

OPINION 6
A NEW CHAPTER IN
INDIA-US RELATIONS

WORLD 9
CHINA SLAMS BIDEN'S
DICTATOR REMARKS

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE AT
ALL-TIME HIGHS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 171
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



**BOPANNA TO
END DAVIS CUP
CAREER IN SEP**
12 SPORT

Yoga truly universal: Modi

PM leads Yoga Day event at UN HQ; 180 nations' participation creates Guinness Record

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Wearing a customised white yoga T-shirt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took centre stage on Wednesday as he led the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Joined by the residents of the city, celebrities, and dignitaries, Modi hailed yoga as a practice that transcends boundaries and emphasised its universal appeal, free from copyrights and royalties.

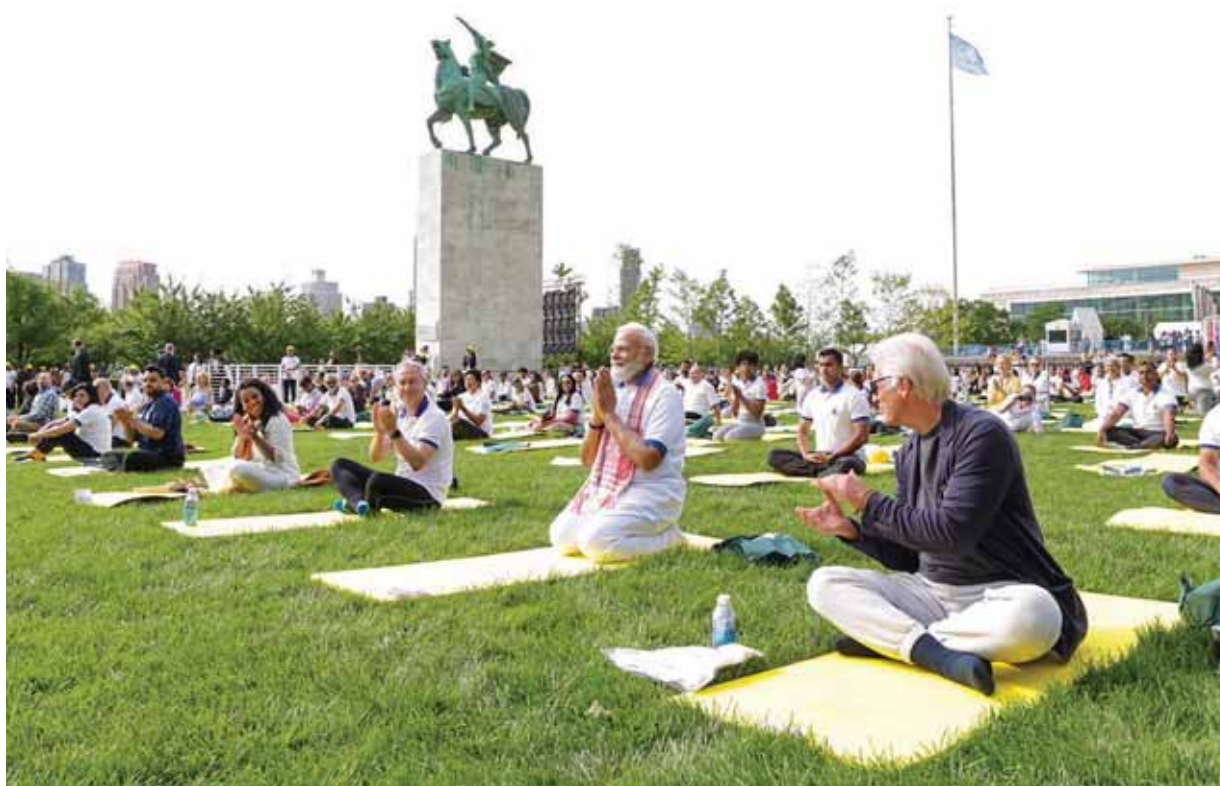
The event created a vibrant atmosphere around the UN headquarters, with a gentle breeze and mild sunlight adding to the historic occasion. Commencing with the chanting of "Om", the participants engaged in yoga asanas and breathing exercises, guided by skilled instructors. Volunteers were on hand to assist yoga enthusiasts in maintaining correct postures and following the instructor's cues.

The UN lawn was transformed into a sea of yellow yoga mats, while LED screens showcased captivating videos depicting the rich cultural heritage of India. Prior to the session, Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, with a bust of the revered leader installed in the North Lawn during India's tenure as president of the UN Security Council.

The yoga celebration led by Prime Minister Modi at the UN headquarters created the Guinness World Record for participation of people from over 180 countries.

During his address, Modi expressed his delight at the diverse representation of nationalities in attendance and highlighted the inherent inclusivity of yoga. He underscored that yoga, originating from India, is a timeless tradition that can be practiced by individuals of all ages, genders, and fitness levels.

Modi emphasised the portability and adaptability of yoga, proclaiming it to be truly universal. He said, "Yoga comes from India and it is a very old tradition. Yoga is free from copyrights, patents, and royalty payments. Yoga is adaptable



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Hollywood actor Richard Gere and others participates in 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations at the UN headquarters, in New York on Wednesday

to your age, gender, and fitness level. Yoga is portable and is truly universal."

The celebration witnessed the participation of esteemed figures, including UN officials, ambassadors, delegates, and members of the global community. Notable attendees included US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Korosi, renowned actor Richard Gere, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J Mohammed.

"I am excited for everyone who is participating in Yoga Day," said Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the UN.

"The feeling here is so open and embracing, I hope this feeling intoxicates the entire building. It's a really nice feeling here today," Gere said ahead of the event.

The event drew partici-

pants from over 180 countries, representing various professions and backgrounds.

Enthusiastic individuals lined up outside the UN headquarters since early morning, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to join the yoga session.

The International Day of Yoga, which was first observed in 2015, has grown in significance and is now celebrated worldwide. Recognising yoga as an ancient practice that unites the mind and body, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga following a proposal by Prime Minister Modi during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly.

"Yoga means to unite...I remember about nine years ago, right here, I had the honour to propose celebrating the International Day of yoga on 21st June. It was wonderful to see the entire world come together to support the idea," Modi said.

Continued on Page 2

Tesla will be in India: Musk after meeting Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk in New York on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi late on Tuesday met eminent personalities from various walks of life, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, in New York.

Modi tweeted after his interaction with Musk "Great meeting you today @elonmusk! We had multifaceted conversations on issues ranging from energy to spirituality."

To this, Musk replied, "It was an honour to meet again." Asked if Tesla will enter the Indian market, Musk said he is planning to visit the country next year. "I am confident that Tesla will be in India and will do so as soon as humanly possible," he said.

