OPINION 6

YOGA IS THE BIGGEST

MASS MOVEMENT

MARKETS RETREAT FROM RECORD

HIGHS: SENSEX FALLS 216 PTS

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA Late City Vol.33 Issue 169

Established 1864

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

SRI LANKA THRASH UAE IN WC QUALIFIER 12 SPORT

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JUNE 20, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

WORLD 9

WON'T SURRENDER EVEN IF THEY

PUT ME IN JAIL: IMRAN

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Nijjar's killing latest instance of Khalistani ultra being shot outside India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward of ₹10 lakh on his head, was gunned down outside a gurdwara in Canada, officials here said on Monday. Two unidentified gunmen

opened fire at Nijjar, 45, as he was preparing to leave in his vehicle from the parking lot of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Surrey, in the western Canadian province of British Columbia at around 6 am IST Monday (8.30 pm on June 18, Sunday, Canadian time), local reports claimed.

Police officers provided medical assistance until paramedics arrived, but the man died of his injuries at the scene, they said, adding no arrests have been made and the police have not released any suspect descriptions.

The Gurdwara was being presided over by Nijjar himself for the past four years, giving rise to speculation that funds from the shrine were being embezzled for funding terror activities in Punjab.

Canada-based Nijjar was designated a "terrorist" by India under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in July 2020 and his property in the country was attached by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in September 2020.

Interpol Red Corner him in 2016. The local police of Surrey had also put Nijjar under house arrest temporarily in 2018 on suspicion of his terror involvement but he was

released later. The killing is the latest instance of terror kingpins



being targeted outside India. In another wanted Khalistani terrorist Paramjit Singh Panjwar was shot dead by unidentified gunmen while he was out for a morning walk near his residence in Lahore, the provincial capital of Pakistan's Punjab province.

Panjwar, 63, was heading the Khalistan Commando Force-Panjwar group and was also designated as a terrorist by India under the UAPA in July

Nijjar, a native of village Bhar Singh Pura in Jalandhar, Punjab, had a long tryst with Khalistan militancy since migrating to Canada in 1995. Initially, an operative of Babbar Khalsa, he was involved

in some of the most high-pro-file terror cases of the first decade of the millennium including the Shingar Cinema bomb blast (Ludhiana, 2007) and the assassination of Rashtriya Sikh Sangat President Rulda Singh (Patiala, 2009).

He was introduced to Pakistan-based fugitive KTF supremo Jagtar Singh Tara, now incarcerated in India, in 2011 and switched to the newly formed KTF.

According to reports, Nijjar regularly met with Jagtar Singh Tara, the fugitive KTF supremo based in Pakistan. These meetings allegedly took place during the annual jathas, where Nijjar was purportedly trained in the fabrication of improvised devices (IF the handling of high-end

Officials have also disclosed that Nijjar provided substantial financial support to Tara from Canada. He reportedly financed Tara's relocation from Pakistan to Thailand in



2014 and went to great lengths to prevent Tara's deportation from Thailand later that same

Nijjar reportedly trained three Sikh youths in the handling of AK-47 rifles and Russian sniper guns in Mission City, British Columbia. These individuals were then sent to India with the intention of targeting senior police offi-cials and prominent leaders of the Dera sect, according to offi-

After a hiatus of several years, Nijjar resurfaced with a series of alarming incidents. He was linked to multiple acts of terrorism, including the killings of Manohar Lal Arora, a follower of the Dera sect (November 2020), Avtar Singh, former Sarpanch of Udhampur village in Ropar (December 2021), and an attempted assassination of Pragya Gyan Muni, the priest of Bhar Singh Pura village (January 2021).

Moreover, it has been revealed that Nijjar formed an alliance with Arshdeep Singh Gill, also known as Arsh Dala a notorious Punjabi gangster ased in Surrey Toge delved into organized financial crimes in both Punjab and Canada to finance their terror plans. This venture reportedly made Nijjar a target for rival criminal gangs operating in the Surrey-Delta area.

Continued on Page 2

Khalistan Tiger Force Adipurush protest spreads chief shot in Canada Adipurush protest spreads Nepal bans all

in first three days

PNS NEW DELHI

The film "Adipurush", a grand retelling of the Ramayana, has sparked protests in various cities across India and has been banned in Nepal. Despite the controversies surrounding it, the film has managed to earn a staggering ₹340 crore within just three days of its release.

The protests against "Adipurush" gained momentum on Monday in several parts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Delhi, as audiences took to the streets to express their objections.

The film directed by Om

Raut faced criticism for its dialogue, colloquial language, and portrayal of certain characters from the beloved epic.

Addressing the growing

controversy, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced that the film's writer and director have agreed to make necessary modifications.

He emphasised that nobody has the right to hurt the sentiments of others and that the Central Board of Film



Certification has already taken a decision on the matter.

"Adipurush", released in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Tamil languages on Friday, stars Prabhas as Raghav (Ram), Kriti Sanon as Janaki (Sita), and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh (Raavan).

The protests against "Adipurush" continued with demonstrations taking place in different parts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Delhi.

In Varanasi, a group of individuals tore down posters of the film. A Hindu outfit organised a protest outside a

theater in Mathura.

The Hindu Mahasabha has filed a police complaint with the Lucknow Police against the makers and actors of the film. However, a formal case has yet to be registered. Acharya Satyendra Das,

the chief priest of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, called for an immediate ban on the film, stating that its dialogues were infuriating. He urged the Government

to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Continued on Page 2

Hindi films



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

All Hindi films, including "Adipurush", were banned in Nepal on Monday following a controversy over its dia-logues, including the mention of Sita as "India's daughter".

Police personnel were deployed across 17 halls in Kathmandu to ensure that no Hindi film was screened.

Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah on Sunday said no Hindi film will be allowed to run in Kathmandu Metropolitan City until the dialogue "Janaki is a daughter of India" in "Adipurush" is removed not just in Nepal but also in India

Sita, also referred to as Janaki, is believed by many to have been born in Janakpur in southeast Nepal.

Jawan hurt in Manipur firing CM warns of consequences



PNS IMPHAL

n Army soldier was injured voked firing by miscreants in Manipur's Imphal West district late on Sunday night. The soldier sustained gunshot wounds in his left leg and was prompt-ly evacuated to the military hospital at Leimakhong.

The incident occurred around 11.45 pm in Kanto Sabal village, adjacent to Leimakhong (Chingmang). Following the attack, Army Columns took necessary action and retaliated with controlled fire, considering the presence of villagers in the vicinity.

Reacting to the attack on an Army soldier, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday warned people that they will have to face the consequences if they do not

stop violence in the State.
"Stop it (violence).
Otherwise, they will face the consequences. I also appeal to the people... Meitei people who are with arms ... Not to attack anything and maintain peace so that we can restore normalcy in the state," Singh told reporters here.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

to confer the accolade on the

publisher known for its afford-

able religious books focused on

Sanatan Dharma. Gita Press

cited its long-standing tradition

of not accepting donations as

the reason for rejecting the cash

Following the announce-

ment of the award, the trustee

board of Gita Press met and

unanimously decided to

decline the monetary portion

prize of ₹1 crore.



A couple enjoys a walk amid rain on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

Dialogue writer

granted security

after life threat

The Mumbai Police has decided to provide security to Manoj Shukla Muntashir,

the dialogue writer of "Adipurush" after he cited a threat to his life.

makers have decided to "revise

Shukla on Sunday said the

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Man on dog leash: Homes of 3 accused razed, NSA slapped

PNS BHOPAL

The houses of three persons arrested under the National Security Act (NSA) for forcing a youth to act like a dog and say "I'm ready to embrace Islam" in Bhopal were bulldozed amid tight security on Monday.

The video of the alleged incident shows the victim with a leash around his neck, while the accused instruct him to bark like a dog while subjecting him to abuse. Towards the end of the 49-second video, the victim is heard saying, "Main Miyan Bhai banne ko taiyar hoon" (I am ready to become



Miyan Bhai, a term used for Muslims in Bhopal).

Speaking to reporters, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said that he received information about the video of the incident in the morning and had directed the police to take action within 24

hours.
Within six hours, the police identified and apprehended the accused, he added, mentioning that a police station incharge had been relieved from field duty in connection with the incident.

The accused were charged with the stringent NSA and the illegally constructed structures owned by them were identified for demolition, the Minister confirmed. Furthermore, the accused were also charged under the provisions of the Freedom of Religion Act, as a religious conversion angle

IndiGo orders 500 Airbus planes in largest-ever civil aviation deal

PNS NEW DELHI

In a significant development for the aviation industry, IndiGo, India's leading airlines, has unveiled plans to acquire 500 Airbus aircraft. With a list price of \$55 billion, this deal

marks the highest-ever civil aviation order and the largest

single aircraft purchase made by any airline from Airbus. The financial specifics of the agree-

ment have not been disclosed. IndiGo's latest order solidifies its position as the world's largest customer of the A320 Family, with a total of 1,330 Airbus aircraft on order, according to a statement released by the airline. The exact composition of A320 and A321 aircraft, as well as the

selection of engines, will be determined in due course. The agreement was signed during the Paris Air Show 2023, with key representatives, including Rahul Bhatia, Promoter & Managing Director of IndiGo, Venkataramani Sumantran, Chairman and Non-Executive Independent Director of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, Guillaume Faury, Airbus CEO, and Christian

Scherer,

of International. Continued on Page 2

The Gandhi Peace Prize,

Commercial Officer and Head

Airbus Chief

CAPSULE

IPS OFFICER RAVI SINHA APPOINTED RAW CHIEF New Delhi:

Senior IPS officer Ravi Sinha was appointed the head of

external spy agency RAW on Monday. He will succeed Saman Goel who completes his fouryear stint on June 30. The 1988 hatch Chhattisgarh cadre office Sinha was working with RAW for more than two decades has been credited with making a significant progress in employing modern technology in the process of intelligence gathering

CAPF FOR BENGAL POLLS: SC TO HEAR PLEA TODAY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Tuesday a plea challenging an order of the Calcutta High Court directing the State Election Commission (SEC) to requisition and deploy central forces across West Bengal for the panchayat elections. The matter was mentioned on Monday before a vacation bench of Justices Surva Kant and MM Sundresh by senior advocate Meenaksh Arora who sought an urgent hearing. Arora, who was appearing for the SEC, told the appeal against the order was filed on Friday last but was not taken up

300 STRANDED TOURISTS RESCUED IN SIKKIM Gangtok: The Indian Army

rescued 300 more tourists who were stranded in North Sikkim district due to landslides and roadblocks

Patna Opp meet: RJD, Cong, JD(U) eager to steer clear of stinkers

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI/PATNA

eaders from the Congress, Leaders from the Conglithe Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Janata Dal (United) are in constant touch to ensure a harmonious atmosphere at the crucial meeting of the Opposition parties in Patna on Friday. The primary objective of

these discussions is to prevent any disagreements or conflicts that could generate unfavorable publicity for the Opposition. With the ruling BJP keenly observing the developments, the Opposition is steadfast in its determination to showcase a united front against the ruling party's agenda

A senior Congress leader emphasised the need for meticulous handling of the national aspirations of the Opposition parties, particularly considering major political contradictions in States like Punjab, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. The AAP, which holds a

strong majority in the Delhi and Punjab, remains firm on not relinquishing a single Lok Sabha seat. The party is eager to engage in a triangular contest with both the Congress and

Additionally, the Congress and left parties face a challenge



from the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and neighboring Tripura, where the latter intends to contest all Lok Sabha seats. Congress and Left parties also hold significance in these

The Opposition's efforts have already encountered some setbacks, with Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha parting ways with the Nitish Kumar-led alliance Government. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana has announced its decision not to ally with any Congress-led front and is expanding its base in other States. Meanwhile, Naveen Patnaik's BJD remains silent on any form of political alliance, despite Nitish's personal outreach to him and other leaders in recent times.

Congress sources indicate that the first meeting may avoid touching upon regional leadership issues to avert con-

while expressing gratitude for the honour. The renowned Continued on Page 2 publisher, established in 1923,



throughout its journey. The Ministry of Culture recognised Gita Press with the Gandhi Peace Prize for its exceptional contributions to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and Gandhian methods.

The announcement of the award to Gita Press was embroiled in a political controversy as Congress general secretary-in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh had on Sunday alleged that the decision to honour Gita Press

with the Gandhi Peace Prize is a "travesty" and "it's like awarding Savarkar and Godse".

Responding to the Congress criticism, Union Minister Jitendra Singh hit out at the Opposition party saying nobody has any objection to it except those who consider Muslim League a secular organisation.

"Geeta Press is associated with India's culture, our ethos and Hindu belief, and it produces affordable literature which reaches every household," Singh said while replying to questions at a press conference at the BJP headquarters

Asked about Ramesh's remark, Singh said, "And, who are those levelling allegations? They are those who say that Muslim League was secular."

The Congress forgot that was the Muslim League which gave two nation theory, got India partitioned and took credit for the creation of Pakistan." the Union Minister said. "I think getting into these kinds of debates is a sheer waste of energy," he said. He was referring to

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks during the US tour that the Kerala-based Indian Union of Muslim League is a completely secular party and there is nothing non-secular about it. Rahul was answering a question about his party's alliance with the regional party. Without taking names, Singh said nobody has any objection to Gita Press getting the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 except "two leaders of the

instituted in 1995, aims to honour individuals without any discrimination and includes a cash prize, citation, plaque, and traditional handicraft or handloom item. Gita Press is praised for its dedication to spreading holy books, enriching India's Sanatan culture, and making spiritual texts accessible to the masses.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Culture Ministry for bestowing the prestigious award, Gita Press manager Lalmani Tripathi stated, "It is a matter of great honour for us. It is our principle not to accept any kind of donations, so the trustee board has decided not to take the award in any monetary form.

Continued on Page 2

Nikhil's showbiz dream Vigilance notice to PWD on shattered, says father

 $P_{\text{who was stabbed to death}}^{\text{arents of Nikhil Chauhan,}}$ outside a Delhi University (DU) college, are still in shock and trying to make sense of the untimely demise of the young who had big dreams to make a career in showbiz.

The inconsolable parents of the 19-year-old were seen waiting outside the Safdarjung Hospital mortuary for the hospital authorities to hand over their son's body to them after post-mortem.

In a video that has surfaced on social media, the victim's father, Sanjay Chauhan, is seen breaking into tears outside a police station and crying for help, following which he is taken inside by a policemen. Chauhan said his son was an

"I was sleeping at home on Sunday when I received a call around 12 noon from Nikhil's friends, who took him to the hospital. I rushed to the hospital where doctors informed me about his death. I got to



know that Nikhil's friend Bunty had a scuffle with some people on June 11. Nikhil had intervened and the matter was sorted. However, when he went to attend classes on Sunday, he was stabbed," he said.

The victim's mother, Sonia Chauhan, was seen sitting on a bench, with her relatives trying to console her. "My son was an aspiring model and had featured in two video albums. He recently got a call from Mumbai for a shoot, but could not go due to his college exams. He was fond of travelling and we had gone to Kedarnath around 10-12 days ago," Sanjay

Chauhan said.

Nikhil is survived by his mother, father and two brothers. His elder brother is married while the younger one, Nakul, is a Class-12 student.

Nakul said Nikhil always told him if he was involved in a scuffle, but did not say anything about the recent incident.

He was passionate about modelling. He used to tell me even about any minor scuffle, about the incident that took place last Sunday. We visit Shirdi every year and had a plan to go there on June 23 as Nikhil had his exams from June 16 to 22," he said.

CM's bungalow renovation

After the factual report on the spending of Rs 52.71 crore on renovation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's 6 Flag Staff Marg bungalow, the Delhi Government Vigilance Department has issued show cause notice to seven Public Works Department (PWD) engineers, including Abhishek Raj, Superintendent Engineer (C&ND), Executive Engineer Vinay Choudhary, Ashok Kumar, Chief Engineer and asked them to submit their reply within 15 days. The show cause has been served through Secretary (PWD).

In the notice, the Vigilance Department directed them to explain as to why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him as per relevant rules/ laws/ manuals/ circulars/ CVC guidelines etc., for the aforementioned lapses and irregularities. "The 6 Flag Staff Road bungalow exceeds far higher which is disproportionately more than the norms prescribed and it is nothing but subverting the rules as a result the budgetary resources are



wasted. The PWD Engineers instead of following Rules and Regulations prescribed for General Pool Accommodation Rules notified by MoUD vide notification dated 02.07.2017 have built up a construction beyond the norms for which the Hon'ble Chief Minister of UT is not eligible," reads the

According to notices, in the past, Ministry of Urban Development vide their letter dated 02.07.2004 has also allotted Bungalow No. 03, Moti Lai Nehru Place Type VIII to the then Chief Minister on exchange basis. And whereas, it goes beyond doubt that the Hon'ble Chief

Minister of Union Territory of Delhi is not eligible for having the accommodation much beyond the norms of Type VIII Bungalow.

The current Bungalow is disproportionately high to the extent that the norms for Type VIII accommodation as per O.M. No. F.No. 22011/01/2008-W.3 dated 07.08.2013 of Ministry of Urban Development guidelines," it said.

It said that Delhi Chief Minister comes much below the Cabinet Minister of Union of India and Chief Minister of a full fledged State. He is eligible only for residences below Type VIII accommodation.

NCRPULSE

CONG HOLDS FREE EYE CAMP ON RAHUL'S B'DAY

on Monday extended its wishes to party leader Rahul Gandhi on his 53rd birthday. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar held free eye testing camp at his office in the Kichripur Village, in the Patpargani and a team of eminent eye specialist doctors



conducted the eye-testing camp while Delhi Congress vice president and senior Dalit leader Jai Kishan alongwith party workers distributed fruits and medicines to patients admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Maharishi Valmiki Hospitals, Jai Kishan also distributed sports materials to promote sportsmanship. He also appealed his workers to follow Rahul Gandhi's path.

AIWC'S CONFERENCE ON COUNTERING HATE SPEECH

New Delhi: On the occasion of the 'International Day for Countering Hate Speech' the All India Women's Conference organised a conference on 'Countering hate speech.' Many eminent personalities shared their views and condemned the rising incidents of hate speech. Kunwar Shankar Vijay, Nikhilesh Ojha, Husain Bandi Imam. Sheriena Joshi, AJ Philip were the guest speakers. Kalyani Raj, president AIWC, Dr .Manju Kak, Secretary General and Treasurer Dr Upasana Singh also shared their views on the topic.

LG APPROVES APPOINTMENTS OF DOCTORS/OFFICERS

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved the appointment of various doctors / medical officers in the A&U Tibbia College & Hospital and the Directorate of AYUSH in the Delhi Government. According to a release by Raj Niwas, four medical officers (Unani) in the Directorate, 11 Assistant Professors in the A&U Tibbia College are all set to get appointed. In addition to this, four Non-Teaching Specialists Gr.III in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Microbiology / Bacteriology are all set to be appointed in the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Dr. BSA Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital and Guru Nanak Eye Centre.

Find permanent solution to water contamination, Kejriwal directs DJB

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Taking note of contami-▲ nated water in the national Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday directed the Delhi Jal Board(DJB) to come up with a comprehensive plan to provide a permanent solution for the affected areas. To kick-start the process, the Chief Minister instructed the immediate installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in 20 identified JJ colonies.

He gave these directions while chairing a high-level review meeting with DJB officials. It was aimed to assess the progress made and discuss future strategies to ensure the timely implementation of the permanent solution. Water Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj, Delhi Jal Board Vice-Chairman Somnath Bharti and senior DIB officials were present in the review meeting.

Kejriwal emphasised the cause of water contamination and develop an effective strategy to address the issue. Under his direction, the DJB has been entrusted with the task of formulating a detailed



plan to eradicate water contamination across the city.

Furthermore, he stressed the importance of ensuring the quality of water before commencing any tubewell projects. He emphasised that thorough examination of water quality should be con-ducted prior to obtaining the necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the installation of tubewells. This approach will expedite the implementation process once the NOCs are granted.

To maximise the availability of clean water, the Government plans to extract water table through tube wells. The extracted water will undergo treatment, guaranteeing a safe and pure supply of water to the people of Delhi.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर - 19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना // भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.ओई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि

मेसर्स टिकनपाल लाईमस्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. - श्री करण भानुशाली), ग्राम - टिकनपाल, तहसील व जिला - बस्तर (छ. ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 263 / 1, 279 / 1, 2, 3 एवं 280 / 1,

कुल क्षेत्रफल 4.44 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता

1,07,100 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु, लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण

संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्तियां / सुझाव

विचार टीका-टिप्पणियाँ, इस सुचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के भीतर क्षेत्रीय

अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जगदलपुर (छ.ग.) के कार्यालय में

कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक

21/07/2023, दिन- शुक्रवार, समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान- ग्राम पंचायत

कार्यालय परिसर, ग्राम - टिकनपाल, जिला - बस्तर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित

व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी

भाषा तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कापी), डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु

परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली; एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ

ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जगदलपुर, जिला-

बस्तर. जिला पंचायत कार्यालय, जगदलपुर, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जगदलपुर,

कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत - टिकनपाल, उसरी, खोरखोसा, देवड़ा, सोनारपाल, मधोता - 1,

मधोता -2, बालेंगा, लामकेर, तारागाँव, दुबेउमरगाँव एवं चपका, जिला - बस्तर. क्षेत्रीय

कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जगदलपुर, जिला- बस्तर तथा मुख्यालय

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेसिंग

2. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया

4. कोराना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय

परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी ओ. एम. दिनांक 14/09/ 2020 एवं शासन द्वार

सदस्य सचिव

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल,

नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.

जायेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर बैठक व्यवस्था में पर्याप्त दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।

जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

यह भी सचित हो कि :-

BSES to install 50 lakh smart meters in city

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{SES}}_{\text{Limited and BSES Yamuna}}^{\text{Rajdhani Power}}$ Power Limited will instal 50 lakh smart meters in the national Capital with a capital outlay of Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 6000 crore. The tendering process is slated to be finalised by July 2023. The project is likely to commence before the year end. This project aims to equip BSES with smart meters, positioning it as India's first fully digital utility. When asked, a BSES

spokesperson said, "We are a committed world-class smart power distribution company working in the interest of 5 million consumers and 20 million residents in Delhi". "The estimated investment for this project is expected to range between Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 6,000 crore, making it one of the most significant under-takings by BSES discoms,



Rs. 16,000 crore and a cash Ebitda of Rs. 2,500 crore," he said. The on-ground implementation is expected to commence during the September-December period, it said. The statement said BSES is

partnering with several smart meter manufacturers and system integrators to ensure quality and reliability of the service. Integrated with mobile applications, smart meters

which include both pre and post-paid options will empower consumers by giving them

unprecedented control over their energy consumption, the statement said. These smart meters will leverage Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to provide insights and analytics that would have been impossible to achieve otherwise, it said.

This translates to better services, prompt resolutions, and an active role for consumers in shaping the future of energy in Delhi, it said. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Yamuna Power Limited are joint ventures between Reliance Infrastructure Limited and the Delhi Government with a shareholding ratio of The statement said these

discoms ensure reliable power supply to five million consumers and 20 million residents in South, West, East, and Central Delhi. There are 58 lakh domestic power con-

Service charge sparks scuffle between staff, eatery patrons

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

scuffle broke out between Amembers of a family and restaurant staff in Spectrum Mall in Noida after an argument over service charge, prompting the police to investigate the matter and arrest five people. The incident occurred inside a restaurant where the family could be seen clashing with the bouncers and the staff of the establishment inside Spectrum Mall, after which the victims took to social media and narrated the incident.

A video of the brawl between customers and restaurant staff went viral on social media, where people from both sides can be seen beating each other inside the premises of the Spectrum Mall in Noida's Sector 75.

A few people, presumably staff of the restaurant, are seen trying to calm the group down and end the fight but their



ed that the clash happened over a service charge dispute inside the restaurant. According to the restaurant

'Float by Duty Free', the customers' bill stood at Rs 11,209 including taxes and a 10 per cent service charge of Rs 970 and remains unpaid because of the brawl and their property incurred damages while some staffers were also injured. The victim claimed that

around 30 people joined the clash from the restaurant's side and proceeded to thrash and assault the family outside the restaurant, inside the Spectrum

According to Harish Chandra, DCP, Noida Zone, the scuffle broke out after the family received the bill with service charge mentioned in it. "There was a fight between

the two sides -- the group of customers and the restaurant staffers -- over the payment of service charge. Cases have been lodged on the basis of the complaint received from both sides. Those engaged in violence will be arrested," Chander said Monday morning.
An official of the Sector

113 police station said Monday afternoon that five people have been arrested in connection with the case and the police have received video evidence of members of both sides engaging in violence.

Patna Opp meet: RJD, Cong...

However, the Trinamool Congress has proposed the formation of a working group comprising members from various parties to ensure day-to-day coordination among the opposition constituents. "The group's mandate would be focused on professional requirements for the 2024 General Elections. It would monitor political activities and statements of member parties to steer clear of controversies and bridge gaps. A united Opposition is the only way to prevent BJP's return to power," explained the leader.

Leaders within the party also revealed that

reparing to come to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Patna for the meeting. Rahul will be accompanied by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary incharge of organization, K C Venugopal. They will first conduct an internal party meeting at the Bihar Congress office before joining the gathering of Opposition leaders.

Gandhi is expected to spend approximately an hour at Sadaqat Ashram, where a massive marquee spanning 70,000 square feet is being set up for the casion.

IndiGo orders 500 Airbus planes in largest-ever civil...

From Page 1

IndiGo's CEO Elbers emphasised the significance of this historic order, stating, "An order book now of almost 1000 aircraft well into the next decade enables IndiGo to fulfill its mission to continue to boost economic growth, social cohesion, and mobility in India." He also expressed pride in being India's preferred airline for connectivity and affirmed IndiGo's belief in the growth of India and its strategic partnership with Airbus.

Scherer hailed the order as a milestone in

the partnership between Airbus and IndiGo, further democratizing affordable air travel for millions of people in the world's fastest-growing aviation market. He emphasized the A320 Family's exceptional operating economics, which have fueled IndiGo's growth over the past two decades.

In February of this year, Tata's Air India placed an order for 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus, including 250 planes from Airbus, making it the largest-ever aircraft order in global aviation history at that time.

THE PIONEER ()

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I, Sonu Gandhi S/o Narayan Gandhi R/o E-2/213, Gali No-04, Shastri Nagar Delhi-110052, declare that my name wrongly mention in some Docoments as Somnath Gandhi Sonu Gandhi And Somnath Gandhi Both are One and Same Person.

Date: June 20, 2023

Place: Delhi/ NCR

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Geeta Press to...

From Page 1

However, we will certainly accept the award for the honour of it.

2021 will be conferred on Gita mation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods", the Ministry of Culture

The Gandhi Peace Prize for

announced on Sunday.

Press, Gorakhpur, in recognition of its "outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transfor-

The jury headed by the Prime Minister unanimously decided to select Gita Press as the recipient of the prize, the Ministry said in a statement. The publisher thanked the CORRIGENDUM Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh,

Prime Minister and the Union Culture Ministry for conferring the prestigious award on it.

ment said.

"Gandhi Peace Prize 2021

recognises the important and

unparalleled contribution of

Gita Press, in contributing to

collective uplift of humanity,

which personifies Gandhian

living in true sense," the state-

'It is a matter of great honour for us. It is our principle not to accept any kind of donations, so the trustee board has decided not to take the award in any monetary form. However, we will certainly accept the award for the honour of it," Gita Press manager Tripathi told reporters Monday at Gorakhpur.

Trustee board chairman Keshav Ram Agarwal, general secretary Vishnu Prasad Chandgotia and trustee Devi Dayal look after the management of the press, Tripathi

Adipurush protest...

From Page 1

In Mathura, activists from the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha staged a protest outside a cinema located in the Govind Nagar police station area. They raised slogans against the film and voiced their opposition to its themes.

Joining the chorus of dissent, the Samajwadi Party criticised 'Adipurush' and expressed solidarity with the faithful who felt hurt by what they considered to be "cheap and superficial dialogues" in the film.

Party president Akhilesh Yadav called

upon the censor board to scrutinise the "political character certificate" of those who manipulate people's faith for their own agendas using political funds. He even posed the question, "Has the Censor Board become Dhritarashtra?", alluding to a blind king

from the epic Mahabharata.
Shivpal Yadav, another leader from the Samajwadi Party, alleged that the film aimed to undermine the revered character of Lord Ram and his story by employing dialogues that were deemed shallow and lacking depth.

Khalistan Tiger Force chief...

In early 2019, Nijjar was enlisted by the US-based organization Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) to lead their 'Referendum 2020' campaign in Canada. Since then, he became a prominent figure in SFJ-sponsored demonstrations and car rallies in the Surrey-Vancouver region. Nijjar was known for his provocative actions, including desecrating the Indian national flag outside the Indian Consulate in Vancouver on significant Indian national days. He also played a prominent role in the 'Referendum voting' events in Brampton

and Mississauga, Ontario, last year. As the Canadian police moved Nijjar's body from the scene, a group of Sikhs reportedly raised pro-Khalistan and anti-India slogans, indicating the continuing support for such ideologies.

In recent developments, Avtar Singh Purba, a prominent pro-Khalistani activist involved in the attack on the Indian High Commission in London, passed away in a Birmingham hospital after a prolonged illness. Singh was allegedly affiliated with the banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) remnants active in

Additionally, several other instances of targeted killings have occurred in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Bashir Ahmad Peer, a self-styled commander of the terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, was shot dead in Rawalpindi, while Syed Khalid Raza, a former commander of the Pakistan-based Al Badr terrorist group, was similarly killed outside his residence in Karachi. Kashmir-born terrorist Aijaz Ahmad Ahanger, also known as Abu Usman Al-Kashmiri, reportedly met his demise in Kunar province,

Afghanistan.

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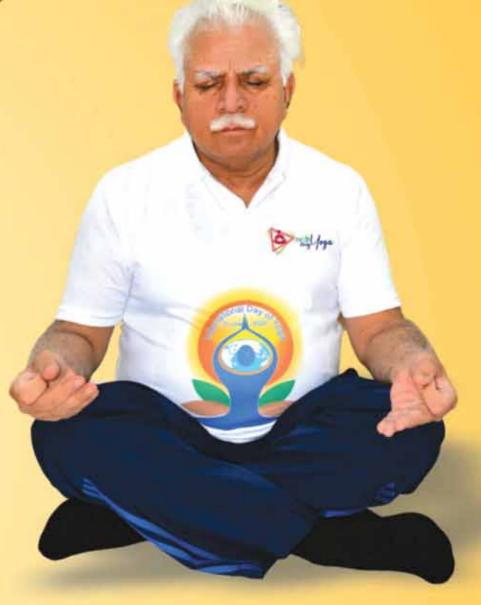


दुखों से वियोग को, मुक्ति को ही योग कहते हैं। सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाली मानवता की ये योग यात्रा हमें ऐसे ही अनवरत आगे बढ़ानी है। इन्हीं शुभकामनाओं के साथ, आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस पर पूरी मानव जाति को आप सभी को बहुत बहुत शुभकामना। 🤊 - नरेन्द्र मोदी



" वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् के लिए योग "

Heartiest Greetings to all on the occasion of **International Yoga Day**



State Level Programme





















Chief Guest

Sh. Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

Date - June 21, 2023 Time - 6 AM onwards Venue - Shivaji Stadium, Panipat



Programmes will also be held at district and block level

योग अपनाएं, रोगों से मुक्ति पाएं _____

" हर घर आंगन योग "

Scan QR Code to Join the Programme



BJP working to ensure it wins seats lost in '19

Modi to 'virtually' address BJP workers across 10 lakh booths nationwide on June 27

n a bid to ensure victory in constituencies previously considered weak or lost during the 2019 elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will 'virtually' address BIP workers across 10 lakh booths nationwide on June 27. The Central BJP leadership has directed the Ministers and MPs to visit their assigned Lok Sabha constituen-

Modi will be present in Bhopal to address BJP workers digitally, engaging in a dialogue with them. The event is expected to witness the participation of over 2,500 BJP leaders from various States. Madhya Pradesh (MP), currently under BIP rule, faces a tough electoral challenge from the Congress as Assembly polls approach later this year. While the BJP secured a

record 303 Lok Sabha seats in 2019, the party remains committed to addressing the 144 seats it lost during that time. High-ranking BJP officials, including party president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have been consistently reviewing the progress in these 'weak seats' since last year. Many of these seats are concentrated in southern States, with a few in Maharashtra, West Bengal, and

In a strategic move, the BJP has assigned seven Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand and Uttar



Pradesh (UP) to two senior leaders from Rajasthan, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and Satish Poonia, the former State president and current deputy-Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly.

Raje has been entrusted with the Giridih, Dumka, Godda, and Koderma Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand, while Poonia has been made joint incharge of Mainpuri, Amreha, and Moradabad seats in UP. Both leaders submitted reports to the party's central leadership, suggesting strategies to secure victory in these seats.

Earlier this month, BJP General Secretary (org) B.L. Santosh and Raje held a meeting to discuss the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Rajasthan, where the Assembly election is scheduled for later this year, holds significance in the party's overall electoral strategy.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been

entrusted with the responsibility of Rae Bareli, the Lok Sabha constituency of Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi. He has also been assigned the responsibilities of Ambedkarnagar, Shravasti, and

Mau in MP. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has been assigned the task of overseeing Saharanpur, Nagina, and Bijnor in UP, while Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh will be responsible for Mainpuri, the Lok Sabha constituency of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Singh will also oversee Mora-

dabad, Amroha, and Sambhal Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi has been given the responsibility of Jaunpur, Ghazipur, and Lalganj. With Modi's virtual address

and the involvement of Ministers and senior leaders, the BIP aims to consolidate its position and ensure success in the upcoming elections.

RAW gets new, tech-savvy chief

Senior IPS officer Ravi Sinha is a specialist on countries in India's immediate neighbourhood

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior IPS officer Ravi Sinha, was appointed as the head of external spy agency RAW on Monday. He will succeed Samant Goel who completes his four-year stint on June 30. 1988 batch Chhattisgarh cadre officer Sinha was working with RAW for more than two decades has been credited with making a significant progress in employing modern technology in the process

of Intelligence gathering.

In his new role, Sinha is expected to integrate technological and human Intelligence dimensions to address the challenges of today's times. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved

the appointment of 59-year-old Sinha as the Secretary RAW for a tenure of two years, according to an order issued by the Ministry of Personnel. Considered a specialist on countries in India's immediate neighbourhood, Sinha's appointment comes at a time when Pakistan is politically and economical-

ly unstable, Sikh extremism is being fanned from abroad and attempts are being made in the northeast, especially in Manipur, to promote violence. Sinha is at present heading the operations wing of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). His batchmate Tapan Deka is heading the Intelligence Bureau. An alumnus of St Stephen's College in Delhi, Sinha

has worked in a wide range of fields and brings to his new role an impressive bank of experience and knowledge. He is known to have a sound grip on developments in India's neighbourhood, besides Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast and areas hit by the Left Wing Extremism where he has served at different points in

His predecessor Goel was appointed RAW chief for two years in June 2019. He was later given two extensions of one year each in 2021 and June 2022.

Def cooperation key pillar of Indo-US ties: Kwatra 'India, US may

unveil road map for industries in Def sector during Modi's visit'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI/

With growing Defence ties between the two countries, India and the US are likely to unveil a roadmap for industries in the sector to partner closely in coproduction, co-development and maintaining supply change during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US beginning June 21, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on Monday. He described Defence co-operation as a 'key pil-lar" of ties between the two coun-

Ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US, a select group of eminent Defence sector firms from the two nations will participate in an innovative summit in Washington. It will serve as a bridge and is expected to catapult the Defence industrial cooperation between them like never before. To be attended by some of the

key private sector Defence players, the INDUS-X summit beginning June 20 will see the initiation of 'Joint Challenges' under the Defence Innovation Bridge, focusing on common dual-use cases for both

Giving details of the Prime Minister's schedule, Kwatra said in New Delhi, Modi will also hold discussions with President Joe Biden on



bettering trade and investment relations, besides forging closer ties in the technology domain comprising telecom, space and manufacturing.

The Foreign Secretary said Modi will also be on a state visit to Egypt from June 24-25 at the invitation of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during which he is also scheduled to visit 11th Century mosque Al-Hakim, which was refurbished and renovated by the Bohra com-

The Foreign Secretary said the Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap was expected to be one of the key outcomes of Modi's visit to the US. "It essentially focuses on all aspects of Defence co-production and co-development. It also talks about how Defence industrial ecosystems of the two countries could cooperate much better, how the supply lines in the field of Defence industry could also interface with each other much better, he said.

Kwatra described Defence cooperation as a "key pillar" of India's relationship with the US. "If you look at the complete matrix of the India-US Defence partnership, it is very robust, very dynamic, it has all the significant elements that make it so important. "We conduct a large number of

 $bilateral\ military\ exercises -- both$ bilateral as also regional in nature. Armed forces have staff-to-staff

engagement. India is also the deployer of the US equipment and platforms. Some of them are used

by India," he said. Noting that Modi has visited the US six times since 2014, Kwatra said,

"It is a milestone in our relationship. It is a very significant visit, a very important visit, a visit on which there is a genuine, widespread and deep interest in the US.

On Modi's visit to Egypt Kwatra said the Prime Minister will also go to the Heliopolis War Cemetery to pay tributes to the Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for Egypt during World War 1. Incidentally, it is the first bilateral visit to Egypt by an Indian Prime Minister since 1997. Prime Minister Modi will meet

President El-Sisi and oversee the signing of various Memoranda of Understanding and agreements on that day. Kwatra noted that the Grand

Mufti of Egypt Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam was on a visit to India last month. The Foreign Secretary noted

that India has invited Egypt as a special guest during its G20 presidency. He also said Modi's "very quick reciprocal visit" to Egypt was taking place within six months of President El-Sisi's visit to India. Meanwhile, reports from Was-

hington said the inaugural INDUS X is expected to result in an Indo-US Joint Innovation Fund to boost deep tech Defence startups in both countries.

This fund aims to utilise a Public-Private Partnership model to assemble funds and expertise. The conference will involve leading universities, incubators, and accelerators. Partnerships with these entities will support defence innovation

BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS

SC to hear plea against HC's order on Central forces' deployment



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Tuesday a plea challenging an order of the Calcutta High Court (HC) directing the State Election Commission (SEC) to requisition and deploy central forces across West Bengal for the panchayat elections. The matter was mentioned on Monday before a Vacation Bench of Justices Surya Kant and MM Sundresh by senior advocate Meenakshi Arora who sought an urgent hearing. Arora, who was appearing for the SEC, said the appeal against the order was filed on Friday last but was not taken

The High Court on June 15 had directed the SEC to requisition and deploy central forces across West Bengal for the panchayat elections within 48 hours. The court had noted that no appreciable steps have been taken ever since an order was passed by it on June 13 to deploy central forces in sensitive areas for the poll process.

ed the SEC to requisition the deployment of central forces for all the districts in the state which were rocked by violence over filing of nominations for the July 8 panchayat elections. The High Court had directed the Centre to deploy the required number of central forces and that the cost of it will be borne by the Union government and no part of it will be charged to the state.

Opposition leaders, including BJP's Suvendu Adhikari and Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, had petitioned the court for deployment of central forces for ensuring peaceful elections, stating the state had witnessed large-scale violence during the municipal elections in 2022 and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections in 2021. They had also prayed for an extension of the last date of nomination claiming that the time given was not adequate. The court had left it to the SEC to consider the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, a prominent Islamic organisation, asserted on

Monday that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) went against the religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. However, the organisation clarified that it would not resort to street protests but oppose the UCC through lawful means.

This statement came in response to the Law Commission of India's recent consultation process on the UCC, which sought input from stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organisations, on this politically-sensitive

According to a statement issued on Monday, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind religious freedom and fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution.'

The organisation emphasised that India's Constitution was secular, granting full religious freedom to every citizen and the right to choose their religion, as the Indian state had no official religion, ensuring complete freedom for all citi-

During its executive meeting on Sunday, the executive committee of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Arshad Madani faction) passed a resolution against the UCC. The organisation alleged that the demand for a UCC was a deliberate attempt to restrict religious freedom and had been opposing this effort from the beginning, as it believed that the demand rmined the religious freedom of cit

UCC against religious freedom guaranteed

by Constitution: Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind

The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind argued that the UCC contradicted the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution, making it unacceptable to Muslims and detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country.

Maulana Arshad Madani, the pres-

ident of Jamiat, stated that this matter was not only relevant to Muslims but also concerned all Indians. He emphasised that Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind could not compromise on religious affairs and worship in any way and stated that they would oppose the UCC through lawful means rather than taking to the streets

The Jamiat further expressed surprise at the idea of imposing a UCC in a pluing that it was "completely contrary to the izens and the original spirit of the ers of different religions had peacefully

coexisted for centuries, practicing the teachings of their respective faiths. The organisation claimed that Article 44 of the Constitution was being misused to mislead the majority by targeting a specific

The statement referred to the views of the second sarsanghchalak (chief) of the RSS, Guru Golwalkar, who himself had stated that the "Uniform Civil Code is unnatural to India and against its diversity." The Jamiat highlighted that while the UCC was mentioned in the directive principles of the Constitution, it was the fundamental rights of citizens that were guaranteed. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind alleged

that the basic rights of citizens were frequently violated without provoking any tion to such matters.

