to the highest point," Rodri told a news conference on Saturday, ahead of the final in Rotterdam.

"We only have two players who know what it's like to win. It's not just important to win but to create a winning culture, we have to understand that we have a unique opportunity. "We had the chance to win

against France in the (2021) final but we couldn't do it. This will allow us to recover that winning culture." Spain also reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals but were beaten by Italy

on penalties. Rodri has become a key figure for coach Luis de la Fuente in midfield and the Man City player



title is, it would crown a very special season for me."

Rodri will come face-to-face with Croatian midfield maestro Luka Modric, who shone in his team's semi-final victory over hosts

the Netherlands. Spain coach De la Fuente highlighted the pair's quality. "They seem two extraordinary players to me," the coach told reporters.

"I've already said, for me Rodri is the best defensive midfielder in the world. And Modric is a world class talent.

The coach said the Real Madrid midfielder was a worry for his team, but so were Croatia as a whole.

"He puts us on alert, but not just Modric — Croatia have players of a very high level, that's why they are where they are," said De la Fuente. "We have to be more alert

around Modric, paying attention to him." De la Fuente confirmed forward Dani Olmo was fit to feature in the final at De Kuip after missing the 2-1 win over Italy on Thursday in Enschede.

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France maintain 100% record



AP FARO

Kylian Mbappe netted from a penalty as France eased to a 3-0 win over minnows Gibraltar on Friday to maintain their 100 percent record in Euro 2024 qualify ing. Olivier Giroud gave last year's World Cup runners-up an early lead in Faro, in Portugal's Algarve, and Mbappe made it 2-0 from the spot in first-half stoppage time.

The France captain then forced an owngoal from Aymen Mouelhi to complete the scoring after the break, although Les Bleus also hit the woodwork four times.

The result follows wins over the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland in March and leaves France on a maximum nine points from three games in qualifying Group B.

They are three points better off than Greece, who beat Ireland 2-1 in Athens on Friday and have a game in hand.

France host Greece on Monday, while letherlands — currently involv

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D. Division Budni Distt - SEHORE (M.P.)

Main Road Budni Distt - Sehore Tel No. 07564-235305

Date 09.06.2023.

Notice Invite Tender

Online Tenders for below-mentioned work have been processed on E-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal https://mptenders.gov.in Tenders details are as below :-

S. No.	System Tender ID	Type of Work	Name of the work	PAC (In Rs. Iacs)	Earnest money deposit (in Rs.)	Time Allowed	Call	EMD & Tender Related Other Document
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2023_PWDRB	Mandi	5	424.29	424290.00	12 Month Including	1	All Tender
	_283044_1	Head	to Manjarkui and Nadiyakheda Road Length 5.00 Km			rainy season		related
2	2023_PWDRB _283047_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Road from Beejla to Kharsaniya Road Length 3.10 Km, Const, of Road from	383.60	383600.00	12 Month Including rainy season	1	documents and E.M.D.
			Haliyakhedi to Roojankhedi Road Length 1.80 Km and Neelkanth Main Road to Cheech Road Length 1.00 Km					will be accepted online only
3	2023_PWDRB _283050_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Rehti Chakaldi Main Road to Khairi Road Length 5.00 Km	359.92	359920.00	12 Month Including rainy season	1	ļ
4	2023_PWDRB _283054_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Road from Dehri, Kusumkheda to Nonbhet, Thikri Road Length 3.00 Km and Const. of CC Road from Jontala to Kutnasir Road Length 1.50 Km	320.98	320980.00	12 Month Including rainy season	1	
5	2023_PWDRB _283058_1	Mandi Head	Construction of CC Road from Bai to Bodi Road Length 1.50 Km and Const, of Road from Fandki to Khamkheda Road Length 3.00 Km	316.20		12 Month including rainy season	1	
6	2023_PWDRB _283063_1	Mandi Head	Joshipurto Narmadaghat Via Khedapati Temple Road Length 2.00 Km and Ramnagar approach Road Length 0.600 Km	295.51	295510.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
7	2023_PWDRB _283065_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Harmau to Chichlahkala Road Length 1.90 Km	260.43		10 Month Including rainy season	1	
8	2023_PWDRB _283071_1	Mandi Head	Road Length 3.00 Km	254.03		rainy season	1	
9	2023_PWDRB _283073_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Road from Gadar Khabada to Basgahan Road Length 1.50 Km and Amon Sagpur (Imlajodi) to Gondakheda Road Length 2.00 Km	248.80	248800.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
10	2023_PWDRB _283081_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Gondi Guradiya to Jamunia Bajyat Road Length 3. 20 Km	224.46	224460.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
11	2023_PWDRB _283083_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Jahajpura Canal to 6R Canal Parral Road Length 3. 00 Km	211.40	211400.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
12	2023_PWDRB _283084_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Road from Kabad Naido to Lachhido Road Length 1.70 Km	185.63	185630.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
13	2023_PWDRB _283086_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Main Road Beebda Road Length 2.00 Km	141.79	141790.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
14	2023_PWDRB _283087_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Main Road to Rehti Soyat Ramnagar Road Length 3.00 Km	138.84	138840.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
15	2023_PWDRB _283088_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Road from Chakaldi to Dayaram ke Khet tak Road Length 1.70 Km	130.51	130510.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
16	2023_PWDRB _283090_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Rehti Budni Main Road to Saru Maru (Boudh Stoop) approach Road Length 1.50 Km	107.99	107990.00	10 Month Including rainy season	1	
	2023_PWDRB _283091_1	Mandi Head	Main Road (KM 4/6) to Anoopnagar Approach Road Length 1.30 Km	92.31	92310.00	rainy season	1	
18	2023_PWDRB _283092_1	Mandi Head	Construction of Jahajpura to Hanuman Temple Road Length 0.50 Km	35.88	50000.00	06 Month Including rainy season	1	
			Maximum Amount	424.2	9 Lakhs			

NIT No. 08/2023-24/SAC/Budni



Nations League finals — have three points from two games.

The objective was to win and get the job done but we should have scored more goals," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

'We can always do better and play with more pace but the pitch did not help us.

"I will settle for this and start thinking about Monday which is an important match.

INJURED WOODS TO **MISS BRITISH OPEN**

AP LONDON

¬iger Woods will miss next month's British Open at the Royal Liverpool course as the American star recovers from surgery.

Woods withdrew from the third round of the Masters in April due to injury and will not return in time for the British Open.

Woods said he suffered plantar fasciitis at the Masters and the 47-year-old then had a subtalar fusion procedure in New York to address a problem caused by a previous fracture of a bone in his ankle joint.

The 15-time major winner did not compete in the US PGA Championship at Oak Hill in May or this week's US Open at Los Angeles Country Club.

Woods won a third British Open title at Royal Liverpool in 2006 in his first tournament since the death of his father Earl two months earlier.

But British Open organisers have confirmed Woods will not make an emotional return to the Hoylake course in July.

"We have been advised that Tiger won't be playing at Royal Liverpool," an R&A spokesman said.

"We wish him all the best with his recovery."

G-15044/23

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री. लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग भिण्ड (म.प्र.) Website: www.mp.gov.in/pwd.mp Email:- eepwdbhind@mp.nic.in [Phone: 07534-234714 Fax: 23301] भिण्ड/दिनांक 09.06.2023 क्रमांक 2520/व.ले.लि./2023-24 निविदा विज्ञप्ति सूचना क्रमांक 09/2023-24

मध्य प्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से म.प्र. के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु सडक नवीन अनुसूची दर 25.03.2022 एवं विद्युत कार्यो की अनुसूची दर प्रभावशील दिनांक 15.09.2022 पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना जारी होने के दिनांक तक समस्त संशोधनों सहित ई-टेण्डरिंग पद्धत्ति द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदा में अपेन्डिक्स 2.10 में निहित शर्तो के अनरूप आमंत्रित की जाती है. जिसकी विस्तत निविदा सचना एवं कार्यो का विवरण वेबसाईट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। वेबसाईट पर होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं हेत् विभाग जिम्मेदार नही होगा।

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b.	निविदा संबंधी संशोधन उसी टेण्डर में ऑनलाईन देखे जा सकेंगे, अतिरिक्त प्रेस नोट नही निकाला जावेगा।								
C.	सक्षम आं	प्रक्षम अधिकारी को निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा।							
d.	उपरोक्त कार्यो हेतु संबंधित मद में आवंटन उपलब्ध होने पर ही भुगतान हो सकेगा।								
e.	समस्त जरूरी दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन ही प्रस्तत करना अनिवार्य है. अन्यथा की स्थिति में तेकेदार स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे।								

समस्त जरूरी दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन ही प्रस्तुत करना अनिवाये हैं, अन्यथा को स्थिति में ठेकेदार स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे उपरोक्त वेबसाईट ऑनलाईन भुगतान करने के उपरांत निविदा प्रपन्न (टेण्डर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेबसाईट के माध्यम से प्राप्त

हो सकेंगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाईट में देखी जा सकती हैं।

के. के. शर्मा कार्यपालन यंत्री लो.नि.वि. संभाग भिण्ड मो. नं. 9753913817

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document (Document Download/Sale End Date) on line is Dated 23-06-2023 up to (17:30.) Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper..