"Modi met Elon Musk, tech pioneer, business magnate and CEO of Tesla Inc & SpaceX; owner, CTO and chairman of Twitter; founder of the

Boring Company and X-corp; co-founder of Neuralink and OpenAI, today, in New York.

"The Prime Minister appreciated Musk's efforts at making technology accessible and affordable in various sectors. Prime Minister invited Musk to explore opportunities in India for investments in electric mobility and the rapidly expanding commercial space sector," an official press statement said.

Modi also held discussions on wide ranging issues with over two dozen thought leaders from various walks of life, including Nobel laureates, economists, artists, scientists, scholars, entrepreneurs, academicians and health sector experts.

Besides Musk, they included astrophysicist and author Neil deGrasse Tyson, Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer, author Nicholas Nassim Taleb and investor Ray Dalio.

Continued on Page 2

India raps China for veto on terror tag for 26/11 plotter

LeT's Sajid Mir is wanted for his role in Mumbai terror attack

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

In a strong response to China's move to block a United Nations proposal to designate Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leader Sajid Mir as a "global terrorist," India has expressed its disappointment, stating that it demonstrates a lack of genuine political will to combat terrorism. Mir is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

China's decision to block the proposal, co-designated by India and moved by the United States, came as a setback on Tuesday. The proposal aimed to blacklist Mir under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council, subjecting him to asset freezes, travel bans, and an arms embargo. China had previously paused the proposal in September.

In a strongly-worded statement, Prakash Gupta, joint secretary at India's permanent mission in New York, criticised the failure to ban terrorists due to "petty geopolitical interests," suggesting a lack of genuine political will to address the terrorism challenge.

Gupta emphasised the need to avoid double standards and the justifications of "good terrorists versus bad terrorists," emphasising that terrorism is terrorism without any justifications. He ques-



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchiara Kamboj speaks during the United Nations Security Council in New York

tioned the blocking of evidence-based listing proposals without providing any reasons, especially in the current era of accountability and transparency.

Referring to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, Gupta highlighted their impact on the global counterterrorism architecture and the collective conscience of the world's largest democracy. He played an audio clip of Mir instructing terrorists from Pakistan during the attacks, illustrating his role in the heinous act.

The Mumbai attacks involved ten heavily armed assailants who carried out urban warfare, resulting in the deaths of 166 innocent individuals, including 26 foreigners. Gupta lamented the lack of justice for the victims, noting that Mir is listed as a proscribed terrorist under Indian and international laws.

Expressing concern about the failure to list established terrorists under the Security Council's sanctions regime, Gupta questioned the genuine political will to fight terrorism

if petty geopolitical interests take precedence. He pointed out that even 15 years after the Mumbai attacks, the masterminds in Pakistan have not been brought to justice.

Mir, in his mid-40s, is considered one of India's most wanted terrorists and carries a USD 5 million bounty placed by the US for his role in the Mumbai terror attacks. Last year, he was sentenced to over 15 years in a terror-financing case by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan.

However, doubts remain regarding his reported death, as demanded by Western countries seeking proof. This issue has become a significant point of contention in the Financial Action Task Force's assessment of Pakistan's progress in fulfilling its action plan.

India's strong condemnation of China's blockage of the United Nations proposal highlights the ongoing challenges in the fight against terrorism and the need for international cooperation to ensure the perpetrators of such heinous acts are brought to justice.

Not interested in LoP position, give party post, Ajit tells NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Eleven days after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar appointed the party's senior leader Praful Patel and his daughter-MP Supriya Sule as the party's working presidents, a sidelined NCP leader and his nephew, Ajit Pawar, said here on Wednesday that he had no interest in continuing as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly. Instead, he preferred to accept any responsibility within the party.

Speaking at a function organised to mark the NCP's 25th foundation day, Ajit told the party leadership, "I am not interested in continuing in the post of the leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly. Relieve me of the Opposition leader's post and give me any post in the party. I will do justice to the party's post."

Ajit's statement, which came as a surprise to Sharad Pawar and other party leaders, is being interpreted in State political circles in two ways. First, through his statement, he wanted to express his dissatisfaction over the manner in which he was sidelined by the NCP chief in the organisational restructuring that took place on June 10, the day when the NCP entered its 25th year of existence.

Secondly, by requesting any post, Ajit has sent a message to the party leadership that he should be considered for the State party president's position, replacing Jayant Patil, who has been the State NCP president for the past five years. Patil has continued in the state party chief's role despite a stipulation in the NCP's constitution that no leader holding a party post should be replaced after a tenure of three years.

Despite speculation that he is angling for the State party chief's position, informed party sources have stated that



NCP leader Ajit Pawar speaks during a function organised to mark the party's silver jubilee year in Mumbai on Wednesday

Ajitdada has not taken kindly to the manner in which he was ignored by the NCP chief in the organizational reshuffle that the latter undertook on June 10.

It may be recalled that after appointing Supriya Sule and Praful Patel as the party's working presidents and assigning other leaders with various party responsibilities, the NCP tried to downplay the decision of not giving any organisational post or responsibility to Ajit.

Sharad had said Ajit already had the responsibility of being the LoP.

'Had Shinde rebellion failed he would have shot himself'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational claim, a Maharashtra Shiv Sena Minister said here on Wednesday that if the much-discussed rebellion against then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray — which saw senior party leader Eknath Shinde walk out of nearly 40 MLAs leading to the fall of the MVA Government in June last year — had failed, Shinde would have shot himself dead.

Detailed report on P2

Justice Umesh Kumar named DERC chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Justice (Retd.) Umesh Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

The President of India has exercised the powers conferred by Section 45(b) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, read with sub-section 2 of Section 84 of the Electricity Act, 2003, to appoint Justice (Retd.) Kumar as the Chairperson of the DERC.

The selection of Umesh as the Chairman of the DERC follows the withdrawal of Justice (Retd.) Rajeev Kumar Shrivastava from the Madhya Pradesh High Court, who had been previously proposed for the position. Justice Umesh served as a distinguished member of the Allahabad High Court.

CAPSULE

7 KILLED IN LIGHTNING STRIKES IN MALDA
English Bazar (WB): Seven people, including three children, were killed in lightning strikes in West Bengal's Malda district on Wednesday evening.

DELHI RIOTS: COP RATAN LAL'S KILLER ARRESTED
New Delhi: A 53-year-old man was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of Delhi Police Head Constable Ratan Lal during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Accused Mohd Ayaz, resident of Chand Bagh in Karawal Nagar, was one of the main conspirators involved in the killing and was carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh. P3

ASSAM FLOOD WORSENS, 1.2 LAKH PEOPLE HIT
Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam deteriorated drastically on Wednesday with nearly 1.2 lakh people reeling under the deluge across 10 districts.

Modi's visit watershed moment: US envoy

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing visit to the United States as a "watershed moment". Garcetti expressed his belief that this week's events have the potential to reshape the course of history, as the two democratic nations come together to pursue peace and prosperity.