ED moves SC against HC order allowing Balaji treatment in pvt hospital

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday moved the Supreme Court against an order of the Madras High Court allow-ing arrested Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji, who was undergoing medical treatment at a Government hospital in Chennai, to a private facility. The Tamil Nadu Electricity, and Prohibition and Excise Minister 14 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in an alleged cash for jobs scam that took place when he was the Transport Minister in an AIADMK Government led by the late J Jayalalithaa.

The High Court passed an interim order after Balaji's wife filed a habeas corpus petition

alleging illegal arrest. Balaji has reportedly been advised a coronary bypass surgery. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, mentioned the matter before a vacation Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice MM Sundresh seeking an urgent

Mehta told the Bench that

G20 EWG to bridge skilling, education gaps, says India

The Centre announced on Monday that India's G20 Education Working Group (EWG) presidency is dedicated to advancing discussions from previous presidencies and addressing obstacles that hinder the full transformative potential of education. The key areas of focus include bridging gaps in quality education and skilling, as well as accelerating the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals

Renowned Indian-American mathematician Manjul Bhargava, a member of the Education Ministry's panel developing the National Curriculum Framework

(NCF), emphasised the importance of ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) for all children entering grade 3 by 2033. Bhargava suggested that G20 countries commit to this goal, while also stressing the need for dedicated financing, resources, legislation and international commitments to achieve universal FLN.

During the fourth and final EWG meeting of the G20, Bhargava highlighted the learning crisis revealed by various surveys, indicating a severe lack of these essential skills. He expressed hope that G20 member countries would make the commitment to achieve FLN during the forthcoming G20 Education Ministers'

meeting. Bhargava emphasised the importance of continued collaboration among member countries and the global community. sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned to promote foundational learning.

Bhargava also emphasised the necessity of a developmentally-appropriate curriculum that is responsive and relevant to learners' developmental needs and interests at different stages of their education. FLN encompass the ability to read and write simple text and perform basic operations with numbers. Bhargava high-lighted that FLN skills are not only crucial for future learning but also strongly correlated with a better quality of life.

20-nation peacekeeping exercise starts in Mongolia

PNS NEW DELHI

The multinational peacekeeping joint exercise, 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023,' involving military contingents and observers from over 20 countries, including India, has commenced in Mongolia. The exercise, cosponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC), will last for nearly 14 days.

The opening ceremony of the exercise was inaugurated by the President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh. The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the Garhwal Rifles. The primary objective of the drill is to enhance interoperability among the participating nations, facilitate the sharing of experiences, and train uniformed personnel for United Peacekeeping Nations Operations (UNPKO).

"Ex Khaan Quest 2023' aims to prepare the participants for future UN peacekeeping missions, strengthen peace operations capabilities, and enhance military readiness. The exercise encompasses various activities such as Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercises (FTX), combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations.

Furthermore, this military exercise will foster increased defense cooperation between the Indian Army and the participating countries.

Balaji is an influential Minister and the High Court has allowed his transfer to a private hospital which could hamper investigation. Expressing disinclination about entertaining the petition, the top court said the High Court should be allowed to pass a final order first on the petition filed by Balaji's wife.

Biparjoy leaves 3,400 Guj villages sans electricity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

No human life was lost but trees and electricity poles bore the brunt of Cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat which in turn left as many as 3400 vil-

lages without electricity. Biparjoy affected more than 1.10 lakh electric poles, nearly 150 transmission towers and over 3000 trees. More than 3.27 lakh trees had to be trimmed even as over 1 lakh people and 73,000 animals were shifted to safety.

Power has since been restored in 1600 villages, said an official from the Gujarat Government.

At least 1,08, 208 people

mals like cows and goats were shifted to safer places in the nearby districts Also, amidst climatic

adversity, the hospital managements in various primary health centers rose to the occasion as at least 1,206 pregnant women were rescued and admitted to the hospital. Around 707 deliveries were reported during the admission phase even as the cyclone

The officials said that at least 202 ambulances (108 GVK EMRI) and 302 Government ambulances were pressed into service while 458 hospitals were kept ready with

were evacuated and shifted in nine districts while 73,000 ani-

In all, as many as 3021 trees were uprooted due to strong winds and heavy rains, disrupt ing traffic in 649 roads across the state while 3893 Kms roads have been partially/fully damaged, repair work has already started, said the officials. According to officials,

emergency and trauma facili-

ties. To ensure that there was

no power cut at the hospitals,

197 DG sets were deployed.

around 8 fully pucca houses, 156 partially pucca houses and 2222 kutcha houses, 647 huts were completely destroyed in the affected districts taking the total damages to houses to 3056 number due to the cyclone that fortunately did not see any casualties..

India to gift indigenously-built missile corvette to Vietnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

ndia and Vietnam on Monday **▲**reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral Defence ties during talks here between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart General Phan Van Giang. Rajanth also announced that India will gift indigenouslybuilt missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam to enhance the capabilities of its Navy. Both Ministers identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of Defence industry cooperation, maritime

security and multinational cooperation, Defence Ministry officials said later. As part of his engagements, the Defence Minister of Vietnam

also visited the Defence Research

and Development Organisation (DRDO) headquarters and discussed ways to enhance Defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in research and joint pro-The two sides have been

focused on further boosting bilateral Defence ties and reviewing the situation in the South China Sea, a region that has witnessed growing Chinese assertiveness. Chief of Defence Staff

General Anil Chauhan and other top officials from the Ministry of Defence were present during the talks. General Giang arrived in India on June 18 on a two-day visit. Earlier in the day, he laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and paid homage to the fallen heroes. General Giang is also scheduled to visit Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

region-specific antivenom ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI Sivasagar, Assam where about The researchers have also called for a specific protocol by

Assam clinicians seek

team of clinicians and her-Ateam of chinetans and has petologists in Assam has favoured a region-specific antivenom for effective management of snakebite treatment, pointing out that the available polyvalent antivenoms was able to save patients bitten by Cobra and Kraits but were ineffective in neutralising the pit viper venoms in the State. Based on an analysis of snake bite cases in a hospital, they noted that Pit vipers were responsible for the maximum number of snakebites (66.2%) followed by monocled cobra (21.7%) in the State

They had studied the cases of colleagues snake bites reported at the Demow Model Hospital in

1011 patients were admitted in the last five years, of which 13.7% were venomous bites. Scientists and research schol-

ars from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Tezpur University, Tezpur Assam, and Amrita School of Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine, Kochi led by toxicologist and Director of IASST Prof Ashis K Mukherjee were involved in the study.

It was in collaboration with clinicians Dr. Surajit Giri and his Government Community Health

(VRT) comprising clinicians, herpetologists, and volunteers for effectively managing snakebites in a rural health centre.Prof. Mukherjee said, "this study is an eye-opener to the country's other primary and tertiary health centres to adopt the same prototype for reducing snakebite mortality and morbidity." Sadly, the snakebite data remains elusive in Assam. Epidemiological studies help estimate the incidence, prevalence, and mortality rates associated with snakebites, which is crucial for government agencies' public health planning and resource allocation.

forming Venom Response Teams

Declare June 20 as World Traitors Day: Sena UBT to UN

For 'treachery' by Shinde who toppled MVA Govt: Raut

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Awar of words broke out between the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) and the ruling Shiv Sena over Uddhav Thackeray-led original Sena's plan to appeal to the United Nations Organization (UNO) that June 20 be declared as "World Traitors Day' to commemorate the "treachery" committed on it by Eknath Shinde and 40-odd MLAs who rebelled against Uddhav's leadership and toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in June last

On a day when both the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the ruling Shiv Sena and celebrated their



respective foundation day functions, at Shanmukhananda Hall at Sion in north-central Mumbai and NESCO entre at Goregaon in north Mumbai, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena rooted for declaration of June 20 be declared as "World Traitors

Talking to media persons here, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that his party would collect signatures of lakhs of people from across Maharashtra and send them to the UNO with a demand to make the declaration for June 20 as 'World Traitors Day' soon. "There are hundreds of instances of treason in the world and the people of Maharashtra have also wit-

nessed one in June 2022 which led to the collapse of the the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government

Raut said that if and when June 20 is declared as "World Traitors Day", there will be international focus on the traitors worldwide, with the beginning made in Maharashtra.

When our party comes to ower in the state, we will make a beginning — June 19 shall be celebrated as 'World Loyalists Day' and June 20 as the 'traitors' day... We shall make a bonfire of all these 'gaddars' (traitors) as it is done for the demon King Ravana," Raut said..

Alluding Sena MLC Dr. Manisha Kayande's decision to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv

the Uddhave Thackeray-led Sena, Raut said: "I don't know where she has come from or where she has come from or where she has gone... But the 'garbage' is going out of the party... When the wind blows, all the 'kachra' (rubbish) gets carried out," said an unfazed

Raut accused the rival Eknath-led Shiv Sena claiming to be the original party founded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray "but the fact remains Eknath Shinde-led Sena does does even remember the date and year of founding of the

Retaliating against the accu-sations made by the Uddhav Thackeray, the Eknath Shindeled Shiv Sena leaders like Uday Samant, Sanjay Shirsat and Ramdas Kadam came down heavily on Raut and Sena (UBT) leaders, dubbing them as 'the real 'gaddars' or traitors to the cause of Hindutva and the ideals of the late Balasaheb

DM reviews development works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam has directed the officers of various departments to identify the places for the tree-plantation as per the target given by the government and also make them available to the Forest department. The DM directed to withhold the one day salary of the district welfare officer (divyangjan) and executive engineer of Jal Nigam (urban) for being absent without prior information.

Chairing the monthly review meeting of the development works at Rifle Club here on Sunday, the DM asked the officers of various departments to identify the places for the tree-plantation as per the target given by the government and also make them available to the Forest department. He directed the concerned authority to withhold the one day salary of the district welfare officer (divyangjan) and executive engineer of Jal Nigam (urban) for being absent without prior informa-

The DM directed the DPRO to ascertain the demolition of the Panchayat build-



The DM chairing the monthly review meeting of development works.

instruction has been given at the state and district level and also endure the new construc-

The DM directed the officer of social sector to make available the eligible list of pensioners who have no ration card and also the list of ineligible pensioners for the pension to the district supply officer (DSO) and said that the Food department will make the ration card of the within a week for which the cancel the ration card of inel-

The DM directed the DSO to make the Ayushman Card of the ration card holders on the priority basis.

He directed the PWD to ensure the cutting of trees in a week which are creating obstacles in widening the roads from Pandeypur to Ring Road, Kutchery to Sandaha, Mohansarai to Lahartara Cantt, Lahartara to BHU-Ravindrapuri Colony-Vijaya

Place : Ghaziabad

Ring Road being in touch with the forest department and also ensure the widening work within stipulated time in November, 2023

The Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal took the DRDO to task for the lesser number of rebored hand pumps and directed to speed up the work under the PMGSY. He also expressed displeasure over the officers who fed the wrong

Maha Cong seeks JPC into missing ₹500 notes worth ₹88,000 crore

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress on Monday rooted a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPCP probe into the alleged scam involving the disappearance of Rs.88,000 crore worth currency notes of the denomination of Rs 500 from the government printing presses.

Talking to media persons at Bhavan Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said: "The BJP's claim that there is no stain of corruption on it is false. The truth is that the Modi government is completely mired in corruption".

A major scam that took place in the year 2016-17, has come to light now. As many 8810.65 million new notes of Rs 500 were printed but only 7250 million notes reached the RBI. This means 176 crore notes worth Rs 88000 crore have disappeared. We would like to know who has cornered this huge amount of money," he said.

"Currency notes are printed in the government printing press at Nashik, Dewas and Bengaluru. The government printing presses at Nashik and Dewas come under the jurisdiction of the Union Ministry of Finance. The procedure is that

newly printed notes go direct ly from the government printing press to the Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) and are later circulated in the market," Patole asked.

"So how did these new Rs 88,000 crore worth notes of the denomination of Rs 500 notes disappear? There has been a scam in the printing of new 500 rupees notes and currency notes worth Rs 88,000 crores are missing. Where did they go? This is a serious question, Patole said.

"Rahul Gandhi has already warned that demonetisation is the biggest scam in the country. After the announcement of demonetisation, old notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 were deposited in the RBI. A total of 1660 crore notes were in circulation but when these old notes were deposited in the RBI, there was an excess of 2 lakh crore notes," the state congresss chief said.

After demonetisation, new notes were introduced. How many of these new notes were printed? How many of these notes reached the Reserve Bank? Along with this, the scam of old notes should also be investigated," Patole said as he rooted for a JPC probe into the missing currency notes scam.

5 years after BJP-PDP alliance ends, J&K BJP prez visits Mufti's grave

Five years after Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) ended its alliance with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu and Kashmir, Ravinder Raina, state BJP President visited grave of former Chief Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed located in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district and paid rich tributes to him on Monday. It was on June 19, 2018

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti tendered her resignation after BJP went ahead and broke its alliance with the PDP.

The Governors' rule was imposed in J&k on June 20. Raina, currently visiting

Kashmir valley, Monday also hailed the work of PDP Patron Mufti Mohd Sayeed while listing his contributions in office.

In contrast the two mainstream political parties--the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party cornered the ruling dispensation at the centre over the delay in restoration of democracy in the Union Territory.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the state into two



Union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday said democracy in India ends where Jammu and Kashmir begins.

"Democracy is in our veins, it is in our culture'; 'India is the mother of democracy'; 'India is the temple of democracy'. Great sounding words that the international community lap up & regurgitate ad-nauseam. Meanwhile J&K completes 5 years under central rule today. Democracy ends where J&K begins," he

PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan said the entire nation should hang its head in shame.

"Entire nation & its leadership must hang their heads in shame for calling itself 'Mother Of Democracy'. J&K languish-es under central rule for a staggering 5 years, with the last election held 9 years ago. The blatant disregard for people's rights & representation is appalling," he said in a tweet.

Railway Minister reviews preparations for Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav reviewed preparations of railways for Mahakumbh 2025 at a meeting in Delhi and instructed that all infrastructure work should be completed well in time.

He reviewed arrangements for the forthcoming Kumbh Mela with general managers of Northern Railway, North Central Railway and North Eastern Railway and DRMs concerned.

NCR GM Satish Kumar while discussing the issue informed that more than 800 Mela special trains will be operated for tackling the trafffic of pilgrims traffic on the six main bathing days of Mahakumbh in January-February 2025. Over 15 crore pilgrims are expected to arrive



837 crore has been sanctioned for various works of ROB/RUB

and passenger amenities. A total nine stations of

planned for tackling traffic of pilgrims. The stations include-

- Prayagraj Junction, Subedarganj, Naini Junction, Prayagraj Chheoki of the NCR, Prayag Junction, Prayagraj Sangam, and Phaphamau Junction of Northern Railway and Prayagraj Rambagh and Jhusi stations of North Eastern Railway. The remodeling work of Prayagraj Junction is already in progress. The railway minister suggested that officers having experience of 2019 Kumbh should play a vital role in 2025. Now it is expected that a good number of officers will be sent to Prayagraj months before the commencement of Mahakumbh. The services of some retired officers may also be taken for smooth passage of Mahakumbh.

Doli Yatra of Lord Jagannath taken out



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Doli Yatra of Lord Jagannath, along with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, was taken out amid traditional gaiety and religious fervour here on Monday evening. After passing through its traditional routes, the procession reached the in-laws' place of Lord Jagannath at Beniram Ka Bagicha near Rathyatra on the occasion of Ashad Shukla Pratipada as per Hindu calendar. With this, the three-day Rathyatra Mela will start from Tuesday. Many locals believe that the city would get relief from heatwave as always rains welcome the Rathyatra Mela.

It is expected that the fair, started in 1802, would see its real grandeur this time. A good number of devotees thronged Lord Jagannath temple at Assi and offered prayers and 'parval ka kada' a day ago when after two weeks, the doors of Jagannath temple were re-opened. Lord Jagannath fell sick two weeks ago when the devotees offered jalabhishek with a huge quantity of Gangajal (sacred water of holy river Ganga) on the occasion of Jyestha Purnima. Since then the doors remained closed to help the ailing Almighty take full

Rathyatra Mela is known as one of the lakha melas (in which lakhs of people turn out) of this holy city. According to the history of this fair, in 1780, Pandit Nityanand, the chief priest and manager of Jagannath temple in Puri visited this holy city and then set up a temple of Lord Jagannath near Assi. The Rathyatra Mela was started in 1802 and since then it continued without any break except a couple of years during the corona pandemic. During the festival the idols are kept on a chariot. After the Mela, the traditional Rath is kept at a room at Shahid Udyan for the last few years as earlier, it was kept near Rathyatra crossing but due to traffic jams, its site had been changed. The chariot is made of wood and kept on 14 wheels near Rathyatra crossing during the festival. The most popular dish of the fair is Nankatai, a handmade biscuit. In view of the fair, the police have imposed several traffic restrictions during the next four days and during the period no vehicle will be allowed to pass through Rathyatra crossing.

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020.
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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

the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

vitr	i the property and any deali	ngs with the property will be subject to the charge of I	CICI Bank Limit	ted.
Sr. Vo.		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
	(Guarantor)/ Map, Ph-II 87/5, Joginder Vihar, C Zone Bengdubi West	Flat No. T9/841/2BHK, Eighth Floor, Dreams Homes Group Housing Scheme, Sector 5, Tower 9, Green Wood Enclave, Wave City, Nh-24, District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Admeasuring An Area of Super Builtup Area 808 Sq.ft. or 75.07 Sq. Mtr. & Build Up Area 622.16 Sq. Ft. or 57.8 Sq. Mtr. / Date of Symbolic 15.06.2023	28/02/2023/ Rs. 10,63,012/-	Siliguri/ Ghaziabad

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

ICICI Bank Limited

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was ssued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and

hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.									
Sr. No.	Co Borroworl Cuorenterl	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta- nding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date					
1.	Miriya Cheema, Anila Bhatia Cheema, B-38 Green Woods City, Sec-45 Haryana Gurgaon 122001. A/c:- LBGUR00002191149	Flat No.8072 7th Floor, Type A Tower-8 Ats Triumph Sector- 104 Gurgaon	03/06/2022 Rs. 2,27,27,290.39/-	03/06/ 2022					
2.	Ishita Bhatia, Nutan Bhatia, House No.1121 Sector-70 Punjab Mohali- 160061. A/c:- LBGUR00002161409	Flat No.8092, 9th Floor, Type- A, Tower-8th Ats Triumph Sector- 104 Haryana Gurgaon	03/06/2022 Rs. 2,25,54,007.18/-	03/06/ 2022					
3.	Tirupati Balaji, Soni Singh, A-927 Gaur Green Avenue, Abhay Khand-II, Indirapuram Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 200001. A/C:- LBGHZ00002273142	Flat No.2052 5th Floor, Type B ,tower 2 Ats Triumph, Sector 104 Haryana Gurgaon	03/06/2022 Rs. 1,48,07,769.97/-	03/06/ 2022					
4.	Hardeep Singh Johar, Damandeep Kaur, 1032, The Great Lyalipur Housing Society Ph I Sec 10, Dwarka Delhi- 110075. A/c:- LBGUR00002087904	Appt No.1181,tower 1st, 18 Th Floor, Type-B, Ats Triumph, Sector 104, Haryana, Gurgaon	30/07/2022 Rs. 1,64,78,687/-	30/07/ 2022					
5.	Anand Pradeep Kumar, N 25 Ground Floor, Chittaranjan Park New Delhi Delhi- 110019. A/C:- LBGUR00003228233	Office Unit No.602, 6th Floor, Ild Trade Center, Vill Tikri, Sec 47, Sohna Road, Haryana, Gurgaon	04/07/2022 Rs. 52,88,515.06/-	04/07/ 2022					
6.	Sandhya Vashishth, Prabhat Chandra Vasisth, F 1/116 Southend Appt Eros Garden Charmwood Village Surajkund, Haryana Faridabad-121001.A/C:- LBFDB00002891561	Flat No. Am K-2301, 23rd Floor, Sector-118, Tower K, Plot No. Gh-01, Ajnara Ambrosia, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Buddha Nagar	30/06/2022 Rs. 49,04,121/-	30/06/ 2022					

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : June 20, 2023 Place : Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer

Place : Delhi/ NCR

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Abhishek Kumar/ Komal Sharan/ LBGHZ00005193256	Flat No. C2/701, 7th Floor, Tower No -c2, Shree Vardhman Gardenia, Sector -10, Sonipat, Haryana, Sonipat/ June 15, 2023	March 25,2022 Rs. 44,35,418/-	Delhi NCR/ Sonipa
2.	Jacky Kumar Srivastva/ LBDEL00005369466	Flat No- 225, 2nd Floor, Tower- C, Galaxy Royale, Vrindavan Plot No- Gc-03J/GH-03, Gaur City -2, Sector-16c, Noida/ June 15, 2023	November 30,2022 Rs.23,84,110/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Mahesh Kumar Shivhare/ Shailkumari/ Manish Kishore/ LBDEL00004361682	Flat No. Sun 1-0405, 4th Floor, Khasra No. 4, 5 And 51, Min Village Makrammat, Migsun Roof, Block A1, Raj Nagar Extn, Sikod, Ghaziabad/ June 15, 2023	August 20, 2020 Rs. 13,99,383/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Mithlesh./ Babita/ LBDEL00004531652	Lig Flat No - 26, First Floor, Sector G-8 Pocket- 3, Block- F4 Narela Delhi/ June 15, 2023	September 23,2022 Rs.8,48,791/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Mohammed Maqdoom Mohiuddin/ Rumana Khadri/ LBNOD00002406178	Flat No 604, 6th Floor, Tower-C, Plot Bearing No- Gh-07A , "Casa Grande" Sector-Chi-V, Greater Noida- 201307/ June 15, 2023	February 25,2023 Rs. 46,39,848/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Rachna Rana/ LBDEL00002377624	Flat No. 806, 8th Floor, Tower A1, Ecovillage-1, Plot No- 8, Sec-1, Greater Noida/ June 15, 2023	February 25,2023 Rs. 17,64,049/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Sanjay Kumar/ Archana Kumar/ Neo Nitika Projects Private Limited/ LBGHZ00003106040/ LBGHZ00003191006	Flat No 2103, 21st Floor, Tower A-8, "Saviour Greenisle", Plot No.GH- 11, Crossing Republic, NH -24, Ghaziabad/ June 15, 2023	January 25,2023 Rs. 44,00,436/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Saroj Kumar/ Neha Nanda/ LBFDB00002713228/ LBFDB00002855243	Flat No. B2, 1st Floor, Super Hig, Niti Khand, 1/215, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad/ June 15, 2023	January 30,2023 Rs. 28,32,569/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Saroj Kumar/ Neha Nanda/ LBFDB00002713198	Flat No-A-1, Ground Floor, HIG Type, Without Roof Rights, Plot No. Niti Kand-1/719, Niti Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad/ June 15, 2023	February 25,2023 Rs. 62,24,623/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Sartaj Husain/ Bushra Jabi/ LBNOD00002145459	Flat No. C010703 7th Floor, Ebony Greens Crescent Parc, Village Shahpur, Bamhetta NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP./ June 15, 2023	July 06,2021 Rs. 31,19,451/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Suresh Suri/ Rakesh Suri/ Krishna Suri/ LBDEL00001220716	Flat No. A-7, Shivaji Vihar, Janta Colony (Basai Daraapur), Delhi/ June 15, 2023	August 30,2021 Rs. 9,30,214/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Vishwanath Kumar Srivastava/ Chitranjan Kumar Srivastava/ LBFDB00002035177	Unit No- Daffodil 03, First Floor, Eldeco Residency Greens, Plot No. 12, Pocket-B, Sector- Pi, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ June 15, 2023	October 29,2022 Rs. 28,89,275/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Syed Imran Ahmed/ Syed Vakil Ahmed/ LBDEL00002103292	Flat No. A 1901, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP./ June 15, 2023	April 30, 2019 Rs. 45,79,505/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : June 20, 2023 **Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Half-baked epic

Adipurush is being cricitised for depicting Ramayana inappropriately and taking too many creative liberties

dipurush, a feature film based on Ramayana or inspired by it is in the eye of the storm despite record collections on its first day. It courted controversy as soon as it was released. It has run into trouble not only in India but even in neighbouring Nepal where it has been banned in two cities. It might be banned in India in some states as well if the makers of the film do not take corrective measures. Adipurush, directed by Om Raut has its dialogues written by well-known lyricist Manoj Muntashir who is also known for being close to the BJP. The film has sparked a political backlash and many leaders are openly criticising the film for its portrayal of Lord Hanuman, Lord Ram and goddess Sita. They maintain that its dialogues are in bad taste and factually incorrect. Lord Hanuman speaks a rowdy language while Sita is referred to as the 'daughter of India.' After its ban in Nepal it may be banned in Congress-ruled Chattisgarh as its chief minister Bhupesh Baghal has



criticised the film for objectionable dialogues which he maintains are of 'low-level' and may consider ban. Interestingly the BJP leaders and cadres are refraining from making any comments on the film despite the fact that the film portrays the Ramayana characters in a bad light. The very same people who were very vocal on Kashmir Files and the Kerala story are silent and despite seriously hurting the Hindu sentiment the film is running without any disruptions. The right-wing element who get hurt on the slightest provocation in the name of religion are restraint.

The reason is that the makers of the film have a close affinity with the ruling party and many chief

ministers have already given their best wishes to the film, thanks to the proximity of Manoj Muntashir with the people in power. It exposes the double standards and hypocrisy of the people and organizations who claim that they are sole custodians of the Hindu faith and would not tolerate any aberrations. It is not to condone that the film must be banned or screening stopped. The sole authority to clear a film remains the Censor Board of India and once it clears the film for screening then it is nobody's business to indulge in vandalism or disrupt the screening in the name of hurt sentiments. It is a dangerous trend and needs to be curbed. Of course, they can protest and seek a court's stay in a civil manner. As for the film, its makers have gone too far in taking creative liberties and would have done well to research and pen the dialogues with more sensitivity that would be in keeping with the stature of the Epic. Ram is not 'Adipurush' but is always referred to as 'maryada purushottam'. Ancient texts refer to India as 'Jamboo Dweep' not as Bharat, to mention a few anomalies. The dialogues which ought to be sober are laced with venom and border cuss words something not acceptable to a large audience. The makers of the film would do well to make corrections to avoid any spar



Painted storks fly above a lake to catch fish, on the outskirts of Nagpur

Yoga is the biggest mass movement



Yoga has now become a global good, which promises unflinching support to further good health and wellness across the globe

rime Minister Narendra Modi is going to celebrate the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with its president Csaba Korosi, making this heavenly practice truly a global movement. The same UNGA had declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fervent call. At the UN headquarters, the excited group of Yoga practitioners would also include top leaders, intellectuals, diplomats and officials from several countries. This shows the pace at which Yoga is receiving acceptance all across the globe, and fast acquiring a greater proportion of India's soft power, as Yoga goes much beyond the constraints of age, gender, caste, community, religion and nation, making it the biggest mass movement in the quest for good health and well-being.

It was because of the rising influence of India at the international level under PM Modi that 193 members of the UNGA and 173 co-sponsor countries unanimously approved the resolution of the United Nations in which the establishment of 21st June as the International Day of Yoga was passed. The UNGA agreed that Yoga offers a holistic approach to health and well-being. It also said in its resolution that the widespread promotion of the benefits of practising Yoga is necessary for the global population's health. It also added that Yoga brings about harmony in all areas of life and is known for its significant role in preventing diseases, promoting health and treating many disor-ders related to lifestyle. Since 21st June 2015, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated across the globe through various activities and programmes.

Without a doubt, Yoga has now become a global good, which promises unflinching support to further good health and wellness across the globe amid the most challenging times for the global health infrastructure.

Now, Yoga is being practiced in more than 100 countries and all accept it as an act that brings about harmony between the body and the mind, besides finding

solutions to a myriad of health issues. It is needed not just for physical power and well-being, but also for mental balance and emotional stability. Yoga is seen as something which prepares people to meet modern life challenges successfully. Both the young and the old can practice these without any trouble. It is based on yogic traditions and various techniques based on scientific knowledge. Hence, the number of foreign tourists coming to India for Yoga training has increased significantly since

The emergence of Yoga as a remedy to all kinds of physical, psychological and mental issues, has made it an important public health movement throughout the world. The role of Yoga in public health policies and behaviour also has significantly increased.

Yoga is being seen as an invaluable gift of the ancient Indian tradition to the world as it embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action, restraint and fulfilment, harmony between man and nature and a holistic approach THROUGHOUT THE to health and well-being. It is not just an exercise, but a spiritual journey to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature.

The steps taken by the Modi government to add Yoga and other Ayush systems of



REMEDY TO ALL KINDS OF PHYSICAL, **PSYCHOLOGICAL** AND MENTAL ISSUES, HAS MADE IT AN **IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH MOVEMENT** WORLD

THE EMERGENCE

OF YOGA AS A

health to public health programs are forward-looking and progressive. Earlier, Yoga was not well recognised as a healthcare system even in official documents but only as a therapy. But, the situation started changing when the Modi government changed the government's thinking and approach towards the role of Yoga and its relevance in public health. The first significant sign of the change occurred on 9th November 2014 when a dedicated Ministry of Ayush was created and now Yoga has become a part of this ministry.

Since 2014 Yoga has received tremendous encouragement under the brilliant leadership of PM Modi. The National Yoga and Naturopathy Promotion and Development Board was set up in February 2016 by the Ministry of Ayush to advise the ministry on various programmes for the development of yoga.

To improve the quality of Yoga training for the people, the certification of Yoga professionals and the verification of Yoga organizations were recognised by the ministry. All the reforms for bringing yoga into the mainstream are being integrated and included in ne international Day of Yoga Yoga is now increasingly used in hospitals of all disciplines for the management and treatment of both physical and

mental diseases.

The acceptance of Yoga as therapeutic support for health and treatment of lifestylerelated issues is now wellestablished because, during the last nine years, the increase in research publications on Yoga as an experimental clinical therapy has been tenfold. During the period Yoga-based clinical trials have also increased eight times, and interestingly most of these cases were those where participants had come from foreign countries. Without a doubt, this day sends out the message of universal brotherhood. It is the day of the oneness of humanness, which brings us together by narrowing down distances of all kinds. The world is now realizing the importance of Yoga even more due to the Coronavirus pandemic, as it improves our immunity to fight effectively any kind of viral attack or disease. Now, we need to be further aware of the benefits of Yoga, which is one of the greatest symbols of India's rich cultural heritage and encourage the entire mankind to adopt it as a part of their daily

(Writer is a Member of Pariiament, & Chairman, o the Parliamentary committee on the welfare of SC/ST. He is also an eminent surgeon. *Views are personal)*

Yoga Day: time to switch to holistic life



International Yoga Day has gained immense popularity globally. Millions of people participate in yoga-related events on this day

7ith International Yoga Day being just a few days away, an atmosphere of excitement and intense activities can easily be sensed not just in India, but across the globe. It is a coincidence that the day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, after the call for the adoption of June 21st as International Yoga Day by Prime Minister Modi during his address to the UN General Assembly in September 2014. And this year, PM Modi during his next visit to the US, may lead an exciting group of Yoga practitioners on the 21st of June in the park next to the same UN headquarters.

Yoga has been one of the greatest symbols of India's rich cultural heritage. It is an ancient practice that originated in India and encompasses physical, mental and spiritual disciplines. It promotes harmony between the body and mind and helps individuals attain a state of wellbeing. International Yoga Day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of practicing yoga and encourages people to adopt it as a part of their daily

Each yogic activity is key to improving flexibility, strength, and physical, mental and emotional balance. It's a practice that prepares us to meet modern life challenges successfully. When the world speaks about holistic health and well-being for mankind, India's ancient wisdom of Yoga is invariably discussed and appreciated. İts popularity grew multifold during the Covid pandemic, when physical and mental fitness was much stressed globally, spurring millions of people to turn to Yoga for the same. A spike in stress levels during the pandemic was observed with increased time being spent in confined spaces

along with added workload as

people were forced to adapt to

the new realities. Here, Yoga

offered a solution for main-

taining physical fitness as well as contributing towards one's mental peace and emotional equilibrium even in the midst of the calamitous

impacts of the restrictions.
Considering the welldocumented rewards of Yoga for holistic health and wellbeing of the population, it is indeed a matter of pride for every Indian that this precious inheritance of India has found global acceptance. The benefits of Yoga in immunity building and management of stress are well established with evidence galore. With programmes like Global Yoga Conference and International Yoga Day, more and more people are being drawn into the fold of practising Yoga and related activities. There is a widespread realization today that health is of foremost importance for everyone, much ahead of a career.

The UN has acknowledged that yoga serves humanity in alleviating sufferings and brings people together through compassion, and kindness,. International Yoga Day has gained immense popularity globally, and millions of people participate in yoga-related events on this

day. It has become an opportunity to unite people from different backgrounds, cultures, and religions in the pursuit of holistic health and wellbeing. The continuous celebrations of Yoga Day are sure to further spread awareness among people about this practice and the benefits it can bring in their lives and deepen a sense of continuous connection between an individual's inner consciousness and the external world. The Ministry of Ayush, being the nodal ministry for the International Day of Yoga in India, deserves a lot of appreciation, as it has taken the lead in organizing eight successful editions starting in 2015, which have found great enthusiasm and worldwide support. Now, with the whole government approach and support from all institutions nationally and internationally, and co-operations and collaborations to build on the progress achieved over the last 8 years in taking the message of holistic health to each and every part of the world, Yoga along with Ayush has a lot to contribute. (The writer is a senior

journalist)

RAILWAY CORRUPTION

Sir — Indian Railway system is in a very bad condition. Sleeper birth seems like General bogy even AC birth too. Railway Mantri only visits some specific areas and decides that all conditions are well. The worst condition is on Bihar, UP, Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand routes.

Now the sleeper class has become worse than the general. The same crowd is seen on the train that goes from Bihar and arrives in Bihar because trains have not been given according to the need of the route of Bihar, migration in Bihar is our biggest problem, in this, the Bihar government and The central government

Ashwini Vaishnav ji, Delhi and surrounding areas are not the countries, in this you go to some stations and get photographs taken. Your journalist colleagues share photos while sitting on a luxury train – India is changing, don't you consider these people as part of India? MT Farooqi | Hyderabad

TEXTBOOK POLITICS

Sir — It's disheartening that our textbooks have become a new battleground for politics, with changes being made based on political party ideologies. Recently, we have seen the Karnataka government ordering a revision of textbooks.

Before that, the BJP party, when they were in power in Karnataka, removed many chapters from the textbooks. I firmly believe that determining what young minds should study is a very serious issue because the youth of the nation are our future, and development depends on them. So let intellectual people, who are selected for this task, decide what youth should study and what shouldn't, and political parties must not interfere.

F Akhtar | Hyderabad

MANIPUR VIOLENCE: Sir — The representatives of the women's market in Imphal Manipur have said that the divisive politics of the government

Common assesment for armed forces



he Army, Air Force, and Navy will implement a common assessment format for two-star and three-star officers in tri-service organizations, enhancing synergy in the appraisal system. This aligns with the joint theatre command rollout plans. The adoption of a common annual confidential report (ACR) aims to promote jointness and integration. Lower ranks may follow suit based on successful implementation. The Andaman and Nicobar Command, Strategic Forces Command, and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) have already adopted this approach. The Defence Space Agency and Defence Cyber Agency will also implement the uniform ACR. The move leverages theatre commands to improve war-fighting capabilities and involves cross-service postings. A Bill in Parliament is proposed to grant disciplinary powers to Commanders leading tri-service organizations.

Joint theatre commands integrate military branches, led by the DMA restructuring 17 commands. The initiative sparks debate on outcomes and military expenditure. Proponents emphasize resource utilisation, while critics express concerns. The proposed approach includes phased restructuring and the development of a defence-industrial manufacturing complex

Sabita Kumari | Hazaribagh

ties was a matter of concern.

The women's market in Imphal is run by Meiteis. The women protested at Januar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday, June 19. The Khwairambam Ema Keithal Joint Coordinating Committee for Peace pointed out that though Manipur has been suffering "the most horrible communal catastrophe for more than 45 days and yet the Central leaders has had no time to visit Manipur and has not even said a single word. The violence in the state as many of the people have been using sophisticated weapons and that was a cause of concern.

The hills and forests are burning. That is why all the mothers and youths have been having sleepless nights. The ongoing ethnic strife has claimed nearly 120 lives and left more than 500 injured and more than 70,000 have been internally displaced on both sides. The clashes in Manipur between the Meitei and Kuki and its complicity with conflicting par- ethnic groups began on May 3 and have

continued for 50 days without any signs of abating. All Kukis have been expelled from Imphal, and no Meiteis can be seen in Churachandpur (their main strong stay) or other Kuki-dominated hill districts such as Chandel, Kangpokpi, Tengnoupal, and Senapati districts of

Meiteis predominantly live in the Imphal valley and the Kuki tribes live in the hill regions of the state. People of Mnaipur have given up hope of the state government led by BJP resolving the crisis, the women have demanded that the union government should stop divisive politics and dividing people on community lives, protect administrative integrity of Manipur and disarm Meitei youth only after abrogation of Suspension of Operation with Kukis

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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UNDERSTAND OTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

Respect the perspective or habits of others by offering them empathy

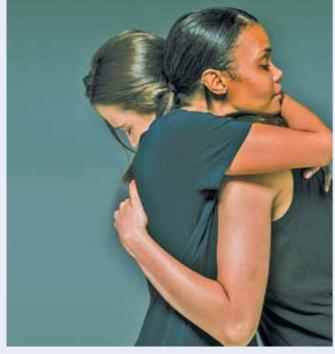


SAKSHI SETHI

n the words of Beau Taplin, "we're all desperate to be understood that we forget to be understanding." Perspective-taking is a complex mental skill that helps an individual to understand a situation from a different point of view. It is a cognitive phenomenon, a thought process about seeing things from somebody else's point of view. Perspective-taking is the ability to take on someone else's point of view when thinking. It is a simple concept and is something that most of us do all the time mostly, without even thinking about it.

Nowadays, people are regularly sharing space with other people. An individual's feelings are not the same as one's intuition. All of us have a uniquely valuable perspective in life—a lens through which we interpret our lives. Perspective-taking requires both - the skill to understand others accurately as well as the motivation to do so. Through that perspective, we define what makes sense to us, which is differentiated from how others see and experience life. It is to some degree an innate human characteristic. Perspective-taking is needed to have empathy for someone else. It is critical to gain insight into one's strengths.

Perspective-taking should not be confused with its emotional cousin- empathy. At times it is usually thought of as a cognitive component of empathy. There is also an emotional aspect of empathy, which is about one's emotional response to another's person's experience. Empathy is about feeling the other person's feelings. It is a



process that begins in childhood starting with an egocentric world view then learning to adjust how one sees things to accommodate others' viewpoint. In order to implement it successfully, an individual must have an understanding of others' thoughts, feelings, motivations and intentions. Respecting the perspective or habits of others by offering them empathy is crucial for individual development on both personal and professional levels.

When it comes to children, Perspective taking forms a critical skill along with parents too as it allows for an individual to better understand and further interact with others around them. It might not only provide new data in complex situations but can also activate networks in their brains that are associated with creative thinking and explo-

To be thought of as a considerate person, an individual must consider another person's perspective before acting or speaking. When a person does not consider how their actions will make others feel, they end up seeming rude, inconsiderate and self-centred. Perspectivetaking is an essential skill and be it a child or an adult, everyone needs to interpret "why" and "how" situations that happen and then respond appropriately to that information. Remember, not to compare or judge others just by looking through the lens of one's own individual experiences. A person has no idea what they have been through.

(The writer is an educator)

How to stem the rising airfares?



Saving GoFirst and SpiceJet has become even more important to retain competition in the aviation sector after the privatisation of Air India



omestic airfares have been ncreasing continuously for some time now. Recently Delhi-Mumbai airfare had reached up more than to Rs.20000, for booking done 24 hours in advance, which used to be only Rs.7000 earlier. Fares have been rising on the remaining routes and for bookings made much in advance also. Passengers have been facing the brunt of rising fares.

Its notable that passenger movement has increased significantly after Covid-19. Recently, on a single day on April 30, 2023, 4.56 lakh passengers travelled by air, which was a record. The monthly passenger count of air travel remains between 12 million and 13 million. The increasing number of passengers indicates increasing demand and growth in the aviation industry. Unfortunately, taking advantage of the increasing demand, airlines have started charging exploitative fares. This is not good news for the Indian aviation sector, as passengers may also get disenchanted from air avel due to higher airfares.

In the last two decades, due to affordable airfares, many passengers who used to travel by rail traditionally, have now started traveling by air because of the economical fares. For instance, the train fare for Delhi-Mumbai AC first-class Rajdhani train is Rs 4730, while the airfare was generally lesser than that if booked in advance. Therefore, many people started preferring air travel to rail. But due to the increase in air fares, people can now turn to other modes again, and demand for air travel may reduce, impacting the growth of this sec-

Notably, airfares are increasing internationally. According to the report of Airports Council International (Asia Pacific), there has been an increase of up to 50 per cent in international airfares. The report also says that the highest increase in airfares was 41 per cent in India, while it was 34 per cent in the United Arab Emirates, 30 per cent in Singapore and 23 per cent in Australia.