With Refrence to the order of Engineer-in-Chief PWD Bhopal vide Letter NO 401/sa/E-tenderring/09/1088/Bhopal, Dated 05/11/2020 in which All Tender related documents and E.M.D will be accepted online only.

Executive Engineer						
P.W.D. Division Budni	(M.P.)					
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sport 08

KHAWAJA LEADS AUSSIES FIGHTBACK

sman Khawaja ended his decade-long wait for a maiden Test hundred in England as he led an Australia recovery in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston on Saturday.

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | JUNE 18, 2023

sunday pioneer

Australia were struggling at 67-3 after Stuart Broad struck twice in two balls to remove David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne before England captain Ben Stokes captured the prize wicket of star batsman Steve Smith. But they had recovered to 311-5 at stumps on the second day of this five-match series, with opening batsman Khawaja 126 not out and wicketkeeper Alex Carey unbeaten on 52 in an unbroken stand of 91.

That still left Australia 82 runs behind England's first-innings 393-8 declared built on Joe Root's 118 not out. Australia captain Pat Cummins insisted Thursday his recentlycrowned World Test champions had no need to emulate England's ultra-aggressive 'Bazball' style batting, saying: "Somewhere our batters might take 200 balls to get a hundred and that's totally fine." His words were underlined by Khawaja's 199-ball hundred — his 15th in Tests but seventh in 18 matches since he was recalled last year - which he completed with a late-cut four off Stokes

Khawaja's obdurate stay appeared to have ended when Broad bowled him for 112 in the first over with the new ball but replays revealed the veteran seamer had overstepped the crease for a marginal no-ball and Khawaja was reprieved.

Broad had earlier reduced Australia to 29-2 as he again got the better of Warner, whom he dismissed seven times during the drawn 2019 Ashes in England. The left-hander had reached nine on an overcast morning favouring England's quicks when he chased a wide ball from Broad and inside edged into his stumps.

And the roars of the crowd became deafening next ball when Labuschagne, the world's topranked Test batsman, fell for a golden duck after edging a Broad outswinger that was brilliantly caught one-handed low down by diving wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow.

Smith survived the hat-trick delivery but rarely looked comfortable in a 59-ball stay that didn't feature a single boundary. Stokes's bowling fitness had been called into question by a longstanding left knee injury, but the lively all-rounder struck when he rapped Smith on the back foot with a nip-back ball.

The batsman's review upheld South African umpire Marais Erasmus's decision and Smith, whose twin centuries in the Ashes opener at



Kishan heading Shaheen returns as Pakistan to NCA ahead announce Test squad for SL of WI tour PTI MUMBAI

PTI KARACHI

Star pacer Shaheen Afridi was Son Saturday named in Pakistan's squad for the Test series in Sri Lanka next month while Muhammad Huraira and Aamir Jamal received maiden call-ups in the longer version.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also announced that for mer pacer Morne Morkel has been appointed as the bowling



Edgbaston Stadium to turn blue for Bob Willis



IANS BIRMINGHAM

The Edgbaston Cricket Sta-dium will turn 'Blue for Bob' on Saturday, which is day two of the first Test of Ashes 2023 to commemorate Eng-land's legendary cricketer Bob Willis, who passed away at the age of 70 from prostate cancer in 2019.

The initiative will raise money to help and support the Bob Willis Fund, co-founded by his wife Lauren Clark and brother David, in its research and bring awareness about

prostate cancer.

Edgbaston first went Blue for Bob in the 2021 ODI between England and Pakistan and on day two of England's rescheduled fifth Test against India in 2022. Spectators attending day two's game are encouraged to wear blue to support the cause.

Edgbaston was Willis' home ground during his time with county side Warwickshire between 1972 and 1984, includ ing winning the County Championship in his very first season with the club

July 1981 when he bagged 8/43 to win the game for England. Willis took 325 wickets in 90 Tests for England, at an average of 25.20, with his most memorable spell coming in the Ashes Test at Headingley in July 1981 when he bagged 8/43 to win the game for England.

After his retirement from the

game, he became a commenta-

90 Tests for England, at an aver-

age of 25.20, with his most

memorable spell coming in the Ashes Test at Headingley in

Edgbaston four years ago powered Australia to a 251-run win, was out for 16. But as the ball got older and conditions for

batting eased, Khawaja and Travis Head checked England's progress with a fourth-wicket stand of 81. Both left-handers went after Moeen Ali, each hitting the recalled off-spinner for sixes on his Birmingham home ground.

But Stokes kept Moeen, in for the injured Jack Leach, going in what was the bowler's first Test in nearly two years since he 'retired' from all redball cricket. His faith was rewarded when Head, fresh from a hundred in Australia's WTC final win over India at The Oval last week, fell for a typically brisk 50 off 63 balls after dragging a drive off Moeen to Zak Crawley at midwicket.

tor with Sky Sports.

Australia's 148-4 should have become 148-5 hen Cameron Green, on a second-ball nought, charged at a sharply-turning Moeen delivery only for Bairstow to miss a clear stumping opportunity. Moeen eventually bowled Green for 38 but only after the all-rounder had put on 72 with Khawaia

Bairstow, who made a run-a-ball 78 on Friday, also dropped Alex Carey, on 26 off occasional spinner Root, having been chosen as England's keeper ahead of Ben Foakes - arguably a better gloveman but not as good a batsman.

Pak's participation at 2023 WC subject to govt approval

IANS N NEW DELHI

Pakistan cricket team's par-ticipation in the 50-over World Cup in India later this year is subject to approval from their government,

According According to an ESPNcricinfo report, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) under its chairman Najam Sethi has written to the ICC, following the release of a draft schedule o all participating week, to highlight they cannot unilaterally approve the fixture list.



quick has signed a six-month contract.

The 16-member squad, led by Babar Azam, will play two Tests in Sri Lanka, which will kickoff Pakistan's campaign in the third ICC World Test Championship cycle.

The good news for Pakistan was the return of tall left-arm pacer and lynchpin of the bowling attack, Afridi who has not played any Test cricket since July last year due to a knee injury.

Shaheen, who suffered a knee injury in his last Test appearance also in Sri Lanka in July, last played for Pakistan in the T20 World Cup final against England in October.

"After missing our entire home season because of the injury I suffered in Sri Lanka, I am eager to make an impactful comeback in the same country and complete a century of wick ets in Test cricket," Shaheen said.

Shaheen is one wicket away from reaching a century of Test wickets and no Pakistan bowler has picked up more wickets than him since the left-armer made his debut in December 2018.

The 23-year-old averages 24.86 and has an economy of 3.04. The 21-year-old batter, Huraira topped the wicket-takers chart for the fast bowlers in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23, taking 31 scalps at 29.71 and

recorded two five-wicket hauls. Jamal, on the other hand,

defended 15 runs in the last over against England's Moeen Ali on his Pakistan debut in September

last year. His immaculate death bowling helped Pakistan to a thrilling six-run win over England in the fifth T20I. Chief Selector Haroon

Rasheed said that the squad had been picked keeping in mind the conditions that the team will encounter in Sri Lanka. The squad has four spinners, four fast bowlers, six specialist batters and two keeper-batters.