During the summit between Modi and President Joe Biden, it is expected that India and the United States will announce several crucial defense partnerships.

These partnerships could reinforce the strategic alliance between the two nations and bolster their joint efforts in addressing global challenges.



In his keynote address to the inaugural INDUS-X conference organised by the US India Business Council in partnership with the US Department of Defense and India's Department of Defence Production in Washington late Tuesday, Garcetti said, "We're just getting in the car together and we're starting this voyage. It's the elevation of something that has been growing. "Two democracies, after

all, are about our people. 1.75 billion of them are unstoppable, a force for peace, for prosperity, for our planet and for people," Garcetti said.

He said India and the US can help to work and preserve the planet, bring peace and look all the way up into the air and beyond.

Garcetti said both India and the US need to be able to navigate their regulation and bureaucratic culture more readily. "I think if we're harsh critics of ourselves, which we always have to be, there's so much more we can do to take the rhetoric of this moment and actually institutionalise it into the way that we do business from the newest bureaucrat all the way up to the leaders of our two countries," he said.

Post Nitish divorce, Manjhi embraces BJP, joins NDA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant political development, chief of the Bihar-based Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) Jitan Ram Manjhi announced on Wednesday that his party has once again joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence.

This move comes just two days after HAM withdrew its support from the Grand

Alliance Government, consisting of the Congress, RJD, and JD(U), in Bihar.

"We are now an NDA partner starting today. We have agreed to support the NDA, and the NDA is also ready to be with us. That is what we discussed today," Manjhi told reporters following the meeting.

Accompanied by his son Santosh Suman, Manjhi met with Shah at his residence in Delhi. On Monday, HAM withdrew its support from the Grand



Alliance Government in Bihar, and submitted a letter to that effect to Governor Rajendra Arlekar.

Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had accused Manjhi of "spying on the Mahagathbandhan allies"

for the benefit of the BJP, expressing relief at Manjhi's departure.

Suman resigned from Kumar's Cabinet on June 13, citing "pressure" from the Janata Dal (United) to merge HAM with their party. Suman was serving as the Minister of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) Welfare Department in Bihar.

Manjhi, aged 78, served a brief tenure as the Chief Minister of Bihar in 2014 when Kumar stepped down, taking

moral responsibility for JD-U's poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

However, Manjhi's time in power was marred by controversies, leading to his eventual resignation and Kumar's return as the Chief Minister.

Since then, Manjhi left the JD(U), formed HAM, and joined the NDA, only to part ways in 2018. The party has faced challenges in achieving significant electoral success and has frequently changed its political alliances.

Min: Shinde would've shot himself if revolt had failed

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational claim, a Maharashtra Shiv Sena minister said here on Wednesday that if the much-discussed rebellion against then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray — which saw senior party leader Eknath Shinde walk out of nearly 40 MLAs leading to the fall of the MVA Government in June last year — had failed, Shinde would have shot himself dead.

After the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena voted for declaration of June 20 as the "World Traitors' Day" to commemorate the "treason indulged in by then rebel leader and current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his staunch supporter and state minister Deepak Kesarkar defended Shinde, saying that the latter had rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray to safeguard the self-respect of

Maharashtra. "Who are you calling gaddar (traitor)? Shinde and I enjoy a close rapport. Whenever Uddhav Thackeray would come out with a promise that Shinde would be elevated (to the CM's post) and would then renege on his promise, I would go back to Shinde and talk to him about it.

When Shinde finally announced rebellion against Thackeray, he (Shinde) told me that on the Shiv Sena's foundation day last year, Shinde was insulted by the party leadership, and had gone out of the function in anger," Kesarkar said.

"Despite having been humiliated by the party leadership, he was considering remaining in the party. Shinde was a sincere party worker and a sincere man. He had told me that the moment he realised that he would not succeed in his revolt, he would have sent

back all the MLAs who had walked out with him from the Shiv Sena and then he would have called party president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray that he had made a mistake. He said that subsequently that he would have shot himself dead," the ruling Sena minister said.

It may be recalled that Shinde, then a senior Shiv Sena leader, had rebelled against the then chief minister and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, walked out of the party along with 40-odd MLAs leading to the collapse of the government Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), a grand alliance comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress. Shinde later teamed up with the then Opposition BJP to form a new government in state. Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn as the Maharashtra chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30, 2022.

391 farmers committed suicide, 3,152 kids went missing in 5 months: Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government for its failure on various fronts, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said here on Wednesday that as many as 391 distressed farmers had committed suicide during the last five months in the state, a staggering 3,152 children had gone missing during the period and that communal riots were taking place in areas where the ruling alliance partners had no influence.

Speaking at the NCP's foundation function here, Pawar came down heavily on the BJP government both in the state and at the Centre for its failure to keep his promise to the farmers. "I went to Khandesh (north Maharashtra) recently. There, the farmers brought to my notice that they were keeping the cotton produced by them as they were not remunerative



price for their produce. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the farmers' income would be doubled. But how do you explain the fact that as many 391 farmers had committed suicide during the past five months?"

"Similarly, from January 23 to May 23, as many as 3,152 children had gone missing in various parts of the state.

Alluding to the recent communal riots in Kolhapur, Akola and Amalner, Pawar said: "The riots are taking place in towns and cities where the ruling alliance partners have no base. It is the respon-

sibility of the ruling alliance partners to protect the people in these areas" Castigating the Narendra Modi government for its utter failure to bring ongoing riots under control, Pawar said: "There have been riots in Manipur for the past 45 days.

An officer based in Manipur has gone on record saying that the situation there is very grim. I cannot say for sure whether we are citizens of this country, because the Government is not paying any attention to the goings-on in Manipur which is located right next to China."

Expressing his serious displeasure over the Narendra Modi government's failure to invite President Droupadi Murmu for the inauguration of India's new Parliament building, Pawar said: "Had the Government called the president to the function, she would have inaugurated the new Parliament as per protocol".

Soft power on show



People use yoga mats to shield themselves from rain during a session on the International Day of Yoga, at Mecon Stadium in Ranchi on Wednesday PTI



Indian Coast Guard organising Coastal Ring of Yoga all along the Indian coastline on Wednesday PTI



Women wearing traditional Nauvari sarees perform yoga during a session on the Gateway of India in Mumbai on Wednesday PTI



Indian Army personnel perform yoga on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI



Indian Army personnel perform yoga in a forward area on the occasion of International Day of Yoga on Wednesday. PTI

J&K BJP drums up support for Shah's Balidaan Diwas rally

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a massive campaign in and around Jammu to mobilise common people to attend Union Home Minister Amit Shah's public rally on the occasion of 'Balidaan diwas' of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in Jammu on Friday.