The report says that there are two main reasons for the increase in air fares - first,



RECENTLY,

JEHANGIR WADIA-LED **GOFIRST** AIRLINES, WHICH WAS INDIA'S FOURTH LARGEST AIRLINE WITH AN 8 PER CENT MARKET SHARE. IS NOT ONLY GOING **THROUGH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BUT HAS FILED BANKRUPTCY**

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of

the increase in the cost of fuel and second, the high rate of general inflation. Aviation fuel prices have increased by 76 per cent since the year 2019, while other costs of airlines are increasing due to the high rate of inflation globally. But the 'Airports Council International notes that airlines are trying to keep prices high by limiting supply (seat availability) to keep fares high. The report has expressed the concern that this act of companies can affect the growth in the aviation industry.

Many companies are operating in the domestic aviation sector in India. Indigo ranked first with a market share of 55.9 per cent in February 2023, followed by Tata group's Air India and Vistara at second and third positions, with a share of 8.9 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively. Although Air India and Vistara will soon merge into one they will still be over one third of IndiGo's share. GoFirst and SpiceJet were the two airlines in the fourth and fifth positions with a market share of 8.0 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively in February 2023. But both these companies are in deep trouble.

Recently, Jehangir Wadia-led GoFirst Airlines, which was India's fourth largest airline with an 8 per cent market share, is not only going through financial difficulties but has filed for bankruptcy. However, its difficulties were initially more technical than financial, for which 'Pratt & Whitney Engines, the company that supplies the engine, is mainly responsible. The company supplies engines for the Airbus A-320 Neo aircraft. Over the past few years, GoFirst had to ground several of its aeroplanes due to engine problems supplied by the company. Due to all this, the company has gone into huge financial losses. Due to the

inability to pay its liabilities the process of bankruptcy has started. GoFirst has suspended its flights since May 3 and filed its bankruptcy application. Similarly, SpiceJet company, holding the fifth position in the civil

aviation sector is also going through a financial crisis. The airline is also grappling with several technical glitches in its planes and for this, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the company to ground 10 of its Boeing-737 Max planes. From the first quarter of 2022-23, the company has been reeling under losses due to rising fuel costs, inflation and rupee devaluation, apart from its failure to fix technical glitches. Although the company has not given up, its services are disrupted.

SpiceJet and Go-First used to give tough competition to big companies like IndiGo and Tata Group's sector. vistara and Sir Asia Indigo and Tata group companies are facing much less competition after GoFirst and SpiceJet got into trouble. For this reason, these companies are increasing the airfares indiscriminately. Although taking cognizance of this matter, the Central Government has also given instructions to these companies not to increase the fares, but that too couldn't fix the problem significant-

HOW TO STOP RISING AIR-

After the private sector was allowed into the aviation sector, generally, the decision of airfares has been left to the airlines so that they can fix the prices according to the market and do not suffer unnecessary losses and there is a healthy development of this sector. Competition among a large num-

affordable to a great extent but also led to a healthy growth of the civil aviation sector in general. India's aviation sector has seen the fastest growth in the world in the past. It is worth mentioning that recently the order of nearly 1000 new aircraft by Indian companies, including 550 aircraft by Air India, surprised the whole world.

This reflects the growth story of our civil aviation sector.

But the economic difficulties of the two major airlines have created a crisis in the civil aviation sector now. For a long time, the government has made this process easier by making major changes in the bankruptcy law to provide relief to the promoters of companies trapped in an economic crisis. If both GoFirst and SpiceJet go bankrupt, IndiGo and Tata Group will virtually have a monopoly in the aviation

In such a situation, the benefit

of development and competition in the aviation sector in the last two decades, which the common man was getting in the form of affordable air travel, will now end. As a result, the public was getting the benefit of competition. Since Air India, the only public sector airline, is now a part of the Tata group, saving GoFirst and SpiceJet has become even more important to retain competition in the aviation sector. It's important to understand that these companies are in trouble not because of financial vagaries but because of negligence and misconduct by multinational aircraft and engine manufacturers. These companies have to be taken to task at the highest level, rather than allowing them to ruin our efficiently run airlines. In such a situation, the intervention of the Government of India in this matter becomes even more

Imbibe yoga in its true spirit on the International Yoga Day

Yoga is incomplete without Pratyahara (withdrawal of the senses), Dhyana (meditation) and Dharana (focused concentration)

¬he history of Yoga in Indian culture is more than five thousand years old. Many complex physical diseases and mental disorders can be cured by various yoga asanas, pranayama, deep breathing, meditation, and mindfulness. There is also improvement in the personality. Due to these benefits, the popularity of yoga as a preventive therapy is increasing progressively all over the world. Yoga counsellors have been appointed in allopathic hospitals in many countries around

the world including India. The global popularity of yoga is not without reason, psychologists and doctors themselves have wholeheartedly accepted its positive effects on the body and mind. In the transition period of



Covid-19, one can lead a stress-free and happy life by practising yoga. This unique way of life of the Indian sages teaches a person to live happily and also provides liberation to those who move forward on the path of Yoga. The sages created this knowledge for self-welfare so that they can get freedom from the hassle of worldly traffic and lead a prosperous life.

Today, yoga is being spread more in the context of health protection than from a spiritual perspective. There are three stages of yoga education - medicine, immortality, and salvation. After the scientific interpretation of Yoga Vidya, it is being used significantly all over the world to make the body healthy as well as to get rid of mental dis-

According to a research work published in May 2020, in a prestigious research journal, the Indian Journal of Psychiatry', the Lab for Molecular Reproduction and Genetics of the Anatomy Department of AIIMS and the Department of Psychiatry together concluded that the treatment of depressed patients due to genetic causes is also possible through yoga.*

Under this research, a comparative study was done by a group of doctors on 160 patients undergoing treatment for depression. They were divided into two groups of 80 each - One group was restricted to medicine only, while the other group was made to practice yoga asanas for twelve weeks along with medicinal

treatment. On completion of the research work, blood samples from both groups were tested. The report gave astounding results. Only 29% of the patients taking only the medicines benefitted, on the contrary, 60% of those who practised yoga along with medicines availed benefits.

*The Corona epidemic resulted in a rapid increase in the patients of depression in all the countries of the world.

By the research of AIIMS, Dr Reema Dada suggested that practising asanas like Surya Namaskar, Mayurasana, Vrikshasana, Tadasana, Bhujangasana, Janushirasana, Pawanmuktasana, Shalabhasana, Paschimottanasana, Anulom-Vilom Pranayama, Bhramari, Kapalbhati can significantly help in curing depression and other diseases ike arthritis.

Mayurasan and Ardhamatsyendrasan are considered a panacea for diabetes and abdominal disorders. Apart from physical and mental balance, yoga is also effective in maintaining efficiency, a well-organized routine, and a lifestyle. Yoga has special importance in changing the sanskaras of the mind.

Although India has had many sages of Yoga, the most famous and prominent among them is Maharishi Patanjali. Today, yoga is directly related to disease prevention, keeping the body flexible and healthy. In reality, this is not yoga but only a means of 'Ashtayoga' of Patanjali Yogasutra. Patanjali has specifically defined yoga in

avrittinirodha' i.e., restraining the violent and malevolent instincts of the mind by practicing Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dhyana, and Dharana respectively.

On International Yoga Day, emphasis is given to the practice of physical postures and workouts. There is hardly any discussion on Pratyahara (withdrawal of the senses), Dhyana (meditation), and Dharana (focused concentration). Yoga is incomplete without imbibing these three steps of the Yogasutra. It paves the way to make a person's body, mind, subconscious and soul work smoothly in one rhythm. It is a method of establishing an interrelationship between man and nature. Patanjali was the Yoga Sutras – 'Yogaschitt- an intense psychologist; he

observed that man's personal life is full of sorrows. These sorrows are directly related to the change in the mind and so. Patanjali talks about living a disciplined life by methodically practicing the middle way of meditation — Ashtanga

However, in today's era, yoga is associated with Hinduism, and there is also an attempt to take political advantage of it. But the concept of yoga was born even when the concept of religion was not clear and is used for thousands of years to get rid of physical distress and worldly sorrows. Thus, it is propagated today at the international level due to its positive impact on the health of human beings and the welfare

(The writer is a Yoga Expert and Naturopathist. Views *expressed are personal*)

Xi, Blinken agree on 'some specific issues'

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping who said an agreement on "some specific issues" has been reached during the extensive talks between the top diplomats of the two countries amidst tense ties.

After hours of uncertainty, Blinken met Xi on the last day of his two-day high-stakes visit during which the Chinese president spoke of an agreement without providing any details. Blinken is the highest-level US official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office, and the first secretary of state to make the trip in five years.

His opening remarks, Xi said that China's top diplomat and Director of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Qin Gang described their talks with Blinken as candid and in-

Xi said China has made its position clear and both sides had reached an agreement on



Beijing on Monday.

"some specific issues" but did

The Chinese side has made its position clear, and the two sides have agreed to "follow through with the common understanding President Joe

Biden and I had reached in Bali," state-run CGTN quoted

President Xi as saying. "The two sides also made progress and reached an agreement on some specific issues,"

"State-to-state interactions should always be based on mutual respect and sincerity. I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, could make a positive contribution to stabilising China-US relations," he

tainty about the Xi-Blinken meeting which further highlighted the fraught US-China

A failure to schedule a face-to-face meeting would have been seen by Washington as a slight, breaking with a number of previous visits from top American diplomats, CNN reported.

reported.

It finally took place after Blinken's three-hour-long meeting with China's top diplomat Wang Yi, who is regarded as Xi's top foreign policy advi-

Xi told Blinken that the world needs a generally stable China-US relationship, and whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future of human-

The Chinese, like the Americans, are dignified, confident and self-reliant people, and they both have the right to pursue a better life, he said.

Noting that the common

respective success is an opportunity instead of a threat to each other, Xi said the two countries should act with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world, and handle China-US relations properly, according to an official press release.

Xi stressed that majorcountry competition does not represent the trend of the times, still less can it solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. Refuting the US perception

that China is a competitor, Xi said China respects US interests and does not seek to challenge or displace it.

In the same vein, the US needs to respect China and must not hurt China's legitimate rights and interests. Neither side should try to shape the other side by its own will, still less deprive the other side of its legitimate right to

New trial begins for Navalny

AP MELOKHOVO

Tmprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny went on trial on Monday on new charges of extremism that could keep him behind bars for decades. The trial opened at a maximum security penal colony in Melekhovo, 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of Moscow, where Navalny, 47, is serving a nine-year sentence for fraud and contempt of court charges he says are politically motivated.

Navalny, who exposed official corruption and organised major anti-Kremlin protests, was arrested in January 2021 upon returning to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin.

Navalny, wearing his prison garb, looked gaunt at the session but spoke emphatically about the weakness of the state's case and gestured ener-

Navalny has said the new extremism charges, which he rejected as "absurd", could keep him in prison for another 30 years. He said an investigator told him that he would also face a separate military trial on terrorism charges that could potentially carry a life sentence.

Monday's trial came amid
a sweeping Russian crackdown
on dissent amid the fighting in Ukraine, which Navalny has harshly criticised.

The Moscow City Court, which opened the hearing at

Penal Colony No. 6, didn't allow reporters in the courtroom and they watched the proceedings via video feed from a separate building. Navalny's parents also were denied access to the court and followed the hearing remotely.

Navalny and his lawyers urged the judge to hold an open trial, arguing that authorities are eager to suppress details of the proceedings to cover up the weakness of the case. "The investigators, the prosecutors and the authorities in general don't want the public to know about the trial," Navalny said.

Prosecutor Nadezhda Tikhonova asked the judge to conduct the trial behind closed doors, citing security concerns.



media room was then cut, but it wasn't immediately clear if it was because the judge decided to close the trial or if it was for another reason.

The new charges relate to the activities of Navalny's anticorruption foundation and statements by his top associates. His allies said the charges retroactively criminalise all the activities of Navalny's foundation since its creation in 2011.

One of Navalny's associates, Daniel Kholodny, was relocated from a different prison to face trial alongside Navalny has spent months

in a tiny one-person cell, also called a "punishment cell", for purported disciplinary viola-tions such as an alleged failure to properly button his prison clothes, properly introduce himself to a guard or to wash his face at a specified time.

Navalny's associates and supporters have accused prison authorities of failing to provide him with proper medical assistance and voiced concern about his health.

As Navalny's trial opened, the Prosecutor General's office declared the Bulgaria-based Agora human rights group to be an "undesirable" organisa-

It said the group poses a "threat to the constitutional order and national security" by alleging human rights violations and offering legal assistance to members of the opposition movement.

authorities have banned dozens of domestic and foreign nongovernmental organisations on similar grounds. In Berlin, the German government criticized the trial of Navalny and reiterated its call for his immediate release.

Embassies of UAE and Qatar reopen

AP DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates and Qatar announced the reopening of their embassies on Monday following a yearslong rift. The two countries issued statements saying the Qatari Embassy in Abu Dhabi and a Qatari Consulate in Dubai, as well as an Emirati Embassy in Qatar's capital, Doha, had resumed operations. The statements did not say if ambassadors were in place or if the missions were open to the

The two countries' foreign ministers spoke by phone to congratulate one another on the reopening of the diplomatic missions, Qatar said.

The UAE joined Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt in imposing a boycott and blockade of Qatar in 2017, in large part over its engagement with and support of Islamist groups across the Middle East that gained power immediately after the Arab Spring protests in

hinese Premier Li Qiang has

Cstarted a visit to Germany

and France that comes as

cerns over economic depen-

dence on China and about its

Frank-Walter Steinmeier on

Monday. He and a large delega-

tion of Chinese ministers will

meet with Chancellor Olaf

also will meet business repre-

Party secretary for Shanghai,

took office in March as China's

No. 2 official. It was part of a

once-a-decade change of gov-

ernment that installed lovalists

of Chinese leader Xi Jinping to

enforce his vision of tighter

political control over the econ-

and Germany consider how

best to handle an increasingly

The visit comes as Europe

Li, a former Communist

sentatives.

The other Arab countries in the Persian Gulf view such groups as terrorists — includ-Muslim Egypt's Brotherhood, which won free and fair elections but was ousted after a year's divisive rule.

Qatar, which like the other Arab countries is a close ally of the United States, has repeatedly denied supporting terror groups. It has also served as a key intermediary in US negotiations with the Palestinian militant group Hamas and the Afghan Taliban. The unprecedented diplo-

matic crisis among the normally friendly Gulf Arab countries initially sparked fears of armed conflict. But Qatar's gas riches, and close ties to Turkey and Iran, largely insulated it from the economic sanctions, and relations slowly thawed.

The boycott was officially lifted in January 2021. Late last year, Qatar welcomed visiting leaders from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE as it hosted soccer's World Cup.

Qiang begins 1st trip abroad

Japan's emperor meets Indonesian **President Widodo**



apanese Emperor Naruhito met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday, the third day of his first official foreign trip since ascending the Chrysanthemum Throne in 2019.

Widodo and Indonesia's first lady, Iriana, welcomed Naruhito and Empress Masako at the Bogor presidential palace, along with greeters wearing Indonesian traditional clothes and a military band that played both national

"I feel very honoured because Indonesia is the first destination for the Japanese emperor's bilateral state visit abroad," Widodo said.

Braverman ramps up stop & search to crack down on knife crime in UK

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman on Monday gave her "full support" to police to ramp up the use of stop and search powers to crack down on knife crime and prevent attacks in the country. The intervention comes days after three separate incidents of knife attacks in England, which claimed the lives of three people of Indian heritage. A knife attack in north London ended in the fatal stabbing of 27-yearold student Tejaswini Kontham from Hyderabad last Tuesday, the same day as another fatal stabbing in Nottingham of British Indian teenager Grace O'Malley Kumar. On Friday, 38-year-old Aravind Sivakumar from Kerala was found stabbed to death outside an apartment in south London. Suspects in all three knife crime cases are currently in custody and charged with murder. "Carrying weapons is a scourge on our society. And anyone



lives as well as the lives of those around them. This dangerous culture must be brought to a stop," said Braverman in a

"My first priority is to keep the public safe and people who insist on carrying a weapon must know that there will be consequences. The police have my full support to ramp up the use of stop and search, wherever necessary, to prevent violence and save more lives," she

said. The UK Home Office also released statistics that show that last year, 99 young people lost their lives to knife crime in England and Wales, and 31 of those victims were black. It said that black males are, therefore, disproportionately more likely to be killed by violence and knife crime. It said though the government recognises black males are more likely to be stopped and searched, the first priority must be on prevention

CPN (MC), 3

other parties form Socialist Front Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'led CPN (Maoist Centre) and three other Left parties on Monday jointly announced the formation of a socialist front. The ruling parties - CPN (Maoist Centre), People's Socialist Party (JSP) and CPN (Unified Socialist) Party - and CPN Communist Party (JSP), which is not in the government, signed

Memorandum Understanding (MoU) at an event here to form the Socialist Front Nepal. The MoU was signed by CPN Chairman Prachanda, JSP Chairman Chand. According to party sources, initial preparations are being made to create a two-level structure to operate the front while long-term preparations are being made for the formation of a coordination committee consisting of top leaders.

UN: Russia won't let aid workers go into area of dam collapse

■ said on Monday that UN aid workers who want to visit areas ravaged by the recent Kakhova dam collapse in southern Ukraine can't go there because fighting in the war makes it unsafe.

The United Nations rebuked Moscow on Sunday for allegedly denying aid workers access to Russia-occupied areas where residents are stranded amid "devastating destruction". The UN humanitarian

coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown, said in a statement that her staff were engaging with both Kyiv and Moscow, which control different parts of the area, in a bid to reach civilians in need. They face a shortage of drinking water and food and a lack of power. Brown urged Russian

authorities "to act in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law" and let them in.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov didn't explicit-

ly admit that Russia had occupied flood zones. blocked UN access, but told a Exclusive drone photos and conference call with reporters that Ukrainian attacks made a visit too risky.

There has been constant shelling, constant provocations, civilian facilities and the civilian population have come under fire, people have died, so it's really difficult to ensure their security," Peskov

His comments came amid varying accounts by survivors of the quality of assistance that Russia is providing in areas it controls. The dam lies on the Dnieper River, which forms the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces on the eastern and western banks, respectively.

Many evacuees and residents accuse Russian authorities of doing little or nothing to help. Some civilians said that evacuees were sometimes forced to present Russian passports if they wanted to leave.

On the Ukrainian side, rescuers are braving Russian snipers as they rush to ferry Ukrainians out of Russia-

information obtained by The Associated Press indicate that Moscow had the means, motive and opportunity to blow up the dam, which was under Russian control, earlier this month.

The explosion occurred as Ukraine mustered for a counteroffensive. Kyiv's forces have intensified attacks along the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line recently.

Some analysts saw the dam breach as a Russian effort to thwart Ukraine's counteroffensive in the Kherson region.

The UK Defence Ministry said on Monday that Russia has recently redeployed sever-al thousand troops from the banks of the Dnieper to buttress its positions in the Zaporizhzhia and Bakhmut sectors, which reportedly have seen heavy fighting. The move "likely reflects Russia's perception that a major Ukrainian attack across the Dnieper is now less likely" following the dam's collapse, the ministry

Suspect in custody after 4 fatally shot at: Report

Kellogg (US): Police in Idaho arrested a suspect in a shooting that killed four people on Sunday, according to a news report. The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post that it responded with the Kellogg Police Department to a residence in Kellogg around 7:30 pm. Police found four people who died of gunshot wounds, news reports said. The shooting occurred at multi-dwelling units behind the Mountain View Congregational Church in the city about 36 miles (58 kilometers) east of Coeur d'Alene, the Shoshone News-Press reported on the newspaper's Facebook page. The Idaho State Police said a 31-year-old man was detained, KXLY-TV reported. A neighbour at the scene told the TV station that there was an ongoing dispute between neighbours at the location. The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office said the Kellogg Police Department and the state police were leading the investi-

stance toward Ukraine and Taiwan with a desire to engage Beijing on issues such as climate change.Li, on his first trip abroad since taking office, was received by German President

Scholz and their German coun-Qiang for a meeting at Bellevue Palace in Berlin, Germany on Monday. terparts on Tuesday, the seventh time the two countries have held assertive China. Scholz has such government consultations. Top officials from both sides

advocated a balanced approach, calling for "derisking" — seeking to avoid overreliance on Chinese trade and material by diversifying Berlin's partners but roundly rejecting the idea "decoupling."

The Group of Seven leading industrial powers echoed that position last month. "The G7 has no interest in impeding China's economic rise, and at the same time we are looking closely to avoid dangerous economic dependencies," Scholz said

China has been Germany's biggest single trading partner in recent years, though it was only iust ahead of the United States in this year's first quarter. In Germany's first national security strategy, presented last week, the government says it views China as "a partner, competitor and systemic rival.

It says that "elements of rivalry and competition have increased in recent years; at the same time China remains a partner without which many of the most pressing global challenges can't be solved."

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, right, welcomes Chinese Premier Li

Upendra Yadav, CPN Chairman Madhav Nepal and CPN General Secretary Netra Bikram

Sunak shares homemade barfi with Zelenskyy

PTI ■ LONDON

omy and society.