"We have three such bowlers to go with the mystery spin of Abrar Ahmed. At the same time, we cannot overlook the need for fast bowlers and, as such, we have included four pacers so the captain and team management have ample resources on the tour. "We boast a strong batting line-up, which I am confident will do well in the two matches," Harroon said.

PAKISTAN SOUAD

Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (vc & wk), Aamir Iamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, İmam-ul Haq, Mohammad Huraira, Moĥammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk) Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood.

ee ODIs an internationals against the West Indies starting July 12, for which the Rohit Sharma-led team is

Tndia wicketkeeper-batter

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan and a few other contracted players will check into the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru next week, for Strength & Conditioning (S&C) related work ahead of the national team's departure for the

team's departure for the Caribbean islands for a full tour

India will play two Tests,

against the West Indies.

slated to depart on July 3. With the Duleep Trophy scheduled to be held entirely in Bengaluru from June 28 and the final to be played from July 12-16 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, it has already been reported by PTI earlier that Kishan had opted out of the season opening domestic red ball tournament.

With the East Zone taking on the Central Zone in the first quarterfinal at Alur in Bengaluru, the 24-year-old had the opportunity to play one game with the red-ball before the Indian team's departure for the Caribbean tour.

However perhaps with no one to challenge his place as second keeper in Test side, Kishan's decision to opt out is more to do with lack of options.

"We have written to the ICC that we can't give approval or disapproval to this (World Cup schedule). It's our government who has to decide, just like when it comes to India, it's their government that decides when they go to play," Sethi said

"There is no point asking us if we will play in Ahmedabad. When the time comes, first it will be decided whether we are going or not, then the government decides where we will go," he added.

According to the draft schedule, the World Cup is scheduled to be held across multiple venues in India from October 5. India will play archrivals Pakistan in a mouthwatering clash on October 15 in Ahmedabad. Overall, Pakistan are scheduled to play

across five venues during the league stage of the tournament.

Notably, there has been an unprecedented delay in announcing the World Cup schedule. Usually, World Cup itineraries are put out at least a vear in advance.

Sethi suggested the delay could be because of the PCB needing more time to respond after the ICC had sought feedback on the World Cup itinerary from the boards of all the participating countries as well as its broadcasters. He did not put a timeframe on when the Pakistan government would give them an answer

"The BCCI were about to announce the schedule but we told them we can't confirm without government approval," Sethi said.

'I have taken up the issue with the Prime Minister and they haven't deliberated about this. The PM said they have to involve the foreign office as well and have to think through so it's premature [to ask permission now]. Also, we don't know who will be in power by then so there is no development right now. But when there is a stable government, the time will come and we will ask them [whether we can tour India]

Ban register biggest win over Afg 546 runs Shakib returns to Ban by

AP MIRPUR

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 546 Bruns on Saturday to record its biggest ever test victory in terms of runs.

It's the third biggest victory in test cricket history in terms of runs, and Bangladesh appeared to do it easily.

Fast bowler Taskin Ahmed claimed his career-best figures of 4-37 as Afghanistan was dismissed for 115 on Day 4 after being set a daunting target of 662.

Najmul Hossain helped the hosts set the tone for the victory with hundreds in each innings, becoming the second Bangladesh batter to achieve that milestone

Bangladesh's biggest previous win was by 226 runs against Żimbabwe in 2005. The margin in Mirpur is lower only than England's 675-run win over Australia in 1928 and Australia's 562run win over England at The Oval in 1934

Bangladesh's pace attack dominat-ed at the ground which has tended to assist spin in the past. As well as the wickets tumbling, Afghanistan had to deal with two batters being unable to



continue their innings after being hit by rising deliveries - including last batter Zahir Khan.

Taskin led the three-pronged pace attack, a rarity for Bangladesh at home, which claimed 14 wickets in the match. Bangladesh broke through in just the third over on Day 4 when Nasir Jamal nicked to the wicketkeeper as fast bowler Ebadot Hossain (1-22) straightened one off the pitch to take the outside edge. Nasir added just one to his overnight tally to be out on 6.

Shah, who made team-high 30, Bangladesh's fast bowlers kept striking with left-arm paceman Shoriful Islam getting a double breakthrough in consecutive overs.

Shoriful, who returned figures of 3-Amid the resistance of Rahmat 28, had Afsar Zazai (6) caught at gully

with a short-length delivery and then dismissed Bahir Shah (7), who was substituted in when skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (13 retired hurt) was unable to continue batting after being hit by a Taskin bouncer on Day 3.

Taskin then got into the act, breaking the defense of Rahmat, who was caught behind with Afghanistan at 91-6. He also got the better of Karim Janat (18) and Yamin Ahmadzai (1) to stand on the brink of his first five-wicket haul in an innings but a drama unfolded as last batter Zahir Khan survived twice in consecutive deliveries.

Firstly, he survived an appeal for caught behind when DRS showed no evidence of an edge, and then the next delivery rattled his stumps but was called a no-ball.

Two balls later, he was hit on the elbow while trying to duck a short ball and had to retire out.

Bangladesh was dismissed for 382 runs in its first innings, after a counterattacking 146 by Najmul Hossain. The hosts decided against enforcing the follow-on when Afghanistan, playing its first test since 2021, was dismissed for 146 in reply.

squad for Afghan ODIs

IANS DHAKA

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Saturday made a re-

turn to the ODI squad for the upcoming home series against Afghanistan, set to begin from July 5. Shakib had missed the one-off Test against Afghanistan, which Bangladesh won by 546 runs, due to a finger injury sustained during the ODI series against Ireland at Chelmsford in May.

Mohammad Naim and Afif Hossain have also been included for the ODI series under Tamim Iqbal's leadership, as has pacer Taskin Ahmed, who missed the ODIs against Ireland due to side strain. Yasir Ali, Mrittunjoy Chowdhury and Rony Talukdar have been left out for the

series against Afghanistan to accommodate the trio of Naim, Hossain and Taskin. Naim was the leading run-getter in

the Dhaka Premier League, the list A tournament of the country, scoring 932 runs in 16 matches at an average of 71.69, paving the way for his return to the ODI team after two years

On the other hand, Afif scored 550 runs in 15 games at an average of 55 and even captained Bangladesh A in two out of three four-day games against West Indies A. Bangladesh will play all the day-night ODI matches against Afghanistan at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on July 5, 8 and 11. It will be followed by two T20Is between the two teams in Sylhet on July 14 and 16.





The recent tiger deaths are not isolated incidents within Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Since 2020, a total of ten tigers have perished in the area, writes BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Tigers dying in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, known for its abundant biodiversity and thriving tiger population, has been struck by a series of perplexing deaths that have raised alarm bells. Over the past two weeks, three tigers and one leopard have tragically lost their lives, leaving the Forest Department deeply distressed and concerned. The negligence and inefficiency displayed by the monitoring teams responsible for safeguarding these endangered species are now under scrutiny. While two tigers and one leopard are believed to have died as a result of mutual conflict, another tiger was found dead in a waterhole. These incidents have exposed the inadequacies of the reserve's monitoring efforts. "The recent spate of tiger deaths has highlighted the need to assess and strengthen ranger monitoring systems in Dudhwa National Park. Rangers play a critical role in safeguarding wildlife and enforcing conservation regulations. However, certain gaps and challenges need to be addressed to ensure their effectiveness," emphasized wildlife conservationist R.S. Bhadoria. In response to the alarming series of incidents, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has launched an investigation into the tiger deaths at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. A team comprising retired IFS officer Shailesh Prasad, wildlife conservationist RK Singh, and NTCA official Hemant Singh has been formed, with a 15-day deadline to submit their report. The distressing sequence of events began approximately two weeks ago when the lifeless bodies of two tigers and one leopard were discovered. Forest officials initially suspected a clash between the animals, but the circumstances surrounding their deaths remain unresolved. Adding to the mystery, another tiger carcass was found in a pond in the Mailani range of the Kishanpur Sanctuary on June 9. On examination, it was revealed that the tiger's body had been submerged in the pond for over a week, leading to advanced decomposition. This discovery raises questions about the Forest Department's claim of continuous monitoring. Despite assurances of round-the-clock surveillance, the tiger's remains went unnoticed for an extended period. It was only when the foul odor permeated the area that a search was initiated, ultimately leading to the grim discovery The post-mortem examination of the deceased tiger was conducted at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). Dr. KP Singh, Joint Director of IVRI, shared that the post-mortem report suggests the tiger found dead at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve may have been involved in a fight with a large animal, such as an elephant or rhinoceros, approximately three weeks ago. The tiger sustained severe injuries, rendering it unable to hunt for prey.