On ground zero the entire party machinery is working round the clock to make it a big success but the prevailing hot and dry weather conditions may play a spoilsport.

The public rally of the Union Home Minister assumes significance as he is expected to woo the masses across the Jammu region ahead of the beginning of the long election season starting from Panchayat and local bodies elections by this year-end.

So far the party machinery has made arrangements for about 30,000 people by placing an equal number of chairs at the venue. Elaborate arrangements are being made to beat

the heat by placing cooling fans and other air conditioners inside the big pandal but mobilizing common people may turn out to be a herculean task for the party machinery in the wake of prevailing weather conditions.

To ensure maximum participation senior BJP leaders led by the local unit chief Ravinder Raina have been organising street corner meetings to galvanise the support of party workers and other sympathizers for the success of the event.

The party workers from Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua Samba have been advised to reach the venue in time while those coming from the far off places like Doda, Ramban, Poonch, and Rajouri have been advised to arrive in Jammu ahead of the rally to avoid any inconvenience. When contacted, a senior BJP leader claimed it all depends on the timing of the public rally on Friday.

According to official sources, all entry points of the venue of the rally in the Bhagwati Nagar area would be blocked around 10 am.

Dalit woman gangraped, killed in Bikaner; two cops among accused

PTI ■ BIKANER

A 20-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gangraped and murdered by three men in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, officials said on Wednesday. Two police constables have been suspended for their suspected role in the incident. The woman's body was found in a house in an area under the Khajuwala police station limits on Tuesday, they said.

Inspector General of Police (Bikaner range) Om Prakash said that the main accused, Dinesh Vishnoi, is at large after the incident while the role of the two constables, Manoj and Bhagirath, of Khajuwala police station is being examined.

"The woman's family members have accused three persons, including two constables, of raping her. Both policemen have been suspended immediately and the matter is being investigated," he said, adding teams have been formed to nab Vishnoi. On Wednesday, the family members of the victim refused to grant consent to conduct a

postmortem examination and held a dharna outside the police station with their demands that included the arrest of the accused, compensation and government job to one family member. However, after an assurance on their demands by the police and district administration officials, the family members ended their protest in the evening, the officials said.

IGP Prakash said the family members agreed to end the dharna on assurance of investigation of the case by an SIT under his supervision, inquiry into the allegations against the policemen by a probationary IPS officer, compensation of Rs 10 lakh from the state government and Rs 15 lakh from social organisations and contractual job to one family member.

He said that postmortem began in evening and funeral will be performed on Thursday. "The body will be handed over to family after postmortem," he said. Police said a case under various sections, including 376-D (gangrape), of Indian Penal Code was registered at Khajuwala police station.

Yoga truly universal: Modi

From Page 1

"You can see the vibrations and excitement. Hundreds of people are lining up for International Yoga Day celebrations with Prime Minister Modi. Such a great feeling," said Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs. Ruchika Lal, Yoga and Meditation Instructor, Art of Living, said people are excited. "They have been waiting outside since 6 am," she said. People were seen standing in queues outside UN headquarters to take part in the yoga session since early morning.

The first International Day of Yoga was commemorated in 2015 and has since then been marked with several sessions and events highlighting the benefits and universal appeal of Yoga at the UN, Times Square and iconic locations across the world.

The UN underlined that yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word "yoga" is derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolising the union of body and consciousness. Today it is practised in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity.

Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the UN proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The draft UNGA resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Modi in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly.

Earlier in a video message on the occasion of the International Yoga Day, Modi said India has always nurtured traditions that unite, adopt and embrace and made a fervent appeal to eliminate contradictions, hurdles and resistances through yoga. Modi said Indians have welcomed new ideas, conserved them and celebrated the country's rich diversity.

"We have to eliminate our contradictions, blockages and resistances through Yoga. We have to present the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' as an example to the world," Modi said.

Modi also said the International Day of Yoga was special this year as researchers at India's research stations in the Arctic and Antarctica too were participating in the celebrations. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his message for Yoga Day, said yoga unites people. "It unites body and mind, humanity and nature and millions of people across the globe for whom it is a source of strength, harmony and peace," he said.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gayoor Alam, S/o. Late Ahsanullah, R/o. C-215/3, Abul Fazal Enclave-2, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have declared that my wife's name wrongfully mentioned in my Passport as Nagma Bano instead of Nazma, And my mother's name wrongfully mentioned Majida Bano instead Mofid Begum.

PD(073)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject : Transfer of ownership in respect of Flat No. 802, 2 BHK, Type A, Tower No. 01, Project "Urban Homes-II, situated in Sector 86, Gurugram, Haryana, consequent upon the intestate death of original allottee Sh. Amit Kumar Gupta. Sh. Amit Kumar Gupta, the original allottee of above cited flat, passed away on September 27, 2018, without leaving a registered or unregistered will. His legal heirs include his wife, Mrs. Preeti Gupta, their two minor daughters, Baby Inika Gupta and Baby Maira Gupta, as well as his mother, Mrs. Raj Rani Gupta. Following his demise, Mrs. Preeti Gupta filed an application with Pyramid Infratech Pvt. Ltd., seeking the transfer of the flat to her and her daughters' names. To facilitate the transfer, Mrs. Preeti Gupta submitted the necessary documents. Additionally, Mrs. Raj Rani Gupta, the mother of the deceased, submitted an Affidavit cum NOC cum Undertaking, Indemnity Bond, and Relinquishment Deed in favour of Mrs. Preeti Gupta. To inform the general public, Pyramid Infratech Pvt. Ltd. has issued this public notice stating that any person who has an interest, right, or claim in the flat or objects to its transfer must submit written objections with supporting documents to the CRM Department of Pyramid Infratech Pvt. Ltd., 5th Floor, Unitech Trade Centre, Sector-43, Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication. Failure to do so may result in the transmission/transfer/endorsement of the flat to Mrs. Preeti Gupta, Baby Inika Gupta, and Baby Maira Gupta, without entertaining subsequent claims.

M/s. Pyramid Infratech Pvt. Ltd. (Sd/I)
Date: 21.06.2023 Authorised Signatory



The National Bal Bhawan (NBB) children celebrated the International Yoga Day which also marked the closing ceremony of the month-long Summer Fiesta during which more than 1000 children from various schools participated and learnt skills including dance, music, clay modeling, weaving, handicrafts and sports activities. Chief guest on the occasion was eminent sculptor Padma Bhushan Ram V Sutar who applauded the Bal Bhawan team for transforming the lives of 5-16 years children coming from various section of society under one roof. NBB Director Mukta Agarwal was also present on the occasion. Bal Bhawan in an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Education. PMS

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय
मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
क्रमांक-विशा/स्टोर/2023-25(180), दिनांक 20.06.2023
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र
(Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2023-25 (129), Bhopal, Dated 10.05.2023 द्वारा Installation CCTV Surveillance System at Hon. CM House Bhopal के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा अंतर्गत निर्धारित तकनीकी मापदण्ड में किये गये संशोधन के संबंध में शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum/Addendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक,
विशेष शाखा (जी), म.प्र. भोपाल
दूरभाष क्र. 0755-2443654
Email: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in

G-1523/23

Tesla will be in India...