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak revealed that he}}$ shared some barfi (Indian sweet) made by his mother with Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Downing Street recently, hours before his latest phone call with the Ukrainian president on

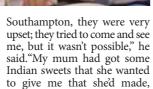
Monday. The 43-year-old British Indian leader posted a reel over the weekend on his official Instagram account of an interview during which he shared the moment his mother Usha's homemade delicacy was enjoyed by the Ukrainian leader.

The incident goes back to last month when Sunak made a quick visit to his hometown of Southampton to launch a new government scheme for the



state-funded National Health Service (NHS) to expand the role of high street pharmacies.

"They [parents] were upset because I had come to visit the pharmacy that my mum ran earlier in the week, I hadn't told I was back in



called barfi, that she couldn't

give me then but then she man-

aged to give them to me at a football match, which was important to her.

"Oddly enough, I saw President Zelenskyy on the Monday after that, and he and I were chatting, and he was hun-gry. So, I actually gave him some of my mum's barfi... she was thrilled by that," he said.

Sunak has often spoken about his family-run Sunak Pharmacy in the southern England port city of Southampton, where he was born and helped out his mother as a schoolboy.

"When I talk about the
NHS, I'm talking about my

family's calling. My dad [Yashvir] was a doctor, and I grew up working in the pharmacy... with my mum," he said

'It was hell': Hostage freed after years in Africa recounts ordeal, frustrations with US response

AP WASHINGTON

The Islamic extremists drove up to the American missionary's home in Niger under the cover of evening, gunning down two guards who stood watch. Jeff Woodke recalls seeing the muzzle blasts and hearing the screams before being thrown into a pickup truck that then sped away. So began more than six years of captivity, a period in which he says he was beaten, locked in chains for hours a day and pressured repeatedly to convert to Islam and endured self-imposed hunger strikes. "It was hell," said Woodke, 62, who was released in March. "I think the hardest part was knowing that my family, if they were alive, they were suffering too."

As time progressed, he said, he began to feel that "it's better for me to be dead than continue putting them through suf-



fering. And that feeling grew and grew and grew. The last year I was there, I was askng them to kill me".

But the ordeal, he and his wife say, was compounded by years of frustrating inter-

actions with the US government back They say they believe FBI officials withheld information about negotiations

with the captors and provided what they felt was inadequate help and guidance about raising money for a ransom.

The agitation boiled over in a Zoom call weeks before Woodke's release when his wife, Els, said she vented to Secretary

of State Antony Blinken about a ransom process she asserted favoured the rich. "I said, if it was you that had been kidnapped, you would be free in a week

because your wife is free to take from your money and buy you free," she recalled say-"So because you are rich, you can pay

the ransom. But a poor person is never able

'Won't surrender even if they put me in jail'

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has said he will continue fighting for the rule of law in the country, asserting that he will neither strike a deal nor surrender even if the government puts him in iail.

Addressing the nation via YouTube on Sunday evening, Khan said his fight is for the better future of his country and its people. "I will neither make a deal nor surrender even if they put me in jail. I will continue fighting for the rule of law and a better future for the people of my country," Khan said.

The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-insaf (PTI) party chief travelled to Islamabad from Lahore on Monday to seek an extension to his prearrest bail in 19 cases.

Khan is facing over 140 cases. The cases mostly relate to terrorism, inciting the public to violence, arson attacks, blasphemy, attempted murder, corruption and fraud.

Meanwhile, police in Lahore arrested 30 PTI workers, including former football star Shumaila Sattar, on Sunday for trying to meet Khan at his



Zaman Park residence in Lahore, a police officer said on Monday.

Sattar was a former member of the national women's football team.

A senior lawyer, who is a petitioner against the trial of civilians in the military courts, was also "abducted" after he met with Khan in Lahore, the officer said.

The Lahore police said that Sattar has been arrested in connection with the attack on Corps Commander House in Lahore on May 9.

She was identified through geo-fencing and sent to jail on

Khan has also said senior advocate of the Supreme Court Aziz Bhandhari has been

Park residence the other day. He said Advocate Bhandhari had filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the trial of civilians in military

This is a complete martial law in the country," he said. The 30 PTI workers, who

were freed from jail in connection with the May 9 violence, wanted to see Khan and have been re-arrested under the public disorder act. Widespread violence

erupted in Pakistan after Khan was arrested by paramilitary personnel inside the Islamabad High Court on May 9. He was later released on bail. Over 20 military installations and state buildings

including military headquarters in Rawalpindi were damaged or torched in the violent protests that followed Khan's arrest. According to PTI, law enforcement agencies arrested over 10,000 party workers

across Pakistan, mostly from

Over 300 Pakistanis feared dead in Greece boat tragedy

More than 300 Pakistani nationals are feared to have been killed after an overcrowded boat with around 750 people on board sank off the coast of Greece, a senior leader has said, even as at least 12 persons suspected of human trafficking were arrested from dif-

ferent parts of Pakistan. At least 400 Pakistanis, 200 Egyptians and 150 Syrians, including around two dozen Syrian women and young children were on the packed boat when it capsized in open seas off Greece last week. Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani disclosed the numbers on Sunday and sent condolences to the grieving families of the dead. Chairman Senate of

Pakistan Sanjrani deeply mourns the tragic loss of over 300 Pakistani lives in the recent boat accident off the coast of Greece, his office said in a tweet. "With heavy hearts, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the grieving families during this time of immense sorrow and grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we pray that the departed souls find eternal peace," he said.

"This devastating incident underscores the urgent need to address and condemn the abhorrent act of illegal human trafficking," he said. Pakistan's Foreign Office said on Saturday that 12 Pakistanis had been found alive as National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf urged the government to "immediately investigate" the incident. The Greece boat tragedy has exposed the refugee crisis confronting the European Union as tens of thousands seek sanctuary from war, persecution and poverty. The number of Pakistanis traversing dangerous routes to Europe in search of a better future has reverberated through the country, prompting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to declare Monday a national day of mourning for those who died in the boat's sinking.

Taking to Twitter on Sunday, Sharif ordered a "highlevel inquiry" into the incident. "I assure the nation that those found negligent towards their duty will be held to account. Responsibility will be fixed after the inquiry and heads will roll," Sharif wrote.

N Korea vows second launch of spy satellite

Top North Korean officials vowed to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as they called their country's first, and failed, launch last month "the most serious" shortcoming this year and harshly criticized those responsible, state media reported on Monday.

In late May, a North Korean rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite crashed soon after liftoff, posing a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to acquire a space-based surveillance system to better monitor the United States and South Korea. The failed launch and

North Korean efforts to modernise its weapons arsenal were discussed extensively at a threeday ruling party meeting that ended on Sunday, with the presence of Kim and other top A lengthy Korean Central

News Agency dispatch on the meeting didn't clearly say who spoke, but said a report to the meeting "bitterly criticised the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for (the) satellite launch".

The report set forth tasks



program, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Monday. Agencies

for officials and scientists to learn the lessons of the failed launch, find what caused the rocket's crash and make a successful launch in a short span of time, KCNA said. It didn't say exactly when

North Korea might attempt a second launch. But South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that it would take likely take "more than several weeks" for North Korea to determine what went wrong in the failed launch.

North Korea monitoring

groups haven't reported any purges or dismissals of scientists or others involved in the failed launch.

A spy satellite is among several high-tech military assets Kim has publicly vowed to acquire to cope with what he calls US-led hostility.

Other weapon's systems Kim wants to possess are a multi-warhead missile, a nuclear submarine, a solidpropellant intercontinental ballistic missile and a hypersonic

Rushdie awarded

German prize

for his literary

work, resolve

Wages are rising in Japan more than they have in decades, at least for some workers. But so are prices, leaving many people feeling they must scrimp more than ever.

In May, the consumer price index was up 3.2 per cent from a year earlier, well above the central bank's target of about 2 per cent. That's great news for policymakers trying to get the world's third largest economy out of the doldrums by keeping credit super cheap to spur demand and push prices high-But a government survey of

companies with five or more employees found real wages, taking into account higher prices, fell 3 per cent from the a year earlier in April, marking the 13th straight month of

Although all the major companies have raised wages this year, with large labour union members landing a 4 per cent hike, the highest in 30 years, a quarter of small and medium-size businesses employers of more than twothirds of all workers — gave no think tank Tokyo Shoko

"My wages haven't gone up at all," said Kyoko Sano, a salesclerk at a Tokyo depart-

Sano feels a bit of a jolt when a cashier rings up her purchases and angst when she checks out prices of her favourite cookies, potato chips, rice crackers and drinks. Prices have all jumped, and the usual

discount offerings have disappeared. Her electricity bill eps climbing.

There's no point in buying things like body lotion in advance before their prices rise. Pretty soon you run out, and you end up having to go them, anyway. There's an expiration date on cosmetics,"

Japanese workers make less across the board than their counterparts in the US and Europe. A graph comparing wages for the last several years shows the line for Japan going straight across from left to right. In other nations, including the US, they climb gradually higher.

Average pay in Japan is about three-fourths of the OECD average of about USD 51,000. Hourly rates for workers in many Tokyo service jobs average about 1,300 yen (ÚSD 9.30) an hour, up from the previous 1,000 yen (USD 7.10) an hour. They're lower in most of the country.

So while a barista in New York makes about USD 22,500 a year, according to Intuit, one in Tokyo makes 2.19 million Research Institute data show. In theory, a vibrant economy is supposed to lead to higher prices and wages. But purchasing power has to keep up to sustain consumer demand. It's unclear that today's inflationary pressures, set off by the rising costs for oil and other commodities, will spur the sort of positive growth cycle Japan's been trying to achieve

Wages rising in Japan 4 killed as Israeli troops clash with Palestinians in West Bank

AP JERUSALEM

sraeli helicopter gunships **▲** struck targets on Monday in the occupied West Bank as a gunbattle raged in the city of Jenin between Israeli troops and militants, killing four Palestinians, including a 15year-old boy, officials said. The violence marked a rare use of Israeli airpower in the territory. During the clashes, Palestinian militants detonated a roadside bomb next to an Israeli military vehicle.

At least 45 Palestinians were wounded, five seriously. The Israeli military said seven members of the paramilitary border police and the army suffered light and moderate wounds. The escalation was

accused of being migrant

smugglers in a case involving

the sinking of a fishing trawler

last week that killed at least 80

people and left hundreds more

number of people packed on

the dilapidated fishing trawler

rescued when the boat cap-

sized and sank in interna-

at around 700-750.

Estimates have put the

A total of 104 people were

the latest in more than a year of near-daily violence that has wrecked the West Bank. The Israeli military said

troops came under a "massive exchange of fire" during an arrest raid in Jenin and shot back at Palestinian gunmen.

"As the security forces exited the city, a military vehicle was hit by an explosive device, damaging the vehicle," the army said, adding that helicopters "opened fire toward the gunmen in order to assist in extraction of the forces".

Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said that hours after the initial firefight, the army had flooded the area with troops in order to extract personnel

A court in southern Greece 78 bodies were recovered. A given over the weekend. Search and rescue operation The Egyptians, who

finding more survivors are

found Monday in the area of

the search, Greece's coast

guard said. It added that they

were being taken to the south-

ern port of Kalamata ahead of

postponed the Egyptians' hear-

ing until Tuesday to give them

and their lawyers time to

The court in Kalamata

identification efforts.

Another two bodies were

pinned down in five disabled vehicles at the scene, describing it as an "evacuation" oper-

"We're bringing in heavy equipment to get these vehicles out," Hecht told reporters. The militants' use of a roadside bomb in the West Bank was 'very unusual and dramatic," Hecht said, adding that it may affect future military strategy in the territory.

Unconfirmed amateur video footage from Jenin appeared to show a roadside explosive targeting an Israeli armoured vehicle.

Another video posted online appeared to show Israeli military helicopter launching a rocket during the ongoing

Greek court defers hearing for smuggling suspects

The Egyptians, who were

bers of a smuggling ring by

some of the survivors, face

charges of participating in a

criminal organisation, causing

a shipwreck and endangering

lives. Relatives of the boat

passengers gathered outside

the courthouse, shouting the

names of their loved ones,

a migrant holding center in Malakasa, north of the capital,

Other relatives arrived at

tional waters off the coast of review the testimonies of nine

Greece last Wednesday, while Syrian and Pakistani survivors,

SLPP says will keep supporting Wickremesinghe for SL stability

Athens, trying to track down afraid. He said he had no

them.

ered bodies.

Colombo (PTI): The ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party on Monday said it would continue to support former arch-rival Ranil Wickremesinghe as the President has ended the long queues for essentials and has managed the economy better.

Responding to media speculation that serious differences have emerged between the SLPP and Wickremesinghe, party general secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said, "The president was appointed by our parliamentary group having a mandate of 6.9 million."

At the time, we decided to back him as the most suitable to restore law and order and create conditions to do politics freely," Kariyawasam said, recalling that Wickremesinghe

have been on the boat.

and soft drinks.

the facility: they spoke to rel-

atives through the fence, pass-

ing them documents, snacks

Pakistani man living in

Barcelona, didn't know if his

40-year-old uncle, Nadeem

Muhamm, was alive five days

utes before he got on the boat.

I told him not to go. I was

"I spoke to him five min-

after the perilous trip.

Zohaib Shamraiz, a

was appointed through a par-liamentary vote where his 134 vote tally from the 225 assemblies came from a majority of SLPP MPs. Wickremesinghe, 74, took the position vacated by ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who resigned after three months of continued street protests triggered by Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.

"The president has ended

the long queues for essentials and has been able to manage the economy Kariyawasam said. He added that the SLPP party's decision to back Wickremesinghe was based on the recognition that democratic governance in the region existed only in India and Sri Lanka since independence.

Berlin (AP): Writer Salman Rushdie has been awarded a prestigious German prize for

his literary work and for his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger, the prize organisers said Monday. The Peace Prize of the

German Book Trade said the British-American author would receive the award in Frankfurt on Oct 22. Rushdie's writing "combines narrative vision with constant literary innovation, humour and wisdom," the jury said. "He describes the force with which violent regimes destroy whole societies, but also the indestructibility of the individual's spirit of family members known to choice," Shamraiz told The resistance." Last August, Rushdie was stabbed repeatedly while Associated Press. In their last About 20 people were allowed conversation, Muhamm on stage at a literary festival in

> "Despite massive physical and psychological consequences that he is still wrestling with, he continues to write - in an imaginative and deeply human way,

the German jury wrote. "We are honouring Śalman Rushdie for his resolve, his positive attitude to life and for the fact that he enriches the world with his pleasure in narrating." PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all, Usha Ahuja W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar R/o E11/10, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Allottee/owner of DDA SFS Flat No.3086,on Second & Third Floor,Cat-Ill,Pocket-4, Sector-B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Allocation Letter, Demand / Allotment Letter, NOC for Water and Electricity Connection, Site Possession Sip & Other Relevant Documents of the above said flat has been lost.A R.I.R./NC

Amazon, Marriott vow to hire thousands of refugees

Multinational companies including Amazon, Marriott and Hilton pledged on Monday to hire more than 13,000 refugees, including Ukrainian women who have fled the war with Russia, over the next three years in Europe Just ahead of World

Refugee Day on Tuesday, more than 40 corporations say they will hire, connect to work or train a total of 250,000 refugees, with 13,680 of them getting jobs directly in those companies. "Every number is a story of

an individual family who left everything, seeking safety, seeking protection and wanting to be able to rebuild as quickly as possible," said Kelly Clements, UN deputy high commissioner for refugees.

"So the commitments that businesses are going to make on Monday are absolutely essential." She says 110 million people have been displaced worldwide, with an estimated 12 million from Ukraine, nearly half of whom are living in Europe after the continent's largest movement of refugees

since World War II. The hiring push in Europe was organized by the Tent Partnership for Refugees, a nonprofit founded by Chobani



nects businesses and refugees, and is being unveiled at a gathering in Paris. The group's first summit in the US last year led to commitments to hire 22,725

In the new round, Amazon leads the pack, vowing to hire at least 5,000 refugees over the next three years in Europe, followed by Marriott and Hilton with 1,500 each, Starbucks and ISS with 1.000 each, and smaller commitments from brands like Adidas, Starbucks, L'Oreal,

PepsiCo and Hyatt. "This is good for us as a company because the opportunity to add diversity to our workforce will continue to make us a stronger company," said Ofori Agboka, Amazon vice president overseeing sity brings innovation, creativity, different insights." He said the vast majority of

jobs will be hourly roles at fulfilment and storage centres and in transport and delivery. Amazon announced 27,000

job cuts earlier this year, part of a wave of layoffs after tech companies ramped up hiring during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those layoffs primarily affected salaried office jobs, Agboka said. Daria Sedihi-Volchenko fled Kyiv last year and now works in Warsaw, Poland, as a senior programme manager for an Amazon Web Services program providing free tech training for Ukrainians. She says about 40 per cent of those in the programme have no tech background.

Migrants rescued from sailboat in distress

Athens (AP): Greece's coast guard says 68 people have been rescued in the eastern Aegean Sea after the sailboat they were on sent a distress signal while off the coast of island of Leros.

The sailboat, which is believed to have set sail from Turkiye carrying migrants hoping to reach Greece, issued a distress call early Monday, and the passengers were initially picked up by a passing merchant ship before being transferred to a coast guard vessel the coast guard said.

All were safely transported to Leros, and there were no reports of any injuries or people missing. The nationalities of those on board were not immediately available. The sailboat rescue comes

days after a massively overcrowded fishing trawler transporting people from Libya to Italy sank off of western Greece last week, with hundreds of migrants feared drowned. The trawler is believed to

have been carrying around 700 or 750 people when it capsized and sank last Wednesday in international waters west of Greece. So far 104 people have been rescued, and 78 bodies recovered. A search and rescue operation continues in the area, but chances of finding any other survivors are exception-



Greek media reported.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

Admission Notice for PMNET (M.Sc. Nursing) Courses,

session 2023 Prospectus for admission to M.Sc. Nursing courses will be available or university website from 21-06-2023. Online applications are invited for admission in all the Govt./University/Private colleges of Punjab through website upto 05-07-2023. The PMNET for admission to M.Sc. Nursing

course will be conducted on 14-07-2023 Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Goyt, of Puniab will be llowed. For all schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at

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of even on. dated 11.04.2023. Same was published on news paper Indian Express on 13.04.2023 but you have taken no action to commence the alance work / show adequate progress of the work. Since the period of 48 hrs notice has already been expired, the above

contract stands rescinded in term of clause 62 of general condition o contract and the balance work under this contract will be carried ou ndependently without your participation, your individual or a partnership firm/ JV is hereby debarred from participation in the tender for executing the balance work and your security deposit shall be forfeited and Performance Guarantee shall be also be encashed and consequence:

Termination Notice was also sent to your address but It has come to notice that you have changed your address without intimating to this office Hence, Tender Termination Notice is being published in Newspaper. for Sr.Divl. Elect. Engineer/0

N.Rly. New Delhi, For and on behalf of President of India SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

the ship with others by smug-

glers carrying swords, Shamraiz said. "He told me

there were too many people

but if the (passengers) didn't

get on the ship, they would kill

Greece Monday attempting to

trace his uncle and to provide

a DNA sample to crossmatch

the ones retrieved from recov-

Shamraiz travelled to

Public at large hereby inform that my client: Sh. Satbir Singh, S/o Late Ramavtar, and Smt Sarla, W/o Sh. Satbir Singh R/o A23, Ramavta Bhawan,Maidan Garhi,Delhi-110068 have roken their all relation with their son and his milky namely Jatinn Dagar and his wife likshika and their daughter Tawarita due to heir misconduct and misbehavior towards my lients. My clients also debarred their son and is wife from their all movable and immovable wife from their all movable and immovable operties owned by Sh. Satbir Singh and Smt la. Further my clients also declares that m saria. Further my clients also declares that my clients have no control over their son and his amily from today and my clients are not responsible for any act, conduct, behavior, clealings, debt and credit of his son and Daughter-in-law, if any person(s) dealing with them shall be at their own risk, cost and consec-uences, my clients shall not be responsible. It s further informed that my son along with his amily already left my premises in October 2022. RENU KUHAR, Advocate, Chamber no. 10, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-Ol. 10, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-01.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large hereby inform that my client Smt. Ramvati, W/o Late Sh. Jagmal, R/o H.No. D-62, Ambedkar Colony, Chattarpur, South Delhi-110074 has broken her all relation with her both sons and their families namely Sunil Kumar (Younger) and Budh Ram(Elder) and his wife Jyoti and their son Master Bhavishya Rathore due to their misconduct and misbehavior towards my client. My client also debarred her sons Sunil Kumar and her elder son Budh Ram and his wife Jyoti from their all movable and immovable properties owned by Smt. Ramvati. Further my client also declares that my client has no control over her sons and Daughter-in-law from today and my client is not responsible for any act, conduct, behaviour dealings, debt and credit of her both sons and Daughter-in-law Jyoti, if any person(s) dealing with them shall be at their own risk, cost and consequences, my client shall not be responsible to their own risk, cost and consequences my client shall not be responsible to the responsibile to the responsibile their own risk, cost and consequences my client shall not be responsiwith them shall be at their own risk, cost and consequences, my client shall not be responsi-ble. It is further informed that my younger sor already left my premises on 26.05.2023. RENU KUHAR, Advocate, Chamber no. 10, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-01.