Over time, these wounds worsened, ultimately leading to decomposition.

The report indicates that the tiger's death can be attributed to a combination of factors, including hunger, dehydration, and weakened conditions caused by the injuries. As the tiger was unable to hunt, it experienced hunger pangs exacerbated by the scorching heat and lack of available water, leading to dehydration.

"The post-mortem report suggests that the tiger's death was a result of a combination of factors, including wounds, decomposition, hunger, and thirst," stated Dr. Singh. "The report has been forwarded to the relevant authorities for further analysis and

action.

well-being of these endangered animals.

The recent tiger deaths are not isolated incidents within Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Since 2020, a total of ten tigers have perished in the area, raising concerns about the reserve's conservation efforts. While postmortem examinations have been conducted, the exact causes of death remain elusive.

In a previous incident, a postmortem examination of a tigress from Rampur Dhakaiya village revealed an empty stomach, suggesting severe hunger and thirst as contributing factors to her demise. This revelation further emphasizes the urgent need for robust monitoring and conservation

Tigers dying in territorial battle

Tigers Under Threat: Startling Surge in Fatalities Sends Tremors through India's Wildlife Conservation Efforts

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

 Λ startling surge in tiger deaths **L** has reverberated through the hearts of wildlife enthusiasts across the country, sending tremors through India's efforts in wildlife conservation. In a devastating blow, eleven majestic tigers lost their lives within the first 17 days of June. Maharashtra lost three tigers while Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand mourned death of two big cats each. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha recorded one fatality each.

conflicts among these majestic predators have emerged as significant contributors to the surge in mortalities. Senior officials from the Ministry have drawn attention to the insufficiency of habitats to accommodate the growing tiger population, compelling these creatures to venture into human territories. This perilous incursion poses grave risks to both the tigers' lives and those of humans. The severity of the situation is further accentuated by the fact that seven tiger deaths occurred within the boundaries of their own territories within the first 17 days of June, underscoring the urgency for immediate intervention. Experts unanimously attribute the rise in deaths to territorial conflicts among the tigers themselves. Typically, tigers demarcate territories spanning 10-12 square kilometers, fiercely guarding against rival intruders. When a challenger encroaches, a battle for dominance ensues, with the stronger tiger prevailing and the weaker one pushed to the periphery. Life is far from easy even for those tigers that manage to survive and relocate to the fringes. They often become victims of poaching or fall prey to human-animal conflicts when they venture beyond their territorial boundaries, as witnessed in recent days. For instance, in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, a frail cub succumbed to the harsh elements of cold and rain after its mother was killed in a territorial clash back in February. Ranthambore TR, considered the nation's third-most congested tiger habitat, lags behind Uttarakhand's Corbett National Park and Assam's Kaziranga National Park in terms of overcrowding. As India grapples with this disquieting surge in tiger deaths, urgent measures are needed to safeguard these magnificent creatures. Wildlife conservation efforts demand immediate attention to address the underlying causes of territorial conflicts and habitat insufficiency. Time is of the essence, and concerted action is imperative to ensure a future where tigers thrive

The death of the fourth tiger has flummoxed all and sundry.

Forest officials were left astonished and deeply concerned by their failure to detect the carcass of a tiger in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Such a critical lapse in monitoring raises serious doubts about the Forest Department's ability to fulfill its duty of safeguarding these magnificent creatures. The incident has sparked public outrage as citizens express their disappointment with the ongoing spate of tiger deaths within the reserve.

"The failure to locate the tiger's carcass for eight days raises serious questions about the effectiveness of our monitoring system," lamented an anonymous forest official. "We pride ourselves on round-the-clock surveillance, but this incident highlights a significant lapse in our monitoring efforts."

News of the tiger deaths at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve has ignited public outrage and disappointment. Concerned citizens and wildlife activists are expressing their frustration and disappointment with the repeated occurrences of tiger deaths in the reserve. They argue that the recent incidents underscore a lack of proper monitoring and conservation measures.

"The continuous loss of tigers in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a distressing trend that cannot be ignored," stated Rakesh Kumar, a local wildlife activist. "It reflects a failure on the part of the Forest Department to ensure the safety and

TIGER DEATHS ARE NOT **ISOLATED INCIDENTS WITHIN DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE. SINCE** 2020, A TOTAL OF **TEN TIGERS HAVE** PERISHED IN THE AREA, RAISING **CONCERNS ABOUT** THE RESERVE'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS. WHILE POST-MORTEM **EXAMINATIONS** HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED, THE EXACT CAUSES OF DEATH REMAIN **ELUSIVE**

THE RECENT

measures.

Forest Minister Arun Saxena has assured the public that they are dedicated to the conservation and promotion of tigers within the reserve. He claims that sufficient food and water resources are available for the tigers, but recent events have cast doubts on these assertions.

Saxena said, "We understand the public's disappointment and frustration, and we are actively investigating these incidents. The investigation teams will provide crucial insights into the causes of death and guide our future conservation strategies.

The Forest Department has launched an investigation into the recent tiger deaths and hopes to uncover the truth behind these tragic incidents. A comprehensive report will be crucial in determining the exact cause of death and shedding light on any underlying factors contributing to the alarming mortality rate.

As the plight of the tigers in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve worsens, urgent action is needed to address the deficiencies in monitoring and ensure the survival of these majestic creatures. The Forest Department must take immediate steps to rectify the failures in their surveillance systems and enhance their conservation efforts to protect the remaining tiger population in the reserve. Time is of the essence, and the fate of these magnificent animals hangs in the balance.

(Writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow).

Tigers Killed in Three Years

- February 2020: A tigress's body was found in Kataiya Beat of Kishanpur Sanctuary.
- August 2020: A tigress's body was found in the Jatpura beat of the Mailani range of the Buffer zone.
- January 2021: The dead body of a female tiger cub was found in the Sikandarpur beat of Gola range. Death confirmed from septicemia.
- February 2021: Tiger hunting in the Belrayan range of Dudhwa National Park.
- April 2021: A tigress's body was found in Kishanpur Sanctuary. Diarrhea was reported.
- September 2021: The body of a female tiger cub was found in the Mailani range of the Buffer zone.
- April 2023: A tiger carcass was found in the Salempur beat of the Mailani range of the Buffer zone. Postmortem confirmed death due to internal organ failure and a bone getting stuck in the intestine.
- June 2023: A tigress entered

Rampur Dhakaiya village of Grunt number three beat of Mailani range of Bufferzone at 12 o'clock on Friday night. Died on Saturday morning. Confirmation of death of tigress due to hunger and thirst in the postmortem.

June 9, 2023: The body of a male tiger was found lying in a pond in the Mailani range of Kishanpur Sanctuary. It is speculated that the death occurred during a mutual conflict.

In this year, till June 17, a total 87 predators have died across the country.

This alarming escalation in tiger fatalities marks the highest number witnessed in the past three years, despite the recent announcement of India's Tiger Census figures during the fifth cycle by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9. The aim of this initiative was to bolster the protection and preservation of these iconic feline wonders.

Thorough data analysis conducted by the renowned National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) reveals a somber reality for tigers across the nation. A staggering total of 87 magnificent big cats have succumbed to various threats till now this year, with Madhya Pradesh bearing the brunt of the losses, reporting a heartbreaking 23 casualties. Among the fallen warriors, 28 tigresses and 12 cubs leave behind a void in the already fragile tiger population.

Merely a week ago, The Pioneer brought to light a chilling statistic: the country witnessed the tragic deaths of 76 tigers in the past five months alone, presenting the grim reality of one tiger perishing every other day.