From Page 1

Prime Minister Modi met one-on-one with some of them while others met him in groups. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Prime Minister met experts from several leading US think-tanks. They discussed a range of developmental and geo-political issues. Modi invited them to enhance their presence in India as it embarks on its transformation during the Amritkaal.

The various think-tank experts who participated in the interaction included Michael Froman, president-designate and distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), New York, Daniel Russel, vice president for International Security and Diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, Dr Max Abrahms, associate professor of political science at

Northeastern University, Jeff M Smith, director, Asian Studies Center, The Heritage Foundation, Elbridge Colby, co-founder of "The Marathon Initiative", Guru Sowle, founder-member, director (Indo-US Affairs) and Indus International Research Foundation.

Musk told reporters after meeting Modi that "Twitter, the social media giant he owns, did not have a choice but to follow the local Government. Or it will get shut down." He was responding to allegations by the company's former owner and CEO Jack Dorsey that the Indian Government threatened to shut down Twitter. "The best we can do is to follow the laws in any given country," he said, adding that it is impossible for them to do more than that. "There are different rules and regulations for different forms of Governments, and we will

do our best to provide the freest speech that is possible under the law," Musk said.

Asked if Tesla will enter the Indian market, Musk said he is planning to visit the country next year. "I am confident that Tesla will be in India and will do so as soon as humanly possible," he said. "I would like to thank the Prime Minister for his support and hopefully we will be able to announce something in the not so distant future," Musk said.

"We do not want to jump the gun on an announcement but I think it is quite likely that it will be a significant investment in our relationship with India," the Tesla CEO said. In a separate video statement, Musk also lauded Modi, saying he "really cares about India because he is pursuing us to make significant investments in India." "I am a fan of Modi," he said.

Bring more CAPF than in 2013, angry HC tells SEC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The State Election Commission — allegedly working at the behest of the ruling Trinamool Congress — received yet another judicial rap on its knuckles with the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday questioning its very motive in asking for only 22 companies of paramilitary forces before asking it to requisition more than 825 com-

BENGAL RURAL POLLS



panies — which was used for 2013 panchayat elections. The Court also took note of the fact that while in 2013 there were 17 districts presently Bengal has 22 districts excluding the metropolitan area of Kolkata.

Taking serious note of the SEC's apparently partisan conduct the Court even went on to the extent of telling the newly appointed Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha to quit his post if he was unable to discharge his duties impartially. Sinha considered close to Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee is a former Chief Secretary of the State. Taking cognizance of 8 deaths in 13 days in the run-up to the July 8 panchayat elec-

tions the Division Bench of Chief Justice T.S. Sivaganam and Justice Uday Kumar questioned the sense behind requisitioning only 22 companies for the entire State when in 2013 each district got 35 companies of central forces saying the deployment would have to be done in 24 hours.

About 1.05 lakh State police personnel and 82,000 Central forces were requisitioned in 2013. This week Court had earlier this same

upheld the High order on deployment of central forces saying "holding polls can't be license for violence."

In another order Bench of Justice Amrita Sinha ordered CBI investigation against a State officer for allegedly tampering with the documents submitted by two candidates — Kashmiri Bibi and Omja Bibi — eventually disqualifying them from contesting the polls at Uluberia in Howrah district.

LG slams delay in setting rules for PDS social audit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even after a decade of the enactment of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is yet to establish rules for conducting a "social audit" into the functioning of its Public Distribution System (PDS) and Fair Price Shops. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has flagged the "delay" by the Arvind Kejriwal Government in framing rules for conducting a social audit into the functioning of the public distribution system and fair price shops.

These rules, mandated under sub-section 2 of Section 40 of the NFSA, aim to ensure transparency and accountability in the distribution of subsidized rations through the Act and PDS. Approving the file, Saxena expressed disappointment over the "sheer inaction" on the part of the Government, highlighting its failure to prioritise the framing of rules necessary for a corruption-free and



equitable distribution of rations to the most vulnerable sections of society.

The LG's note to the Chief Minister criticised the unexplained delays in framing the rules, and an instance of a file being returned after a year without any justification. Over the past five years, the proposal from the department has been returned on at least nine occasions for various reasons.

The Centre had recently issued a warning to the Delhi Government, stating that if the rules are not framed by June 30, 2023, the central assistance for intra-state transportation expenses and PDS dealers' margin will be withheld. In response to this ultimatum, the Kejriwal Government has submitted the relevant file to the LG on

June 6, seeking approval for the notification of the rules. Subsequently, the LG granted approval for publishing the draft rules, inviting public suggestions and comments.

These pending rules encompass various provisions, including the identification of false beneficiaries, ensuring the timely provision of high-quality rations to eligible individuals, empowering vigilance committees in the social audit process, conducting verification drives, implementing CCTV camera surveillance, SMS-based monitoring, mandatory electronic weighing, maintaining proper stock levels at FPS, and providing relevant information to citizens.

"It is noted that on one occasion, the file was returned by the Minister after passage of one year without any explanation for the delay whatsoever. During the past five years itself, beginning June, 2019, the Minister has returned the proposal of the Department at least on nine occasions for one reason or the other," the LG wrote.

In a letter dated June 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs wrote to the Chief Secretary of Delhi, highlighting the failure to notify the rules under sub-section 2 of Section 40 of the NFSA.

The Ministry conveyed its decision to withhold central assistance if the rules are not framed and notified by June 30, 2023. Additionally, the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation (CoSL), comprising members from political parties, including the Opposition, has granted an extension until the same deadline for the notification of rules, expressing concern over the delay.

Reacting to the development, the AAP Government sources said, "Rather than issuing daily press releases against the elected Government and creating hurdles for the Government, it would have been better if the LG concentrated on law and order situation, which is his primary job".

Rain inundates G'gram, causes traffic jams



STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Rains lashed Gurugram on Wednesday for several hours, causing traffic jams and waterlogging in several areas disrupted life and routine work. Waterlogging on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway (National Highway 48) caused a 5-km-long traffic jam even as office goers ditched their rides and waded through water with their shoes in hand.

Due to incessant rain more than 40 places in the city including major key points on the expressway submerged in water logging on Wednesday, old Delhi-Gurugram road and the Delhi-Jaipur expressway witnessed heavy water logging. Water logging can be seen in different key stretches of city Subhash Chowk on Sohna-Gurugram Road also witnessed huge water logging. Visuals from Narsinghpur Chowk and Hero Honda Chowk showed people pushing their vehicles as the water stood at knee-height.