General Public is hereby informed that my client **Dr. Hafiz Anwarul Aziz** S/o. Mr. Abdul Aziz R/o. 165-C, 2nd floor, Hadi Apartment, Jogabai, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 has severed all his relations with his son Mr. Mohammad Tayyab Aziz due to his bad habits and behaviour. My Client has also disowned and debarred his said son from all his movable and immovable properties.

immovable properties.

Anybody dealing with the said son of my client will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by said son of my client.

Noor Alam (Advocate)

Noor Alam (Advocate 702, Lawyers Chambers Saket Courts, New Delh

Silp & Other Relevant Documents of the above said flat has been lost An F.I.R./No. 530421/12023 dated 08/06/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No 9810027340 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing)-SFS or Director(H)-SFS, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

Public at large hereby inform that my client Sh. Kanwal Singh S/o Late Bharat Singh and Smt. Sushila Rani,W/o Sh. Kanwal Singh,R/o 88 New Manglapuri Mehrauli Gurgaon Road, New Delhi-110030,have broken their all relation with their son namely litendra kumar and his wife Nisha due to misconduct and misbehavior of Smt. Nisha towards my clients. My clients also debarred their son Jitendra kumar his wife Nisha and their son Master Khusansh from their all movable and immovable properties owned singly as well as jointly by Khusansh from their all movable and immovat le properties owned singly as well as jointly by both 5h. Kanwal Singh and 5m.f. Swishila Rani Further my clients also declares that my clients have no control over their son and his wife Nisha from today and my clients are not responsible for any act, conduct, behavior, dealings, debt and credit of his son and his wife if any person(s) dealing with them shall be at their own risk, cost and consequences, my clients shall not be responsible. It is further informed that my son and his family have already left my premises on 30.05.2023. UMMAKANT KATARIA, Advocate, Chamber no. 35, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-01.

PUBLIC NOTICE **PUBLIC NOTICE** Under MCD Tehbazari No. Thb0122264638 has bee

Lost/misplace During A Covid Time Shifting Fron could not found. The FIR No: LR38815/2023 This MCD Document Under Tehbazari Numbe Thb0122264638 to Re-issue All Documents Related To My Taxi Stand @ Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, link Road Lodhi Colony Opp to CBI Headquater Building Near Electronic Niketan Scope Complex Lodhi Road. If any body found or having the origina

ocum ents against the TEHBAZARINO THB0122264638 as after 15 day from 20.06.2023 no one can claim for any dues against this Tehzbazari Taxi Stand in the name of Mr Nahai Singh Regards: Gurmeet Singh Marwah 9810033174 92, Amar Colony Lajpat Nagar-4, New Delhi-110024

Markets retreat from record highs; Sensex falls 216 pts

quity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to close lower on Monday as investors offloaded telecom, power and utility stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets and profit booking

Besides, intense selling in Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Kotak Bank counters also hit investor sentiments,

After hitting its lifetime high on Friday, the 30-share BSE index fell 216.28 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 63,168.30. During the day, it declined 336.75 points or 0.53 per cent to 63,047.83

The NSE Nifty went lower by 70.55 points or 0.37 per cent to end at 18,755.45. The index registered its lifetime peak of 18,826 on Friday.

There was accelerated selling, particularly in the afternoon trade, dragging the key indices from record highs.

"Indian equities shied away from closing at all-time high levels amid profit-booking, primarily driven by private banks. Global markets also took a breather after a strong rally last week as investors looked forward to China's rate decision and the Fed chair's testimony,' said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest loser from the Sensex pack, skidding 1.83 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI



Bank, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries,

HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank and

Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Infosys, HDFC Bank, HDFC and ITC were the

local markets, as sell-off in global equi-

ty markets triggered profit-taking in

banking, auto, telecom and FMCG

indicators seem to be on the right path, global headwinds would fuel bouts of sell-

ing at regular intervals," Shrikant

Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail),

Among the indices, telecommunica-

Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

In contrast, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj

"Risk-off sentiment prevailed in

"Although India's macroeconomic



tion fell by 1.34 per cent, power dipped by 0.90 per cent, realty (0.85 per cent), utilities (0.89 per cent), bankex (0.84 per cent), commodities (0.56 per cent), FMCG (0.55 per cent) and auto (0.52 per

Bouts of buying were, however, seen in IT, teck, industrial, metal and healthcare sector stocks that capped the losses to some extent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.08 per cent, while the smallcap index climbed 0.24 per cent.

"Global shares drifted lower on Monday, as investors were left disappointed by a lack of policy announcements from China post a State Council meeting on Friday aimed at kickstarting the ailing economy.

'Investors also awaited testimony

from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell in markets that remain dominated by monetary policy bets," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European equity markets were trading in negative territory. The US markets ended lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.38 per cent to USD 76.31 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 794.78 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its lifetime peak of 18,826.

Mandatory footwear quality standards to come into force from Jul 1, curb sub-standard imports: BIS DG

The 24 footwear products

on which the quality standards

will apply include rubber gum boots, PVC sandals, rubber

hawai chappals, slippers, mould-

ed plastic footwear, footwear

used for municipal scavenging

work; sports footwear, derby

shoes and anti-riot shoes, moulded solid rubber soles and

With this, the total number

of footwear products under the

QCO (quality control order) stands at 27 out of 54. The

Indian standards are aligned

wear products will be brought

under the OCO in the next six

months. The work is underway,"

Tiwari said. He also shared that

the BIS has revised five stan-

dards on footwear specifica-

tions, and the industry has been

given an additional time of six

months till January 1, 2024, to

"The rest 27 and other foot-

with the global standards.

heels, among others.

arge and medium-scale footwear manufacturers and all importers will have to follow the mandatory quality standards for 24 footwear and related products from July 1, aimed at curbing sub-standard imports from countries like China.

For small-scale footwear makers, the deadline is January 1, 2024, while for the micro footwear industry, the mandatory quality standards will be applicable from July 1, 2024, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari told reporters

"No further extension will be provided. This QCO will ensure domestic production of quality footwear and check sub standard imports," he said.

The QCO for 24 footwear and related products were notified in October 2020 and thereafter extension was given thrice before making it mandatory for large and medium-scale industries from next month.

The standards prescribe what kind of raw material like leather, PVC, and rubber to be used in manufacturing footwear besides norms on making soles and heels, among other parts of

comply with the QCOs.

Test facilities have been created in 2 BIS labs, 2 Footwear Design and Development

Institute (FDDI) Labs, Central Leather Research Institute and 11 private labs for testing footwear, he added. Apart from this, the BIS Director General said the mandatory compliance of qual-

ity standards for making 'protective clothing for firefighting as well as 'geo-textiles related 19 products' will come into force from October this year. Currently, 470 products are

under the mandatory quality standard regime. BIS has shared another 600 products with ministries for consideration to bring them under the QCO, he added.

The BIS also unveiled a "public call facility" through which one can share suggestions, queries or complaints regarding the BIS initiatives, schemes and other matters. The facility will be active on all working days from 10-11 am. The entire conversa tion will be recorded.

The BIS also launched an online exchange forum 'Manak Rath' on its website to enable users to get connected and share their views. Student members of standards clubs can participate in various activities and competitions and win exciting prizes



PE / VCs investment in India falls 44% to USD 3.5 bn: Report

Drivate equity and venture the country continued to fall in May, with the overall values declining by nearly 44 per cent to USD 3.5 billion, a report said on Monday. The dedicated funds had

invested USD 6.2 billion in May 2022 and USD 7.4 billion in the preceding month of April 2023, representing a dip of 44 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively, as per the report by industry lobby ĪVCA and consultancy firm EY.

"Despite a recovery of sorts being seen in tech sector indices and some of the large global tech names, sentiment in India for tech sector investments has been lacklustre, and fundraising by Indian startups has been sluggish," the firm's partner Vivek

There is a high level of dry powder with the funds courtesy of the large fundraises over the past one-and-a-half years, but most of them are "circumspect with deployment and are focusing significant efforts on managing existing portfolios that are struggling with maintaining growth and margin improvement", he added.

Only healthcare and financial services have witnessed

some investments, Soni said, adding that the medium- to long-term outlook remains posin 2023 will surpass the previous year's number.

In May 2023, the overall deal activity by volume stood at 71 transactions, 42 per cent lower than the year-ago period.

Growth investments declined 4 per cent to USD 1.9 billion across 17 deals, compared to USD 2 billion invested across 19 deals in May 2022, while the pureplay PE/VC (Private equity and venture capital) investments at USD 2 billion across 62 deals was 52 per cent down by

Real estate was the favourite sector for the funds in May 2023, recording USD 1.2 billion in PE/VC investments across seven deals against 12 deals worth USD 1.1 billion in May 2022. The technology sector was the second largest sector, with USD 864 million invested across 15 deals, a 159 per cent rise over

The month recorded 20 exits worth USD 1.8 billion compared to USD 511 million in May 2022 and USD 1.6 billion in Ápril 2023. Funds have raised USD 2.2 billion in the month against USD 745 million in the year-ago period, the report said. ₹2,000 note withdrawal can boost growth by pushing consumption; GDP expansion can exceed 6.5%: Report

The Rs 2,000 note withdrawal decision and response to it so far suggest that the move can help boost FY24 GDP growth to beyond 6.5 per cent estimated by the RBI, a report said on Monday

The real GDP growth for the first quarter of FY24 will come at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias and the Reserve Bank of India's 6.5 per cent estimate can also be exceeded, economists at the country's largest lender SBI said.

We expect Q1 FY24 GDP growth at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias due to the impact of Rs 2000 note withdrawal event...This reinforces our projection that FY24 GDP could be higher than 6.5 per cent, basis the RBI estimate," a note said.

It can be noted that earlier this month, the RBI informed that over half of the currency notes in the denomination have returned back, with 85 per cent of it coming as deposits into banks, while the remaining 15 per cent have been exchanged at bank counters

Based on this experience, the SBI note said the consumption can get a Rs 55,000 crore boost because of the move.

It estimated Rs 3.08 lakh crore to come back as deposits



into the system, of which Rs 92,000 crore will come into saving banks accounts, of which 60per cent will get withdrawn, thus

giving an immediate increase in consumption at Rs 55,000 crore. In the long run, the boost

because of the consumption multiplier, it added. One of the major benefits

of withdrawal of Rs 2000 note might be the immediate uptick in consumption demand," the report said

It is expected that highvalue amounts could move to high-value spends, such as gold/jewellery, high-end consumer durables like AC, mobile phones, and real estate, according to the note.

It cited reports of an increase in fuel payments and cash on delivery, with online food aggregator Zomato reporting threefourths of users opting for cash payments by Rs 2,000 notes.

The SBI economists also said that the RBI move is expected to increase donations to temples and other religious institutions through Rs 2,000 notes and will push sundry purchases like consumer durables and boutique furniture.

As per the note, the RBI's retail central bank digital currency (CBDC), which is being tested in a close user group already, will also benefit from the move to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes.

The absence of higher denomination note should propel faster adoption of E-RUPI for merchant transactions, concurrent with physical fiat currency,"



Maruti Suzuki opens bookings for Invicto

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday opened bookings for its upcoming premium three-row utility vehicle Invicto.

The vehicle, which will be launched on July 5, can be booked with a payment of Rs 25,000 from the company's premium retail outlet NEXA showrooms or through online, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a regulatory filing.

The Invicto will mark the company's entry into the premium three-row segment, as it looks to gain a foothold in the above Rs 20 lakh segment with the new model after having attained leadership in the Rs 15-20 lakh vehicle segment last fisAccording to MSI Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava, the three-row SUV/MPV seg-ment stood at around 2.58 lakh units last fiscal with vehicles priced over Rs 20 lakh accounting for around 1.2-1.25 lakh units. The company is targeting customers who want a premium

three-row vehicle with the characteristics of SUV and MPV

MSI will source the strong hybrid model from Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) as part of a global collaboration between Toyota and Suzuki. TKM already sells Innova HyCross in the domestic market and the same would be supplied to MSI with certain changes in design and other elements.

Airbnb inks pact with Tourism Ministry to promote heritage stays, cultural tourism

PTI NEW DELHI

Online accommodation hosting platform Airbnb on Monday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Tourism to showcase India's heritage stays and promote cultural tourism.

The company will partner the ministry in its vision to promote inbound tourism as a part of its 'Visit India 2023' initiative and under the MoU, it will launch a dedicated 'Soul of India' microsite for the global audience showcasing India's rich culture and built heritage, Airbnb said in a regulatory fil-

Additionally, Airbnb will also offer support to hosts in untapped tourist areas, assist them in promoting their homestays, build host capacity, and foster a culture of responsible hosting, it added.

Under the MoU, Airbnb will endeavour to train hospitality micro-entrepreneurs in



emerging destinations that are part of the ministry's flagship scheme, the company said, adding, it would also share travel and homestay insights with the ministry for informed responsible tourism policies and

training requirements. Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy said Airbnb's global reach will provide enhanced visibility to India's unique and varied accommodation offerings and enable travellers an opportunity to experience the country's rich heritage first-hand.

This partnership will con-

tribute to the growth of inbound tourism, create economic opportunities for local communities and position India uniquely on the global tourism map," he

added. Airbnb General Manager India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan Amanpreet Bajaj said, "This MoU represents an important collaboration towards unlocking new economic and social opportunities through tourism in India while bolstering the Incredible India brand and bringing the richness of what India has to offer to even more international travellers."

showcasing their exceptional

capabilities and immense poten-



Gold falls ₹70; silver jumps ₹230

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price eased by Rs 70 to Rs 60,140 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday amid a fall in the precious metal prices overseas, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 60,210 per 10 gram in the previous

trade. Silver, however, jumped Rs 230 to Rs 73,280 per kilogram. "Gold weakened on Mon-day, with spot gold in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,140/10 gram, down Rs 70 per 10 gram,"

Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In international markets, gold was trading lower at USD 1,954 per ounce, while silver was

up at USD 24.02 per ounce. The dollar index recovered from a five-week low and is trad-

ing at 101.96, up 0.12 per cent against its previous close, which also weighed on gold prices,

NTPC BARAUNI HONOURED

NEW DELHI: NTPC Barauni has achieved a significant milestone by securing the first rank in the esteemed National Awards for Water Resources Conservation and Management. The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. bestowed this prestigious accolade upon NTPC Barauni in the Best Industry Category.



charge of C&MD of National Fertilizers Limited.

Rupee falls 3 paise to 81.93 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 3 paise to close at 81.93 against the US dollar on Monday amid strong American currency against major rivals overseas.

However, the inflow of foreign funds into local equities and a downward trend in crude price capped the fall in the domestic unit, forex traders

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened lower at 81.93 and moved in the range of 82.01 to

81.90 during intra-day. The unit settled at 81.93 (provisional) against the US

dollar, reflecting a loss of 3

paise over the previous close.
On Friday, the rupee settled at 81.90 against the dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.29 per cent at 102.54.

Crude oil prices were trading lower, with the benchmark Brent crude slipping 0.16 per cent to USD 76.49 per bar-

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 216.28 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 63,168.30, while broader NSE Nifty fell 70.55 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 18,755.45.

Jagannath wins bronze at Para TT Int'nal Champion

PNS NEW DELHI

Jagannath Mukherjee, working with Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, a (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, represented India and won the Bronze medal in Singles and Mixed Doubles category at the Para Table Tennis International Championship held at Amman,

He is a two-time National Champion & has represented India at Para Asian Championship in Taiwan, Asian Games, Indonesia

operation; to add 700 staff by 2025 $S_{(SLGS)}^{un}$ Life Global Solutions (SLGS) on Monday said it is planning to hire around 700

more new talent in the next two years to augment its operation. SLGS is the innovation hub providing knowledge services and business services to Canadabased financial services firm Sun Life Financial Inc. SLGS operates from both India and the

Philippines. At present, it has a talent pool of around 3,000, operating from two centres in India. Philippines operations have about 2,000 employees. In line with the growth trajectory, SLGS



Sun Life Global Solutions to expand India

Philippines in the next two years, SLGS managing director Гаrun Sareen said.

tial, Sareen said. Talking about the rebrand-Of the total, he said, 70 per ing, he said the new name Sun Life Global Solutions undercent of hiring would be for meeting expanding operations in scores its global impact delivered India. This significant expansion presents a distinct opportunity through developing solutions, experiences and furthering for a skilled workforce in India

With this strategic evolution, SLGS will also reaffirm its position as a key talent hub for technology, operations and client care centre, he told PTI. In addition, he said, the company will also lay focus on

its expertise in key knowledge skills like actuarial, finance services, legal services, risk, and compliance monitoring.

The goal is to build deeper digital relationships and more

personalised experiences, so we can better anticipate and serve our client's unique needs, Sareen said. SLGS plays a key role in driving the organisation's enterprise strategy, he said.

ARGENTINA BEAT INDONESIA 2-0 WITHOUT MESSI

Argentina beat a spirited Indonesia 2-0 in a lucrative friendly in Jakarta on Monday without global superstar Lional Moses star Lionel Messi

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Leandro Paredes opened the scoring after 38 minutes, stepping forward and hitting a rocket into the top corner after staunch defending from the home side.

Messi, the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner and new Inter Miami signing, pulled out of the game after weeks of hype in Indonesia but that didn't stop a raucous crowd in the Gelora Bung Karno stadium. The 149th-ranked home

team were met by roars from a crowd of more than 60,000 that formed a sea of red shirts. Argentina applied pressure from the kick-off, dominating

the ball as Indonesia weathered the storm for the first half an Man City star Julian Alvarez

could have grabbed two goals after Indonesia goalkeeper Ernando Ari Sutaryadi and nat-uralised centre-back Jordi Amat were both caught on the ball in their own box

Wingers Nicolas Gonzalez and Facundo Buonanotte also drew saves from the Indonesian



Argentinian keeper Emiliano Martinez had his own work to do, making a smart low save at the end of the first half before tipping a looping header over the bar as Indonesia pressed for an equaliser.

But Argentina made their pressure count, denting any Indonesian hopes on 55 minutes when Tottenham defender Cristian Romero lost his man to thump home a header.

Argentina were without several other first-choice regulars in Jakarta, including Juventus midfielder Angel Di Maria and Benfica defender Nicolas Otamendi. They beat Australia in another friendly in Beijing last week, with Messi scoring the quickest goal of his career in a

Bringing Argentina to Jakarta for the first senior international match between the two sides cost the Indonesian football association as much as \$5 million, according to local

Indonesians did not get a glimpse of Argentina's modern-day superstar Messi but they were happy to see the world champions play their hometown heroes.

"If Messi came, we would be more excited," said Fahri Satria, a 30-year-old tourism worker. "But it's okay."

Championships debut



IANS LONDON

 $P^{\text{laying in only his third professional tournament on}}$ grass, world No.2 Carlos Alcaraz is gearing up for a highly-anticipated debut at the Queens Championships where he's fighting to earn a maiden title on the

The 20-year-old was scheduled to take to the stage at last vear's edition but was forced to withdraw due to injury.

The Spaniard, who suffered from severe cramps during a French Open semifinal loss to Novak Djokovic, arrived in London on Saturday and quickly took to court in an attempt to adjust from the Parisian clay to the lawns of west London.

"I arrived in London Saturday morning and I had my first practice on grass. I was not able to practise too much at home as we have no grass courts. I need to adapt my movement and shots on the grass, but I am really happy with the practice I have had here," Alcaraz said during his pre-tour-nament press conference on

Coming in off the back of a semifinal appearance at Roland Garros, the Spaniard has had a quick turnaround between leaving the Parisian clay courts behind and finding his game on the grass in West Kensington.

"After the French Open I had four days off to rest a little bit and turn my mind off. I picked up a racket and practiced for three days back at home but that was on a hard court. I tried to make similar movements on the hard courts that you'd make on the grass but obviously it's never the same," he said.

Alcaraz has undoubtedly been a dominant force on both the hard and clay courts over the past 18 months, having clinched seven of his ten ATP titles on the clay and the remaining three on hard courts.

on the grass lays thin, having only played six matches on the surface in his young career, all of which were at the Wimbledon Championships.

Alcaraz enters the tournament as the first seed and is accompanied by a strong contingent of tennis talent, including world No.6 Holger Rune, 2022 Rothesay International Eastbourne champion Taylor Fritz and British No.1 Cam Norrie.

His campaign will get underway on Tuesday with a first-round match up against rising French star Arthur Fils.

Alcaraz ready for Queen's | Man City chairman frustrated by financial cloud

AFP ■ LONDON

Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has voiced his frustration that financial fair play charges are overshadowing the club's success on the pitch, vowing to air his "blunt views" when he can.