A poignant comparison with the same period last year paints a distressing picture: a total of 64 felines met untimely demises, as indicated by the NTCA's data under the Union Environment Ministry.

The data for 2023 further unravels a deeply concerning trend, with a majority of deaths-no fewer than 47-occurring within tiger reserves. The intensifying territorial







On World No Tobacco Day on May 31, India became the first country to make it mandatory for the OTT platforms to carry anti-tobacco warning messages as seen in theatres and TV programmes. While activists and health experts have lauded the long-awaited move given that the tobacco claims over 13 lakh lives annually, OTT streaming giants are citing implementation issues. However, undoubtedly the move has thrown a spanner in the tobacco industry's nefarious plans to tacitly use such services to lure youth and kids into tobacco addiction. ARCHANA JYOTI brings a report

E/ NDER SCANNER

study by Truth Initiative, a public Truth health nonprofit group, says that 60% of the 15 A most popular streaming shows among 15-to 24-year-olds it analyzed contained depictions of tobacco, "effectively exposing 25 million young people to tobacco imagery" in 2021. The data is alarming given the rising usage of

OTT markets among youths. Yet another report, titled 'Entertainment Goes Online', by The Boston Consulting Group confirms the trend. The Indian OTT market is expected to reach USD5 billion in size by 2023. "This development is being driven by rising abundance, increment in the infiltration of information into country markets, and selection across segment sections including ladies and more established ages. Hence, the impact of the content streaming across these platforms will have an impact on the habits and eventually the lives of its viewers.

"With the ever-fastening world, roughly 80% of millennials are subscribed to at least one OTT service." So, it was important that the noose should be tightened around such streaming platforms in the interest of the youth and Gennext. Researchers from the College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University agreed. In their report, "Correlation between smoking scenes shown in OTT content and potential impact

tioned that the rules will significantly impact consumer viewing experience, and "throttle creativity and artistic expression".

To this, renowned global health advocate, Vandana Shah opined that there was a need to work with all the stakeholders in the sector. "To counteract any potential resis-tance, it is crucial for the government, civil society organizations, and public health advocates to work in collaboration to emphasize the evidence-based harms of tobacco consumption and the need for robust regulations to protect vulnerable populations, particularly our youth from tobacco-related prod-

She also said such tactics are aimed to delay the implementation of such crucial life saving decisions.

In fact such strenuous opposition from the players like IMAI was expected. In fact, a health expert recalled that how Bollywood and the Ministry of Information and Broadcast had joined those opposing the Union Health Ministry move when it had issued a complete ban on tobacco imagery in movies and television programmes in 2005. Finally, in 2012, India imple-

mented groundbreaking rules to blunt the effect of onscreen smoking and other tobacco use. "Any film with smoking has to have a warning and advertisement about the dangers of tobacco use produced by the Union Health Ministry before sion," recalled Dr Amit Yadav from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and Professor Stan Glantz from the Centre for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco. In their study "Tobacco imagery in entertainment media: evolution of tobacco-free movies and television programmes rules in India," published in BMJ in 2020, they noted that the move had cut down tobacco scenes-ie in 2015, less than 48% of movies had tobacco imagery compared with 89% in 2005.

WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES?

Health spots, messages, and disclaimers: Publishers of online curated content that display tobacco products or their use will be required to comply with specific guide-lines. These include the display of antitobacco health spots, lasting a minimum of thirty seconds each at the beginning and middle of the program. Furthermore, publishers must exhibit anti-tobacco health warnings as a prominent static message at the bottom of the screen during the display of tobacco products or their use. Additionally, an audio-visual disclaimer on the ill-effects of tobacco use, lasting a minimum of twenty seconds each, must be shown at the beginning and middle of the program.

Access to content: The health spots, messages, and disclaimers will be made available to the publisher of the online curated content on the website "mohfw.gov.in" or "ntcp.mohfw.gov.in."

Legibility and language: The anti-tobacco Legibility and language: The anti-tobacco health warning message displayed as a sta-tic message must be legible and readable, with black font on a white background, and must include the warnings "Tobacco caus-es cancer" or "Tobacco kills." Furthermore, the health warning message, health spot, and audio-visual disclaimer should be in the same language as used in the online curated content.

Limitations on display: The display of tobacco products or their use in online curated content is prohibited from includthe brands of cigarettes tobacco products or any form of tobacco product placement. Additionally, the display of tobacco products or their use in promotional materials is strictly prohibited. The failure to comply with the provisions outlined may result in action taken by an inter-ministerial committee comprising representatives from the Union Health Ministry, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology either suo moto, or on receiving a complaint. The committee will identify the publisher of the online curated content, issue a notice providing a reasonable opportunity to explain the failure, and require appropriate modifications to the con-



Dr Manuskh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister: Rising tobacco consumption among the young generation, which is the future of our nation, is worrisome. The people need to break free from the shackles of tobacco and embrace a healthier lifestyle. It is time to create wide awareness among youth and the nation regarding the seriously debilitating and harmful effects of tobac-

co consumption. India has taken various measures to free the people from Tobacco addiction and prevent tobacco use. The OTT guidelines will go a long way to dissuade tobacco consumption.

Priyank Kanoongo, chairper-son of NCPCR: The link between tobacco products and drug addiction is a matter of concern and the entertainment industry plays a significant role in enticing children into tobacco use. While we had rules requiring warnings on

tobacco product scenes in films, there was a pressing need for regulations regarding



Regional Singh, Director, WHO South East Asia: Congratulations India on becoming the first country in the world to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms. The move demonstrates India's unstinted commitment to protect the health of people from the harmful effects of tobacco. I commend the country's strong leadership and all stakeholders for this landmark step.

already have guidelines on restrictions on depiction of tobacco products in TV and films and now we have it for OTT platforms as well. Efforts such as these are important as nearly 13.5 lakh deaths every year in the country can be linked in some way to tobacco consumption. The theme for this year's World No Tobacco Day - "we need food, no tobacco" — counters the argument that tobacco control will lead to loss of livelihood for farmers.

Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary:

India has been at the forefront in taking var-

ious anti-tobacco control measures. We



regulation, addressing the importance of

Dr Jagdish Kaur, regional advisor, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO: The OTT regulations were long awaited. As people are becoming more aware about the tobacco menace and the Government taking bold steps to curb its usage, the industry is adopting innovative ways to trap the youth. The use

OTT platforms, which have

gained popularity in recent times and were being misused. The commission had recommended the regulation of tobacco use on OTT platforms to address this issue effectively. And now, we are delighted that the government has introduced this much-needed

Cigarette smoke consists of approx-

imately 4,000 different chemicals,

many of which are active and can

cause harm to the body, including

toxicity, mutation, and cancer.

Nicotine, the main ingredient in

curbing tobacco use on OTT platforms.



Now we are looking forward to a green nod to proposed amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), which can serve as an important tool in curbing tobacco use, especially among children.

Restricting all forms of tobacco advertising at the point of sale, doing away with designated smoking zones in public places will keep children away from harmful tobacco products

of pictures to warn people about the health risks of tobacco use is an effective way to make people aware of the dangers of tobacco use and encourage them to change their behavior, such as by quitting or reducing tobacco con-sumption. We are glad that a move has been initiated to regulate OTT contents"



number of cigarettes smoked by a viewer is impacted by the number of hours spent by them on TV series, movies, containing smoking imagery...

So the new regulations are timely and need of the hour, asserted policymakers, anti-tobacco activists and doctors. Tobacco users are more likely to pay attention to the health warnings and understand the risks associated with smoking, they shared.

However, not everybody is happy. The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) as well as streaming giants have cau-



tobacco, is so addictive that it can cause an addiction comparable to that of heroin. Over 13 lakh people die annually in the country due to its consumption. Through this platform, I take opportunity to urge the Government to now take a lead by clearing the COTPA Amendment Bill which will not only save lives but also reduce the burden on the healthcare system. Because each second matters, given that the product is claiming a large number of youths in the country.



duce anti-tobacco warnings on tobacco scenes in OTT platforms is a commendable move that will protect viewers from the harmful influence of tobacco. Let's prioritize our well-being! It's a big win for all campaigns for OTT regulations. A robust antitobacco policy can save million of lives and ensure healthy world to our kids.