Govt aiming to transform Delhi's five key markets

New Delhi: In an effort to provide pleasant shopping experience to delhiites and etch out a global identity, the Kejriwal Government plans to revitalise and transform five major markets in the city. They include Kamla Nagar, Khari Baoli, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, and Kirti Nagar.

Besides, the Delhi Government announced its plans to develop the Gandhi Nagar market as a "grand garment hub" for economic growth and job creation.

As per plan Khari Baoli will be redeveloped on the lines of its inheritance from old Mughal Empire as finest spices from around the world are available here, Kamla Nagar will be redeveloped as a Youth Hangout zone; Lajpat Nagar as a high-end street fashion, ideal destination for wedding shopping and a one-stop destination for jewellery, clothing, and footwear; Sarojini Nagar as a fast fashion and latest trendsetting street market (Market for everything, everyone's market) and Kirti Nagar as a one-stop-shop for furniture and home décor.

Chief Minister Arvind



Kejriwal on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the market redevelopment project. The review meeting was also attended by Industries Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj. They discussed the plans, challenges, and timelines associated with the ambitious undertaking.

Lajpat Nagar, Khari Baoli, Kirti Nagar, and Kamla Nagar will be redeveloped in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), while the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been roped in for the revamp of Sarojini Nagar.

Kejriwal directed that the MCD and NDMC be appointed as the executing agency for the redevelopment of these

markets. The primary design for these markets is being prepared by expert architects. During the review meeting, Kejriwal also highlighted the importance of local needs and stated that all the five retail hubs will be redeveloped and beautified as per their specific requirements, ensuring that they remain true to their local essence while embracing a modern outlook.

All the markets will be made beautiful and clean so that people can have a pleasant shopping experience. Kejriwal also noted that the final design of the market will be determined through a competition, in which renowned architects from India and around the world will participate. SR

DDA celebrates Yoga Day for overall wellness

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga at its sports complexes and parks, promoting the manifold benefits of this ancient practice. The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Chairman of DDA VK Saxena led a captivating yoga session at Baansera, a scenic location nestled along the banks of the Yamuna River.

Joining him were Subhasish Panda, Vice Chairman of DDA, and OP Sharma, Authority Member and MLA of Vishwas Nagar, adding to the event's grandeur. Baansera, sprawling across 37 acres, is Delhi's first Bamboo Theme Park, serving as a perfect backdrop for the occasion.

The festivities commenced with a recorded address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, setting the tone for the International Yoga Day celebrations. This year's theme, "Yoga For Vasudaiva Kutumbakam," emphasized the unity of humanity and our collective responsibility towards the planet. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga on December 11, 2014, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal during his speech on September 27, 2014.

DDA's commitment to spreading awareness about yoga extended beyond Baansera. The organization organized Yoga Day events at 15 sports complexes across Delhi, including prominent venues such as Siri Fort Sports



Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena performs yoga on the International Day of Yoga, at Sarai Kale Khan in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Complex, Saket Sports Complex, Netaji Sports Complex, Vasant Kunj Sports Complex, and more.

These engaging activities witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 15,000 individuals, showcasing the growing popularity of yoga in the city. Following the Yoga Day celebration at Baansera, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his appreciation for the remarkable development of the newly created park in a short period.

Saxena emphasised the importance of green spaces and urged authorities to focus on the cleanliness and maintenance of the surroundings. In addition to the sports complexes, the International Day of Yoga was commemorated at prominent locations such as Coronation Park in Burari, SwarnJayanti Park in Rohini, and CBD Ground in Karkardooma. These venues collectively attracted over 6,500 participants, highlighting the widespread enthusiasm for yoga across Delhi. Prominent

Members of Parliament also actively participated in the Yoga Day celebrations. Ramesh Bidhuri, MP from South Delhi, engaged in yoga activities at Vasant Kunj Sports Complex, while Dr Harsh Vardhan, MP from Chandni Chowk, joined the event at Major Dhyan Chand Sports Complex. Hans Raj Hans, MP from North West Delhi, graced the occasion at SwarnJayanti Park Rohini, and Vijender Gupta, Authority Member and MLA of Rohini, actively participated in the Yoga event at Rohini Sports Complex.

DDA's annual celebration of the International Day of Yoga demonstrates its commitment to promoting overall health, wellness, and happiness among individuals, communities, and organizations. By organizing public yoga sessions, workshops, and meditation gatherings led by expert trainers, DDA aims to foster a sense of unity, inspire a "Fit India" movement, and encourage the adoption of yoga as an essential tool for well-being.

Delhi riots: Cop Ratan Lal's killer held from B'luru

New Delhi: A 53-year-old man was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of Delhi Police Head Constable Ratan Lal during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.



According to police, the accused Mohd. Ayaz, resident of Chand Bagh in Karawal Nagar, was apprehended from a village in Chikkaballapur district near Bengaluru, Karnataka on June 17. Police said Ayaz was one of the main conspirators involved in the killing and was carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh on his arrest.

He had been absconding more than three years since the incident and was declared proclaimed offender in the case. The accused was into the business of construction and property dealing. He along with his brother Khalid actively participated in anti-CAA-NRC sit-in protest at Chand Bagh.

Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) H G S Dhaliwal said that in January 2020, accused Mohd Ayaz along with his brother Khalid and others started anti-CAA-NRC protest at Chand Bagh in line of Shaheen Bagh demonstration. "During the northeast riots, a huge mob gathered at the Chand Bagh protest site on February 24, 2020 and attempted to block the main Wazirabad Road. Staff Reporter

LG merely passing buck over spurt of crimes: Kejriwal

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written to LG VK Saxena over the spurt in crimes in Delhi and asserted that those responsible for ensuring



the safety of people have no "concrete solution" and are "merely passing the buck". "You are new to Delhi and being an outsider, it is difficult to know about the ground reality, but an alarming rise in serious crimes cannot be treated as business as usual by a Constitutional functionary," the Chief Minister wrote in his letter. Through this letter, Kejriwal also conveyed that he fails to understand the LG's reluctance to admit that the law and order situation in Delhi needs to be urgently improved.

In a rebuttal, Kejriwal expressed his disappointment, stating, "Under normal circumstances, I would not have found it necessary to respond again. However, the contents of your reply have left me with no choice but to make the people of Delhi aware that those directly responsible for ensuring their safety and security have no concrete solution and are simply evading responsibility." Kejriwal also highlighted the ease with which Saxena categorised the "extremely serious situation" concerning the safety of over twenty million residents of Delhi as a political matter. Staff Reporter

What's stronger than individuals? Processes.

Individuals may change, processes stay consistent.

Tried and tested processes are fundamental to an organisation's success as they clearly define how things are done. That's why it is imperative to choose an investment manager backed by strong processes, not just by competent individuals.