Pep Guardiola's team won a historic treble of the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last sea- becoming just the second English side to manage the feat.

City were charged in February with 115 alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial fair play regulations dating back to 2009 and accused of not cooperating in an invention of the product of the cooperating in an invention of the product of investigation. Guardiola last month said he does

not want a cloud hanging over his side's achievements and hopes for a resolution as soon as possible.

Khaldoon, speaking to in-house club media, said he could not com-ment in detail on the charges for legal reasons but would have a "conversation" when the process was complete.

"I'll give you my very blunt views, I promise you that," he said. "I have very strong views on that, but I am he unfortunately restrained today.

"It's very frustrating because it takes so much from the great work that's happening at this club and it's happening not just on the football pitch. The football pitch — what these players have achieved this year, the treble, is incredible.

Khaldoon said City, who have won five of the past six Premier League titles, were "very well run".

Today, the value of this group is over \$6 billion," said. "We've created so much value - we've brought in world-class investors. Why? Because we have a commercial machine here that is one of the best in the world.



Kyrgios has more chance to defeat **Djokovic: Alcaraz**

IANS N NEW DELHI

Sation Carlos Alcaraz feels that Australian Nick Kyrgios is the most likely player to pose a threat to Novak Djokovic's title defence at this year's grass court major, Wimbledon, starting on July 3.

Kyrgios, who recently revealed his mental health struggles post-Wimbledon in 2019, was the losing finalist against Djokovic last year, and Alcaraz suggested the Australian was well-placed to challenge again.

"Nick Kyrgios has

already played a final in Wimbledon and he's very not saying that I am not capable of beating Djokovic, but I think I have less chances than on other surfaces. I think that Kyrgios has more chance to defeat Djokovic than any other player," the 20-year-old Spaniard was quoted as saying by Eurosport. Earlier this month at Roland Garros, Alcaraz faced a defeat against the Serbian great in the semifinals, who went on to secure his 23rd Grand Slam title, setting a new record at the age of 36.

Prannoy to lead India's challenge in Taipei Open badminton



PTI ■ TAIPEI

The semifinal loss in Indonesia a thing of the past now, HS Prannoy will look to carry on his good form when he spearheads the Indian when he spearheads the Indian of the Indian in Open to the India challenge at the Taipei Open badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday.

seeded third here and will take on a qualifier in the men's singles opening round of the BWF

World Tour Super 300 event. Prannoy, who claimed the Malaysia Masters Super 300 title last month, put up an impressive display at the Indonesia Open, a Super 1000 tournament, making it to the semifinals, where he lost 15-21 15-21 to world No.1 and eventual winner Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Prannoy would be desperate to make up for that loss.

The other Indians in the

men's singles are Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, who is up against fifth seed Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong, Kiran George, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, Mithun Manjunath and S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian.

Subhankar Dey and Parupalli Kashyap will have to go

Kodai Naraoka is the top seed in men's singles. The other top male players in the tournament are Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen (2nd) and Kenta Nishimoto (4th).

London Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal will look to regain her form in the women's singles alongside compatriots Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde. Saina will be up against Thailand's Pornpicha Choeikeewong in the opening round, while Malvika will face third seed Beiwen

Zhang. The star men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who created history on Sunday by becoming the first pair from India to win a Super 1000 event, will not feature in Taipei.

In their absence eight seeds Krishna Prasad Garaga and hnuvardhan Goud will lead India's charge in the men's doubles and open their campaign against Vinson Chiu and Joshua Yuan of USA.

In women's doubles, Rutu-parna Panda and Swetaparna Panda are India's only representatives, while the pairs of Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Redd and Navaneeth Bokka and Priya Konjengbam will be seen in action in the mixed doubles.

The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300.

semi-final star against the

Netherlands — to the extent one

Croatian newspaper described him as "Bruce Willis in football boots". It did not prove the case

semi-final match-winner in response, with Joselu replacing

Morata, while Ansu Fati also

forward who came closest to scoring in the 90 minutes for

either side, with his low strike

cleared off the line by the dili-

Croatia appealed in vain for a penalty after Nacho tangled

with Borna Sosa, and Spain substitute Dani Olmo, who

spent six years with Dinamo

Zagreb, hammered over as

extra-time continued in the same tight pattern.
With the sides inseperable, the match was decided on penal-

ties. After Simon denied Mayer,

Aymeric Laporte had the chance

Spain sent on their own

It was the young Barcelona

this time.

entered the fray.

gent Ivan Perisic.

SPAIN BEAT CROATIA, WIN N ATIONS LEAGUE TRO

Dani Carvajal chipped home a Panenka penalty to win Spain the Nations League on Sunday, with a 5-4 shoot-out victory over Croatia, after a tense match finished 0-0 following extra-time.

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon denied Lovro Mayer and Bruno Petkovic from the spot, before Carvajal cheekily chipped home to earn La Roja their first trophy since Euro 2012 and break Croatian hearts.

Zlatko Dalic's side, runners-up at the World Cup in 2018 and third in 2022, have never won a major trophy and were hoping Nations League success would cap a glittering international career for captain Luka Modric, who played his 166th international game.

The victory is a confidence boost for new Spain coach Luis de la Fuente after heavy criticism in March after a defeat by Scotland in Euro 2024 qualify ing. It also avenged their 2021 final defeat by France.

"For us it was a unique opportunity, we went out early in another tournament (at the World Cup in Qatar) and today we had to take advantage," Real Madrid defender Carvajal told Spanish broadcaster TVE.

"We had confidence with



the penalties and it went well, I filled the majority of the stadiknew how I was going to shoot it, and I knew I was going to be sixth... I wanted to take it Panenka style and it went well.

Dalic warned over 25.000 Croatian fans were expected to travel to Rotterdam and they ber, a plea for him not to retire

um, De Kuip a sea of red and white checkered squares, save for

Modric's name in the 10th

minute, matching his shirt num-

a modest area of Spanish fans. The Croatians chanted

tournament, as had been rumoured.

On the pitch Spain made the early running, with Gavi drilling narrowly wide after pressing furiously to win the ball back. Just when the game started but just as he pulled the trigger,

to fall into a slight lull, under the Aymeric Laporte made a superb pink haze of smoke from lunging block. Croatian flares, Spain were nearly caught out by Josip Juranovic's receeding games, the first half long ball over the top for Andrej finished goalless, just as in the prior two Nations League finals, Kramaric. The striker ran through on Unai Simon's goal won by Portugal and France in

Croatia coach asks Modric to postpone retirement

AFP ■ ZAGREB

roatia coach Zlatko Dalic Con Monday appealed to star midfielder Luka Modric to stay amid growing speculation the captain will retire from international football.

Dalic's comments came a day after Croatia lost 5-4 on penalties to Spain in the Nations League final in Rotterdam.

"We need him, this is a generation that still did not complete the job," Dalic told reporters after returning to

famously led Croatia to a second-place finish at the 2018 World Cup and third place at last year's tournament in Qatar. Croatia had been chasing

Despite 14 goals in the three

2019 and 2021 respectively.

The Real Madrid player

their first ever major trophy against a Spain team Modric, 37, knows inside out. On Monday, front pages

across Croatia ran pictures of the dejected midfielder following the nail-biting defeat. "It was rather emotional

for him yesterday," said Dalic. "Let him rest and he will tell us what he thinks," the coach added. On Sunday, Modric said he had already

made a "clear decision" about his international career but did not elaborate, according to reports in local media.

"I will not announce it today," said Modric, while leaving the stadium in Rotterdam. Modric has played in 166 matches for Croatia since his debut in 2006.

TIGHT AND TENSE

La Roja were unable to muster a shot on target in the first 80 minutes of an extremely tense battle.

Mario Pasalic headed wide before being replaced by Petkovic, who was Croatia's

to earn victory but hit the bar.
Athletic Bilbao stopper

brations.

They became the second country to have won the World Cup, Euros and Nations League,

Simon flung himself to his right at full stretch to save from Petkovic and set the scene for Carvajal to spark Spanish cele-

after France in 2021.

ENGLAND LEADS AUS BY 162 WITH 5 WICKETS LEFT



IANS BIRMINGHAM

Robinson removed Khawaja foEngland attacked from the first ball Monday and Australia struck back by taking three wickets as the hosts went to lunch at 155-5 on the fourth day of the Ashes opener for an overall lead of 162 runs. England captain Ben Stokes (13 not out) and wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow (1 not out) are at the crease.

Joe Root made England's intentions clear at the start of play by unsuccessfully trying to reverse-ramp Australia captain Pat Cummins (2-33). Both Root and Harry Brook were dismissed for 46 at close to run-aball pace. Cummins started the

rupted over from Sunday after rain had limited England to 28-2 in only 10.3 overs

Root's attempt to lift the ball $\,$ over the wicketkeeper's head didn't work against Cummins but it did in the next over against Scott Boland. That six was immediately followed by another four with the same stroke before Australia got fed up and put a fielder on the boundary. Root tried to reverseramp Cummins once more in the 18th, again unsuccessfully, with Root then practicing the highly unorthodox stroke between deliveries.

Root and Ollie Pope shared a 50-run partnership for the third wicket before Cummins' superb inswinger claimed Pope for 14. More importantly for

Australia, spinner Nathan Lyon (2-34) deceived Root while advancing down the wicket and he was stumped by Alex Carey.

It was a crucial wicket for the visitors. Root has averaged more than 70 since giving up his troubled captaincy to Stokes, and he is thriving under the new era of "Bazball" attacking cricket. Marnus Labuschagne caught Brook off Lyon. Some rain is expected Tuesday morning but the afternoon forecast has improved. Stokes has some calculations to make. Moeen Ali has a finger injury after coming out of an almost two-year test retirement and bowling 33 overs in Australia's first innings. It could be a key factor for Stokes before attempting to set any gen-



Joe Root owned the game in first hour: Pietersen

IANS BIRMINGHAM

On Day Four of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston, Joe Root started by attempting to reverse scoop off Australia skipper Pat Cummins, which he couldn't do so. But nailed the shot a short while later, hitting a six and four off seamer Scott Boland to set the ball rolling for an entertaining 55ball 46.

Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen was in awe of Root's knock helping England extend their lead to 162 runs at lunch on Day Four. "Root owned the game, he ran the game, he was pure quality. He made Australia do everything he wanted them to do, like spreading the field. It was a masterclass.

"The sky is the limit for Root with the brain he has and also his work ethic, which is like none other. With 11,000 Test runs, he could be, 'I've got enough, I could swan around, get a hundred, watch everyone the next morning warm up

and play football with the lads'," he said to Sky Sports Cricket.

Pietersen also felt Root's reverse scoops have a connection to his stint in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 with Rajasthan Royals.

"Every single morning Root is out there wanting to improve. We are lucky enough to watch a master and long may that continue. It would have been in those two months in the IPL (with Rajasthan Royals) where those shots (the reverse scoops) would have been ingrained in his game."

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting highlighted how England used more attacking shots in the first session of Day

"We have talked a lot about Bazball. The average attacking shot percentage since Brendon McCullum has taken over has been 47 per cent. In the first hour that went up to 58 per cent. They played more shots this morning than over the last



WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Hasaranga takes six-for as Sri Lanka thrash UAE

PTI BULAWAYO

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasa-ranga took a career-best 6/24 as Sri Lanka opened their ICC World Cup Qualifier group league campaign with a crushing 175-run victory over minnows United Arab Emirates here on Monday.

All the Lankan top-order players made half-centuries to post a huge total of 355/6 in 50 overs, with some late fireworks from Charith Asalanka and Hasaranga, who nicely warmed up with an unbeaten 23 off 12

Then the RCB spinner came back to remove three of the UAE's top five as they were all out for 180 in 39 overs. En route his six wicket haul, Hasaranga

also completed a mini milestone of 50 ODI wickets.

In the Lankan innings, Kusal Mendis did the star turn by hitting 10 fours in his classy 63-ball 78, and shared a 105-run partnership with Sadeera Samarawickrama, which fired Sri Lanka to a big total.

Mendis holed out to the substitute fielder off Ali Naseer, and Samarawickrama was run out on 73 from 64 balls, to give UAE hope of restricting the scoring in the final six overs.

But Charith Asalanka had other ideas, unleashing boundary after boundary in a brilliant display of finishing, as he struck 48 not out off just 23 balls. Hasaranga hit three boundaries in the final over to take the score

Oman pulled off a superb run chase to beat Ireland by five

wickets in another group match to cause the first upset in the qualifying tournament. Ireland would have been confident after a flurry of lowerorder runs helped them to 281/7 with Harry Tector (52 off

(91 off 89 balls) starring with the bat after Oman elected to But the Asian nation chased down the target in style, with

82 balls) and George Dockrell

half-centuries from Kashyap Prajapati, Aqib Ilyas and Zeeshan Maqsood. The win came with 11 balls

to spare as Mohammad Nadeem (46¹), Ayaan Khan (21) and Shoaib Khan (19¹) finished it off.

Robinson 'does not care' about how Ponting praises Stokes 'proactive' captaincy Khawaja send-off is perceived



IANS BIRMINGHAM

England pacer Ollie Robinson Chas said that he 'doesn't care' about how his celebration for the wicket of opener Usman Khawaja was perceived in the Australia dressing room, adding that he is "here to provide that theatre of the game" during the ongoing Ashes 2023.

Robinson removed Khawaja for 141 on the third day of the first Test, knocking back his off stump as he came down the pitch looking to force the ball through the off side. The pacer appeared to swear towards Khawaja during his celebra-

"It's my first home Ashes and to get the big wicket at the time was special for me. I think Uzzie played unbelievably well. To get that wicket for us as a team at the time was massive. We all want that theatre of the game, don't we? So I'm here to provide it," Robinson said.

Asked whether abusing an opponent could really be considered part of the theatre of the

game, Robinson suggested that it was simply part of "the passion of the Ashes", citing Australian players historically doing the same towards England teams.

"No, it's not.But I think when you're in the heat of the moment and you have the passion of the Ashes, that can happen. We've all seen Ricky Ponting, other Aussies do the same to us. Just because the shoe is on the other foot, it's not received well," the England pacer said. The 29-year old was further asked if the outburst towards Khawaja might have been received by the Australian dressing-room and the pacer said he doesn't care.

"I don't really care how it's perceived, to be honest. It's the Ashes. It's professional sport. If you can't handle that, what can you handle?," Robinson said.

Meanwhile, Australia's wicketkeeper Alex Carey said that he had only heard about Robinson's send-off when he was briefed by the team's media manager while walking to the press conference room.

"I didn't see it at all.Usman hasn't said anything. It's an Ashes - at times it's going to be pretty exciting and hostile cricket, but I actually was sitting there disappointed at getting out and didn't see anything over the top there. From our dressing-room there was no comment," Carey

'Don't think there was that much in it': Taylor

IANS LONDON

Former Australian Test captain Mark Taylor feels there was not any issue in England pacer Ollie Robinson's aggressive send-off to Australia batter and centurion Usman Khawaja on Day 3 of the ongoing first Ashes Test.

During Australia's first innings on Sunday, Robinson successfully dismissed Khawaja for 141 and gave a raucous send-off to the batter while celebrating, which might have involved some abusive words.

The English paceman received significant criticism for

a lack of class, but Taylor did not join the critics when asked for his thoughts on the controversial incident. "I don't think there was that much in it, to be totally honest.? He's obviously excited to get a wicket. He got a very crucial wicket," Taylor told Wide World of Sports.

"It was interesting that when Ussie went we lost 4-14 and they bowled us out pretty quickly. So, they knew the role and the importance of getting Ussie out in a situation where he was the anchor, the spine of our innings. It was a big wicket. I didn't see too much more in it than that, to be honest.

 ${f F}$ ormer Australian batter Ricky Ponting hailed England skipper Ben Stokes' captaincy and his innovative field placement during Day 3 of the Ashes 2023 opener, here.

Stokes tried all sorts of experimental field placings and bowling tactics during Australia's first innings in Birmingham, with a highly-unusual field helping remove centurion Usman Khawaja on day three.

When Australia captain Pat Cummins and Khawaja settled in after Alex Carey's dismissal, England opted for some unusual bowling tactics to slow the scoring. And a particularly odd field helped unsettle centurian Khawaja when he was yorked by Ollie Robinson to depart for 141.

Ponting said Stokes' commitment to the Test game.

"It's hard to keep up with them all, he's making a change almost every ball, which is great, it's proactive captaincy. He's always trying to move the game forward, he's looking at any little way that he possibly can to



Khawaja's innings, I'd hate to try and count how many times he changed the field for him and how many bowling changes and tactical changes he made to try and get Khawaja out - and then it finally worked.

"I don't think I've ever seen a field like

pick up a wicket and change the momenthat in Test cricket before. There was just an batsman's face. And it was all about bowling a couple of slower balls and being able to bowl a yorker. "It's fantastic stuff. It's really refreshing for the Test game to see a team play this way and a captain happy to try everything he possibly can," he added.

Robinson should have been punished: Healy

IANS BIRMINGHAM

Legendary Australia wicket-keeper Ian Healy believes England pacer Ollie Robinson should have been punished with a fine as he was trying to incite a reaction from left-handed batter Usman Khawaja through a fiery send-off on day three of first Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

Robinson removed Khawaja for 141 on day three's play on Sunday, knocking back his off stump as he came down the pitch looking to force the ball through the off side. The pacer appeared to swear towards a departing Khawaja during his wicket-taking celebrations.

"It is a lack of class like he's



been criticised for, but that's ok it happens in the heat of the moment. I think he should have been punished because it was shown so closely on TV and it does incite retaliation.

If Khawaja retaliated to that and said something back to him, he'd probably get in trouble. He (Robinson) was trying to incite that, it was rude and it was rugged. There probably should have been a little fine handed down to Ollie," said Healy to

choose its neighbours, so it is

better to live by cooperating

with each other. And I have

always said cricket is a sport

which brings people closer to each other and can remove

misunderstandings and griev-

ances between countries," he

came after Pakistan were forced

to host the upcoming Asia Cup

in a hybrid model with India

playing all their matches in Sri

Lanka. This decision didn't go

down well with Miandad, a

they would again not send their

team to Pakistan for the Asia

Cup so it is time we also take a strong stand now," he said.

"It was on the cards that

vocal critic of India.

Miandad's fresh attack



IANS NEW DELHI

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)
pacer Avesh Khan has expressed his regret over his wild celebration, in which he tossed his helmet following the team's against Royal victory Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in a closely contested Indian Premier League match held in Bengaluru.

Avesh, who came to bat at No.11, sneaked a single off the last delivery of the match to clinch the game for his side. He was seen throwing his helmet to the ground after completing

the winning run. Notably, the LSG pacer was reprimanded for breaching the Code of Conduct.

"Yeh social media mein mera mahool bana rehta hai and helmet incident thoda jyada hogaya tha. I realised later that I shouldn't have done that. It just happened in the heat of the moment. I now feel sad that yaar veh sab cheez nahi karna tha, Avesh Khan was quoted saying by the Indian Express.

However, he admitted that was dissatisfied with his performance during the IPL 2023

"If you compare my past two IPL seasons before this one, it went the way I wanted too. However, even though the season didn't go well as per my standard, I maintained my economy rate which is less than 10. I bowl crucial overs 4 or 5th over and later in death," he said.

With the West Indies series just around the corner, the Madhya Pradesh seamer, who played five ODIs and 15 T20Is for the national team, is optimistic about being recalled by the selectors.

"I'm hoping to be there. Selection is not in my hand as a player, one goes through ups and down. I want to make a comeback and just hoping to do that," said Avesh.

The 26-year-old, whose last appearance for the Indian team came during home series against South Africa in 2022, has three ODI wickets and 13 T20I scalps to his name.

Miandad doesn't want Pakistan to tour India for WC it is the turn of the Indians to "I always say one can't

PTI KARACHI

 $B_{\text{spewed fresh venom at}}^{\text{atting great Javed Miandad}}$ India, saying Pakistan should not travel to the neighbouring country for matches, including this year's ICC ODI World Cup, until the BCCI agrees to send its team to his nation

As per the draft schedule prepared by the ICC, Pakistan are scheduled to play India in the blockbuster World Cup clash at the Narendra Modi sta dium in Ahmedabad on October 15. But the 66-year-old former captain feels it is now India's time to reciprocate by

touring Pakistan. "Pakistan has been to India in 2012 and even in 2016 now come here," Miandad said.

"If I had to make a decision I would never go to India to play any match, even the World Cup. We are always ready to play them (India) but they never respond in the same

manner.

"Pakistan cricket is bigger...We are still producing quality players. So I don't think even if we don't go to India it will make any difference to us," he added.

India last visited Pakistan in 2008 for the 50-over Asia Cup. Since then bilateral cricket ties were suspended due to longstanding geo-political tensions between the two nations.

Miandad feels sports should not be mixed with politics.