OTT Tobacco Regulation: India a role model for the world

Renowned global health advocate and public policy expert VANDANA SHAH tells The HEALTH PIONEER why bold regulations seeking anti-tobacco warnings on Over-The-Top (OTT) streaming platforms matter so much and how such positive moves aimed at curbing the deadly tobacco consumption habit will motivate other countries to adopt similar policies

Do you think the recent notification regulating tobacco scenes on OTTs will impact India's efforts to control tobacco and promote public health?

These regulations, which extend the existing rules for theatrical movies and television to OTT platforms, mark a significant milestone in India's tobacco control initiatives. India's pioneering efforts have made it the first country in the world to issue regulations specifically targeting tobacco use in all content that appears on OTT platforms. India's long-standing leadership in protecting youth from tobacco use, partic-ularly in curbing imagery that glamorizes tobacco in movies, has garnered international recognition.

These landmark regulations have already gotten a lot of positive global attention and public health experts around the world have applauded this as a major step forward in tobacco control. It will motivate other countries to adopt such policies as well.

In fact, India has been at the forefront of implementing robust

tobacco control measures, and these regulations demonstrate its commitment to protecting public health. India's comprehensive ban on all emerging products in 2019 and its adoption of 85% graphic warnings on all tobacco products in 2016 are evidence of its strong commitment to bold tobacco control measures. By extending the existing film rules to online streaming platforms, India is addressing a key access point for Big Tobacco to reach young peole

How do you envision these regulations aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Healthy India?

Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Swasth Bharat' or a healthy nation aligns perfectly with the objectives of these regulations. The Prime Minister has greatly emphasized the need to combat tobacco use in his popular radio programme, "Mann Ki Baat." These regulations are a testament to the government's dedication to translating his vision into

concrete actions.



VANDANA SHAH Global Health Advocate and Public Policy Expert

These regulations complement the ongoing efforts to amend the tobacco control act COTPA, further strengthening our tobacco control framework and reinforcing India's commitment to becoming a healthier nation

Considering the influence and power of the companies operating OTT platforms, as well as their global parent companies, do you anticipate them leveraging their

combined strength to oppose these regulations?

The possibility of powerful companies opposing these regulations cannot be ignored. We have seen instances where industries have challenged regulations that seek to protect public health and tied these up in litigation for years to come. The tobacco industry, in particular, has a long history of using its resources and influence to undermine tobacco control measures in any way they can, including by suing governments, to pre-vent or delay the measures.

To counteract any potential resistance, it is crucial for the government, civil society organizations, and public health advocates to work in collaboration to emphasize the evidence-based harms of tobacco consumption and the need for robust regulations to protect vulnerable populations, particular-ly our youth from tobacco-related products.

Additionally, we should leverage the power of public awareness and education campaigns to mobi-

PASSIVE SMOKING

41% male & 39% female in India are exposed to second-hand smoking at home

35%

32% Indian male adults in India and 19% female are consume tobacco exposed to second in some form hand smoke at work

Tobacco kills > 33% men 1.3 million people in the WHO in South East Asia region South East every year, this includes Asia region are tobacco smokers those who never smoked

lize public support. We should empower individuals with knowl-edge about the detrimental effects

It is also crucial to strengthen

tive enforcement of the regulations.

Close monitoring, rigorous penal-

- Will have to edit millions of hours of existing content. Will affect customer experience and
- force production houses to block their content in India.
- Ministry of IT & IB have powers over streaming giants, not the Health Ministry
- There is no way content can be edited in three months.

will send a strong message that these regulations are to be taken seriously

Ultimately, our collective determination to prioritize public health should guide our actions.

There is an ongoing effort to amend the tobacco control act COTPA also. What's your take?

The proposed amendments to the tobacco control act COTPA hold immense potential to strengthen India's tobacco control initiatives. If these amendments are implemented, it would signify India's commitment to addressing the tobacco epidemic in a holistic manner.

Such decisive actions would undoubtedly earn significant appreciation worldwide and further solidify India's position as a global leader in tobacco control.

of tobacco and the importance of responsible content. It is essential to understand that tobacco control requires a legal frameworks and ensure effecmulti-faceted approach, combining regulatory measures, awareness ties for non-compliance, and campaigns, and supportive prompt action against violations policies.

STREAMING MAJORS MAIN CONTENTIONS



opinion 11 New Delhi, June 18, 2023

India's G20 Presidency and trade opportunities

A s India holds the G20 pres-idency this year, it becomes crucial to analyse the effect of this presidency on the Indian economy across various aspects. Recently, India hosted a meeting of Development Ministers in Varanasi from June 11 to June 13, along with the third G20 framework working group meeting in Kochi on June 13-14. There are numerous upcoming meetings scheduled, such as the third G20 trade and investment working group meeting, among others. This study primarily focuses on the impact of the G20 presidency on the trade of goods, with the Gravity framework providing insights in this regard.

The theme for this year's G20 summit is "One Earth, One Family, One Future," reflecting India's presidency. The media extensively covers news and headlines related to the summit, leading to fundamental yet crucial questions: What is the G20? What is the G20 presidency? How does the G20 presidency affect member countries? The Group of 20 (G20) comprises the central bank governors and finance ministers of the world's 19 most systemically significant nations and the European Union. Its inaugural gathering took place in Berlin on December 15-16, 1999, as an immediate response to the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Currently, the G20 nations represent one of the most important forums, accounting for 80 per cent of global trade, 85 per cent of the global gross national product (GNP), and 65 per cent of the world's population. Notably, the annual summits commenced in 2008, almost a decade after its establishment, as a proactive response to the global financial crisis of 2007.

The G20 operates through two tracks: the Sherpa Track and the Finance Track. The Sherpa Track is led by an elected Sherpa, while the Finance Track is headed by ministers and central bank governors. Substantive work, including discussions on the summit's

PERSPECTIVE



आरत 2023 INDIA वशुंधेव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH . ONE FAMILY . ONE FUTURE

agenda and related proceedcomprises Indonesia, India, ings, is conducted by the and Brazil Sherpas from all member

This study examines the countries. For the current year, goods trade of G20 president Amitabh Kant is the Sherpa countries from 2011 to 2021 from India. It's worth menand analyses their impact on trade with other G20 countries. tioning that the G20 does not The results indicate mixed outhave a permanent secretariat; instead, the troika, consisting of comes. Some countries, like the past, present, and incoming Mexico and Italy, experienced a significant positive impact on idency. The current troika goods trade during their pres-

idencies, while others, such as Japan and China, witnessed significant negative impacts. In the remaining countries, both positive and negative impacts were observed, but they were deemed insignificant. The significant positive impact suggests that the G20 presidency led to increased goods trade with other G20 countries, while the significant negative impact implies a decrease in goods trade. Therefore, the impact of the G20 presidency on goods trade depends on the policies and agenda of the country holding the presidency.

"Till now in India, two G20 working group meetings have occurred on trade and investment. It is known as the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting. The

first TIWG meeting was held in Mumbai from March 28 to March 30, and the second TIWG meeting was held in Bengaluru from May 23 to May 25. In both meetings, over 100 delegates from G20 countries, regional groupings, international organisations, and invitee countries were present.

In the first meeting, there was a discussion regarding

building resilient Global Value Chains (GVCs), integrating MSMEs in global trade, and increasing the participation of developing countries in glob-al trade. The focus was on building efficient logistics and making GVCs work for inclusive growth.

In the second meeting, the importance of technology in trade was discussed to facilitate easy and efficient processing of trade, such as the digitalisation of paper documents. There was also a plan for creating a Meta Information Portal for MSMEs. Additionally, they discussed the need for an open, transparent, and inclusive functioning of the WTO by reaffirming the foundational principles of the WTO as stated in the Marrakesh Agreement and its multilateral trade agreements.

India aims to build a shared understanding of the challenges faced in accelerating trade and promoting inclusive growth.