Strong processes and risk management help you achieve your goals steadily and sustainably.

An investor education and awareness initiative of Nippon India Mutual Fund

#EdgeOfKnowledge
133 years of
Global Experience

Contact your Mutual Fund Distributor or Investment Advisor | Give us a missed call on 8000112244 | Visit: mf.nipponindiaim.com/edgeofknowledge

Helpful Information for Mutual Fund Investors: All Mutual Fund investors have to go through a one-time KYC (know your Customer) process. Investors should deal only with registered mutual funds, to be verified on SEBI website under 'Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions'. For redressal of your complaints, you may please visit www.scores.gov.in. For more info on KYC, change in various details and redressal of complaints, visit mf.nipponindiaim.com/InvestorEducation/what-to-know-when-investing

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

India twists and turns as one on Yoga Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
India witnessed a grand celebration of International Yoga Day (IYD) on Wednesday, as citizens joined in with enthusiasm. From Leh in the North to Kanyakumari in the South, and Dwarka in the West to Tezu in the East, the event encompassed the entire nation.

President Droupadi Murmu led the occasion by performing yoga at Rashtrapati Bhavan, while Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar practiced yoga in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Reports flooded in about unique water yoga events held in Rajkot and Rameswaram, and the essence of yoga resonated at the Gateway of India, Mumbai's Central Station and local trains with passengers inside a local train doing

yoga. Notably, even Jammu & Kashmir's Kaman Aman Setu, Raipur's differently-abled community, and Kerala's underwater Army personnel actively participated in the celebrations. This year's theme for IYD is 'Yoga For Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which emphasises the significance of yoga for the well-being of all, fostering a sense of unity and the idea of 'One World, One Family'.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt-Gen KT Parnaik (Retd) urged people to incorporate regular yoga practice into their lifestyles, emphasising that yoga possesses remedies for various illnesses, brings peace of mind, instills self-discipline, and ensures physical and mental wellness. Echoing similar sentiments, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha described yoga as India's



Lok Sabha Speaker leads MPs and others at Yoga Abhyas in Parliament House.

greatest gift to humanity, transcending religious and geographical boundaries to bring happiness to people's lives. The Indian Army said that paraplegics and amputees of the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre & Artificial Limb Centre in Pune actively participated in yoga activities to mark the day. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha also joined. In Tamil Nadu Health Minister Subramanian, BJP state president K Annamalai, and numerous yoga enthusiasts took part in events

held across different parts of the State. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari extended his greetings on IYD saying that yoga has gained recognition worldwide. Speaking at a Yoga Day program in his hometown Nagpur, Maharashtra, Gadkari emphasised that yoga has become India's 'soft power'.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar urged people to make yoga an integral part of their lives, devoting at least half an hour every day to the practice. Addressing a gathering in Panipat, Khattar emphasised that "we can inspire others to embrace yoga when we ourselves practice it." Similarly, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led a session with hundreds of participants at AIIMS in Delhi.

Similarly, Minister of State for Culture and Law Arjun Ram

Meghwal led an invigorating yoga session at Nur Mahal Sarai in Jalandhar, while Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi conducted a captivating yoga session at Purana Qila in Delhi.

The National Cadet Corps celebrated the event with full zeal and enthusiasm, witnessing the participation of 11 lakh NCC cadets at various venues, including parks, open grounds, schools, and colleges throughout the country. The National Mission for Clean Ganga organised the 'Ghat Par Yoga' event at BSF Camp, Zero Pushta, Sonia Vihar in Delhi, along the banks of the River Yamuna. Over 600 people, including NGOs, Delhi Jal Board, Border Security Force, Ganga Task Force, volunteers from Ganga Vihar Manch, students, and children participated in the event.



World is acknowledging India's rich culture: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

issues is yoga.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday participated in a yoga session on indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in Kochi on the occasion of the International Yoga Day with Navy personnel and said it was a matter of pride for India that yoga was being celebrated globally as it shows the world is acknowledging the country's rich culture and also adopting it.

Early in the morning, the Defence Minister joined the naval personnel in their performance and led the celebrations on board the sprawling aircraft carrier. 'Agniweers' also performed yoga in unison, embracing the spirit of unity and well-being. Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and other senior officers of the Navy and the Ministry of Defence were also present during the event.

The Army and the Navy also practised yoga all across the country and abroad to mark the day.

army personnel conducted yoga sessions at more than 100 locations along the country's land and maritime borders, forming a 'Bharatmata' on the occasion of the IYD. Army Chief General Manoj Pande was the chief guest at the mass yoga event organised at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment, the Army said.

Interacting with the media after the yoga session, Rajnath said while yoga was acknowledged by the United Nations nine years ago only, it was being followed and practised in various parts of the world, including India, for centuries.

Yoga day celebrations are also being done on board ships of several foreign navies in concert with India's overseas missions, involving more than 1,200 foreign navy personnel.

CORRIGENDUM

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
DEMAND NOTICE PUBLICATION UNDER SARFAESI ACT FOR LOAN ACCOUNT No. '002105023126, 002155000039 & 002155000045 NAME OF THE BORROWER TECHNOCRATS TOOLING PRIVATE LIMITED, UMESH KUMAR SINGH- DIRECTOR, PRAVEEN RAO-DIRECTOR, SPS TECHNOLOGY, UMESH KUMAR SINGH, REENA SINGH WERE PUBLISHED IN DEMAND NOTICE DATED December 1, 2022 AND PUBLISHED DATED 24 February, 2023 AT THE PIONEER (HINDI), & THE PIONEER (ENGLISH) RESPECTIVELY AND SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE DATED MAY 04, 2023 IT'S PUBLISHED DATED MAY 10, 2023 PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & ORISSA TODAY (ENGLISH) WE WISH TO MENTION THAT INADVERTENTLY AND UNINTENTIONALLY A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR HAS OCCURRED IN THE SAID THE BORROWERS ADDRESS IN 13.2 & SYMBOLIC NOTICE AND ITS PUBLICATION FLAT NO NGH 051, 5TH FLOOR TOWER H NEW TOWN HEIGHTS SECTOR 90 GURGAON INSTEAD OF 5TH FLOOR, TOWER-H, NEW TOWN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-90 ATREVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE HAYATPUR, TEHSIL, AND DISTT-GURGAON THEREFORE, REQUEST YOU TO PLEASE READ THE SAME AS FLAT NO.NGH-051 ALONG WITH PARKING SPACE NO. POH-025, 5TH FLOOR, TOWER-H, NEW TOWN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-90 ATREVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE HAYATPUR, TEHSIL-AND DISTT-GURGAON
Date: June 22, 2023
Place: Gurgaon
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Paras Yadav had acquired the Commercial Booth No. 109 area measuring 22.88 Sq. Mtrs., i.e., 27.12 Sq. Yds., Situated in the Colony Known as Sector-18, Urban Estate Gurgaon Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon Haryana vide Transfer Deed in Blood Relation Dated 28.04.2023, Doc No. 1220. Above said owners has misplaced the Original GPA, ATS & Will Dated 21.04.2004. Original Sale Deed dated 23.02.2016 registered as document no. 29444, SR-Gurgaon, Original Mutation Letter and Original Transfer Deed Dated 24.10.1984 of the above said property. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager, Industrial Bank Ltd 2E/1, 3rd Floor, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi - 110055. Mr. Paras Yadav intends to Mortgage above said property to Industrial Bank in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD304-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 906670172/981828636 (M).