Based on this study, it can be concluded that the impact of the G20 presidency on goods trade is contingent upon the policies and agenda of the country holding the presidency. India has thus far demonstrated a focus on enhancing the efficiency of goods trade through discussions at the TIWG meetings. In addition to trade, India is also emphasising various other areas, including green development, fintech, global social welfare, reducing the trade finance gap, and more. India's G20 presidency, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to bring countries together to develop trade relationships and foster socio-cultural and language proximities. Through multiple rounds of meetings, it is hoped that political conflicts and trade wars among countries can be addressed. India's socio-culIndia's G20 **Presidency's** influence depends on India's policies and agenda. India aims to enhance trade efficiency and address challenges while emphasising green

development, fintech, and reducing the trade finance gap. The **G20** Presidency fosters trade relationships and seeks to resolve conflicts

PRATAP MOHANTY



SOMA BHARTI

(Pratap C Mohanty is Associate Professor, IIT Roorkee; Soma Bharti is a PhD scholar)

tural and economic settings

provide enormous potential to

benefit from these efforts.

Modi's US visit: Cementing ties, checkmating China

Modi-Biden talks are also likely to focus on protecting South Asian nations, and enhancing defence cooperation. The visit will also promote India's self-reliance vision and explore agreements in technology, defence, and clean energy. The importance of India-US collaboration in challenging China's influence and preserving regional security is emphasised



KS TOMAR

 $T^{\rm he\ three-day\ visit\ of\ Prime\ Minister}_{\rm Narendra\ Modi\ to\ the\ United\ States\ has}$ caught the world's attention as it will be crucial to cement ties between the two nations, besides finalising a long-term strategy to checkmate China's expansion and debt trap policies, which have threatened security aspects in Asia and the West.

presidents, supports the pres-

In this changed geopolitical scenario, Modi tweeted, "I am honored to accept and look forward to addressing a Joint Meeting of Congress once again. We are proud of our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the US, built upon the foundation of shared democratic values, strong people-topeople ties, and an unwavering commitment to global peace and prosperity."

India and the US can jointly evolve a mechanism to counter China's aggression.

Experts believe that China is camouflaging the world by holding several rounds of dialogue with India, as it has adopted an inflexible stance on its transgression of Indian territory and patrolling points. Hence, India is keen to have an effective long-term plan to give a befitting reply to China, which may continue its policy of aggression on the Line of Control (LOC). Experts also believe that India and America need to protect South Asian nations from China's debt trap policy, which helps in controlling its growing influence and tentacles, thereby enhancing the security threat in the region. Modi and Biden may dwell upon these security issues, which are of vital importance to both coun-

Modi's visit will lay emphasis on defence industrial cooperation to accelerate the 'Atmanirbhar' vision.

Several meetings held between top officials of the US and India have broadly finalised the roadmap to enhance technology cooperation and defence industrial cooperation, which will give a boost to Modi's vision of "Atmanirbhar" in this field. The proposed agreements will also be related to sur-



veillance and reconnaissance, the undersea domain and munitions, mobility systems, air combat, and intelligence. Modi and Biden are set to give practical shape to the agreements, which will help India gain access to cuttingedge technologies, thereby boosting India's defence modernisation plan in the future. The cutting-edge technology will be pushed to an advanced stage with the help of a new initiative called the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). Biden and Modi may discuss issues of global relevance, including the Afghan crisis and its implications, cross-border terrorism, boosting the strategic clean energy partnership, bolstering bilateral trade and investment emerging technologies in the world, etc.

The Ukraine war may prominently feature

The entire world is aware of the decades-old strong defence and traditional relations between India and Russia, which have kept the oil supply channel open despite the strong opposition of America and the West. Prime Minister Modi may dwell upon this factor, and America has to accept India's stand, which is in the interest of the eople of India.

Modi's visit will also clear the air on this front, and a long-term policy may be discussed so that an alternative to the current dependence on Russia can be reduced, and America can step in to fill the void, which will unnerve China.

The US visit takes place against the backdrop of world-level upheavals

Experts believe that Modi's visit assumes worldwide importance as America has opted to fall upon India to counter China, though the latter also needs a strong alliance to check the expansion policy of China. The visit will open new avenues and new alternatives. Second, Modi's four-day visit from June 21 to 24 has a lot of relevance and significance as it will lead to the signing of agreements related to defence and the economic field, which will be of mutual interest. Third, foreign policy experts and former diplomats feel that America is taking China's Belt and Road Initiative seriously, which is a tactical tool to trap South Asian nations. It can be checked

by India only, which will prefer to alienate Pakistan and China. Fourth, China is constantly eyeing the South China Sea, and even Japan feels threatened, which makes other allies unsafe. Modi will definitely prefer to counter it with the help of the Biden administration. Fifth, India is fast emerging as a digital and technology giant, which can prove fruitful in creating alternative supply chan-nels and a manufacturing hub to replace China, which is already feeling the heat owing to America's initiatives to reduce dependence on China. America is aiming at its last resort to completely stop chip supply in the future to cripple China's computerbased industry. India is certain to enter this arena, which will come up for discussion between the two leaders of the biggest democracies

Top officials of both countries recently concluded six months of preparations to finalise the agenda and issues that will come up for discussion between Modi and Biden. US National Security Adviser Sullivan concluded his discussion with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval in Delhi prior to Modi's visit to the US. Both NSAs unveiled an ambitious long-term plan for Indo-US collaboration in seven specific high-technology areas, next-generation telecommunication strategy, semiconductors, defense, and artificial intelligence. Similarly, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra met Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland in the US to prepare the ground for Modi's visit, and the above engagements highlighted the shared objectives of the two nations in terms of close cooperation and regional security.

Analysts opine that Modi's visit is being billed as a path-breaking event that may take India-US ties to new heights and checkmate China's policy of aggression on the LOC, besides helping the US to retain its status as a superpower, which seems to be in danger due to the over-ambition of China to displace it in the future

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist based in Shimla).



SELF-CONTROL MEANS WANTING TO **BE EFFECTIVE AT SOME RANDOM** POINT IN THE INFINITE RADIATIONS OF MY SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE - FRANZ KAFKA

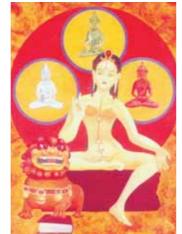
tarot 12 New Delhi, June 18, 2023

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ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, your health may make you feel good. You should be full of energy and optimism for the future. Consider your regular frame of thought, and keep in mind that your attitude impacts your health. Maintain an optimistic mindset. You are now able to mentor others and share your spiritual insights. On the professional front, you are approaching the point where professional achievement and recognition are firmly within your reach. Make every effort to be orderly and productive. This will compensate you. Now is not the time to gamble or take chances. On the personal front, good fortune will accompany you in matters of the heart. If you are already in a relationship, it could deepen and improve. You are emotionally satisfied. Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Despite the strain and stress this week, you stay calm and composed. Your support system is your boundless energy and stamina. You must channel your enthusiasm into something productive. Your health is still fine, and you have control over your sensory delights. On the professional front, your dedication and willpower will help you reach your goals; otherwise, you will face several obstacles and delays in your job. In times of crisis, your tough decisions will give you the strength to proceed and set out the plan. Follow the advice of a senior person who understands your boundaries and is close to you. This week, you may confront pushback from close friends and family members. Family rifts and disagreements are probable. Be a little softer and more kind. Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Magenta

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you are constrained in terms of your health. Fear, worry, and negative thoughts are interfering with your ability to live a normal life. You must strike a balance between your body, mind, and soul. When one's thoughts are negative or filled with anxiety, one's health suffers. If you meditate and listen to your body's voice, 50% of your issues will solve themselves. On the job front, you may experience an unexpected setback or unfairness. The post you have been eyeing may be filled by another candidate of comparable caliber. The dilemma of whether to stay in the current one or join the new one will prevail. On the relationship front, try to stay connected to keep the flame alive. Lucky number 102 | Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your health difficulties will be resolved. You are aware that health is extremely essential and requires special care and attention. The phrase "prevention is better than cure" applies to you well. You attend healing therapy sessions and seminars and put them into practice in your life. On the professional front, you must break free from the self-imposed constraints that are impeding your career advancement. In some situations, you must be fluent and quick-witted, yet your mental confusion and dualism prevent you from doing so. Reduce your spending. Keep your eyes and ears open for chances that come your way. On the personal front, commitments are not made to be broken; if you do, you may suffer in terms of relationships.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Pastel Blue Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your anxiety is evident in all your efforts. When it comes to your health, trust your instincts. Get a second opinion if a diagnosis does not feel right. Individuals who consume alcohol or drugs should avoid or take a break from intoxication at this time. You need to be a more caring and generous person at work. People turn to you for assistance; your friend or colleague may want financial assistance from you. This is the moment to make long-term investments. Your generosity and kindness will make you a good name. There is anguish and grief in the connection. For the relationship to survive, both sides must be willing to work on and discuss it. This is the time to reflect and contemplate Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Off-white

Lucky day Monday

CANCER June 21-July 22



It will be beneficial if you pay attention to your health this week. The week begins with creative energy that makes you feel lively, nimble, and joyful. However, as the week develops, various health concerns may arise that require your quick treatment. There is a cure for everything. Be optimistic; everything will work out. Professionally, if you are not committed to your work, you may have to pay for it. People are observing you and providing up-to-the-minute information to higher authorities. You may be questioned about your irregularities in tasks and funds. This is a very emotional phase in your relationship. Things can rapidly turn sour and awkward. Take a rest if necessary. Pick your battles wisely, and always treat your partner as a friend. Lucky number 31 | Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, focus on health and follow-up workouts for people with serious illnesses. You could finally find it within yourself to give up certain unhealthy behaviors that you are aware are harmful. Take care of yourself first; only then will you be able to properly care for others. This week, you may receive some excellent news at work. You could get a call about a job with a better viewpoint, benefits, and facilities. Those who are waiting for posting may be able to travel to their selected ocation. This week brings monetary rewards for business people. Relationships are not going as well as you imagined. You must work hard. Put your thoughts and opinions to your loved ones in a way that they will be easily accepted; else, they will be rejected. Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Peach



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, your health is likely to be good. You will be full of energy and excitement. However, exercise should be done with caution because minor sprains or injuries can occur. If you have been slacking on your health, it is time to get back on track. On the job, you may come across a man of influence and leadership abilities who would like to mentor you. His presence is required to point you in the proper route. If you have been dealing with difficulties, now is the moment to take command of the issue. You will be incredibly goal-oriented and visionary. This week will be spectacular in terms of relationships. This is a moment to follow your intuition. Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Grey



This week will be difficult for you in terms of your health. Panicking at this point will just make matters worse. Every crisis is followed by the promise of a good time. It all relies on what you do about it. Be upbeat about it and seek assistance from others. Meditation will be quite beneficial. Things may not be going so well in your job. You are nearing the end of a project or assignment when you are confronted with another problem or task at work. You must be resilient and not be frightened by those who want to bring you down. On the personal front, you will have disagreements with people. You must recognize that honest communication with your partner may help you settle all your disagreements. Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Friday

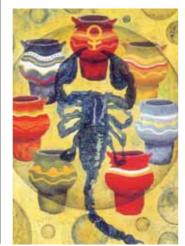
PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week has some excellent news for you. Even if you are dealing with major health issues, a cheerful attitude may do miracles. If you believe

something is amiss with your physical being, make

This week, your health and vitality should be excellent. If you need to change your behaviors to safeguard your health, now is an excellent moment to do so.

Starting with minor objectives, such as a daily walk



Lucky day Friday VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are feeling down and gloomy this week since things are not going your way. There are several additional health conditions that have you concerned. Do not be too tense; this is only a passing phase. All tests will pass. The strain is the most serious sickness. You are likely to advance professionally. There will be money, status, and honor on the line. Business owners may make a lot of money. You schedule time for healing and massage therapy. This has been a decent emotional week. Romance is on the cards for the new love. Married partners must be concerned about and comprehend one other's sentiments. There is a communication gap that must be addressed since it is the primary cause of distance and isolation. Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Mondav

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22



might lead to a healthier and stronger you. Spend time balancing your body, mind, and soul. On the job front, there might be a monetary loss or a condition of unemployment. Your anxieties, addictions, and other unpleasant impulses may be causing a negative atmosphere around you. You are depressed and have a negative outlook on life. Be optimistic: now is the time to learn from your blunders. On the personal front, your situation is favorable, particularly considering an ongoing romance. Your relationship will enter a lighter, more balanced phase in which you will respect each other as equals Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday



sure you have access to medical care. Believe your intuition. On the job front, there is joy and celebration. You are going to see the fruits of your labor and efforts. If you are seeking work, you will find something greater than you could have imagined. Your contributions are recognized and respected. In terms of your relationship, your spouse's attitude may irritate you, and you may feel unhappy and lonely. You may have a sense of isolation. Try to broaden your horizons and think optimistically

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday

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rdinary mortals engaged just in usual run of life, seldom remain conscious about exploring one's inherent frame of mind - its strengths, weaknesses, working tools, and opera-tional mechanism. Truth, however, remains that unless one is conversant with the design and working pattern of the instrument in use, can't use it efficiently.

In ancient India's learning tradition, exposure to mind and its mechanism used to be a matter of routine. That used to begin in the family itself. Youngsters were also given exposure to the realities of life in holistic terms. Applying bed-time story telling method, the elders used to educate their children in small digestible as a part of the usual upbringing process. So, by the time children grew up, they were well grounded to steer through the course of their life reasonably well. Paradox, however, is that modern education system doesn't seems to pay any attention to such living realities of life.

Often the need to impart value system is talked about. But unless the basics are well grounded, any cosmetic surgery will do no good. Of late, the

concern for identifying individual-specific potentialities seems to have captured our attention. Moral lessons are given in terms of dos and don'ts. But seldom does one care to explore as to what lies at the root of one's flawed perceptions. Or for that matter what inherent potential one carries. Unless corrective initiatives are taken from the base level, our infirmities can't be resolved. Also, if we don't hone our indwelling potential well, it will not offer desired fruit.

As we are already aware, the way our life is expected to take off, is seeded in the imprints of our past Karma. Evidently, the character and content of the thought-seeds define the quality of life we become due for. We, thus, take off in life with a pre-set programme guiding its course, which is essentially individual-specific. That involuntarily develops a self-belief, which conditions our mind-set one way or the other. That restricts the scope of our vision. Such a tunnelled vision doesn't let us look beyond for a reality check or better option if any available. Ordinarily, as the programme unfolds, it excites thought currents to which we invari-

Preconditioned mind restricts vision

Lucky day Saturday



ably prefer to flow by. Of course, as you grow and mature, you could exploit inbuilt tool - the buddhi - to make any amends needed, provided we remain conscious about it. So, despite all the limitations exercised by our

Karmic imprints, we are not necessarily bound by predefined limits of destiny. Provided we remain conscious about exploiting our most profound empowerment tool buddhi - the faculty of discriminate intelligence.

As already explained in earlier issue, because of preconditioning of mind broadly speaking three types of characters are found in evidence - Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa oriented. Sata oriented people are marked with positive tendencies. Rajasa deals with our wanton desires. Tamasa points to inertia, indolence, and negative tendencies.

It needs to be appreciated that preconditioning if any, whatever may be its orientation - good or bad - is always limiting. That narrows down our scope of vision. And with a restricted vision, one fails to look at things in a broader perspective. So, often larger truths elude our attention. One, thus, fails to comprehend things in the right perspective due. It is pertinent to note here that our perception defines how we are to negotiate life act, react, and respond. That is subject to how each mind is predisposed. Evidently, for want of a holistic perception, the probability of making a reasoned choice gets compromised. Consequently, one may fail to strike the right note, but for which it becomes difficult to steer life with prudence, ease, and comfort.

What could be the implications of preconditioning of mind in applied sense? The first in reckoning would obviously be pre-set desire-trends (Rajasa side) that are invariably reflection of impressions of unfulfilled desires carried over from the past. Often that does not leave much of a scope to consciously explore beyond for a reality check or in search of better options if any. This is not to suggest that external factors do not influence our mind. The impressionable mind of desire-driven people, which most of us are, does get drawn towards tempting influences of the seeming world. That, however, does not happen because one would be consciously looking for better options with an open mind, in a bid to figure out the best possible choice. One, rather chances upon the glare and glitters of environmental influences, and then instinctively gets caught up, which could be deluding.

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