FORM NO. 3
[See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/466/2021
[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]
Exh. No.: 18035
ICICI BANK LIMITED
Versus
SANJAY KUMAR BHINDWAR
To,
(1) SANJAY KUMAR BHINDWAR D/W/S/O- SH RAJENDRA RAJENDWAR SON OF SHRI RAJENDRA BHINDWAR/ R/O H NO D 67, 1ST FLOOR, THE PALLADIAN MAYFIELD GARDEN, NEAR NIRVANA GURGAON- 122001, HARYANA GURGAON, HARYANA
Also At- FLAT NO 804, 8TH FLOOR, TOWER T 8, SPIRE WOOD SECTOR 103 GURGAON, HARYANA
(2) SMT KUSUM BHINDWAR W/O SH SANJAY KUMAR BHINDWAR, H/O NO D 67, 1ST FLOOR, THE PALLADIAN MAYFIELD GARDEN, NEAR NIRVANA GURGAON, HARYANA
Also At- FLAT NO 804, 8TH FLOOR, TOWER T 8, SPIRE WOOD SECTOR 103 GURGAON, HARYANA
(3) M/S A N BUILDWELL PVT LTD, CP NO 4, SECTOR 8, IMT MANESAR, GURGAON, HARYANA
SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/466/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 08/05/2023.
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11666229/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
(vi) you are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 27/09/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 29/05/2023.
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/1232/2021
[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]
Exh. No.: 17715
ICICI BANK LIMITED
Versus
VINAY DHILLON
To,
(3) M/S. RAHEJA DEVELOPERS LIMITED RESIDENT OF 406, 4TH FLOOR, RECTANGLE-ONE, D4, DISTRICT CENTRE SAKET, NEW DELHI- 110017, THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER (BUILDER)
SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/1232/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 26/04/2023.
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11666229/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
(vi) you are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 27/09/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 15/05/2023.
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons.

JD(U), RJD ready for hard talk with Opp

Ahead of meet, prepare report on parties' performance in last 3 polls

DEEPAK JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The lead proposers of the Patna Opposition party meeting, which includes the Janata Dal United (JD-U) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), have reportedly compiled an extensive report on all the parties' performance in the last three elections. This includes both the Bihar Government, which includes the Congress, are working diligently to avoid any disputes over seat sharing between regional parties and the Congress. This issue arises particularly in States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, where seat sharing between Congress and regional allies such as the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Samajwadi Party (SP), and Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) will be challenging. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supreme Sharan Pawar, who will be attending the meeting, stressed the importance of political parties shedding their egos if they genuinely desire to take on Prime Minister Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Other prominent leaders scheduled to participate in the Patna meet include Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah, and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray among others. Speculation suggests that the Congress party aims to claim

at least 350 seats across the country, including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Delhi, where regional allies like the TMC, JMM, AAP, and the RJD-JD(U) hold more significant vote shares than the Congress. Based on the formula being considered, JD(U) could expect to secure a fair number of Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, as the RJD failed to win a single seat in the 2019 polls, despite performing better than the JD(U) in the 2015 and 2020 Assembly polls. In 2019, the JD(U), as a constituent of the NDA, won 16 Lok Sabha seats. But during 2020 Assembly polls, it could only secure 43 seats, while RJD, then in Opposition as part of the Mahagathbandhan, won 75 seats, and Congress got 19 legislative Assembly seats.

team has prepared the report for discussion during the meeting on June 23. However, the leader emphasised that the report is not meant to be imposed as a formula for seat sharing. Instead, it will serve as a blueprint for the discussion among Opposition leaders. Sources within the Congress party stated that the alliance members of the Bihar Government, which includes the Congress, are working diligently to avoid any disputes over seat sharing between regional parties and the Congress. This issue arises particularly in States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, where seat sharing between Congress and regional allies such as the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Samajwadi Party (SP), and Aam Aadmi

Apex court allows treatment of Balaji at private hosp, nixes ED appeal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to arrested Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji, the Supreme Court Wednesday refused to stay a Madras High Court (HC) order allowing him to be moved to a private hospital for treatment, rejecting the appeal filed by Enforcement Directorate (ED). The ED, which arrested Balaji in connection with an alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the State's transport department, had moved the apex court against the Madras HC order. Balaji, 47, underwent a coronary bypass surgery at a private hospital in Chennai on Wednesday and was said to be doing fine.

Sonia slams Modi's silence, appeals for peace in Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi has expressed dismay over the ongoing violence in Manipur, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of failing to address the crisis and neglecting the violence-hit State. Gandhi stated that it has been 50 days since Manipur started burning and criticised Modi for deliberately ignoring the situation. Gandhi extended her condolences to those who lost their loved ones and expressed deep sadness at the forced displacement of people from their homes. She described the situation as heart-breaking, witnessing peaceful coexistence turning into conflict among the people. Gandhi emphasised the importance of choosing a path of healing to shape the future that the children of Manipur will inherit, urging the people, especially the women, to lead the way in bringing peace and harmony to the State. Meanwhile, leaders in the period of Balaji's hospital stay.

Manipur have been camping in Delhi since June 10, seeking a meeting with Modi to discuss the ethnic clashes. However, they have failed to secure an audience with Modi and have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) instead. Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh, criticised the BJP-led Government for its "maximum silence, minimum governance" approach in Manipur. He lamented the lack of response from Modi, despite his vocal opinions on various issues. Ramesh said Modi has not made any statement on the tragedy or granted an appointment to the representatives of political parties seeking to discuss the situation and this silence indicates a lack of concern or care. Manipur Congress spokesperson Ningombam Meitei questioned the duration of the ongoing turmoil and demanded answers from Modi. Meitei emphasised that the people of Manipur have a constitutional right to be heard by PM.

States told to ensure zero deaths as heat rises

Centre's advisory followed reports of ACs, coolers in hosps not working

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the heat-wave-related illness cases amid rise in temperature, the Centre has asked the States to step up resilience to extreme heat at health facilities level by ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply, installation of solar panels and adopting measures to reduce indoor heat through installation of cool/green roof, window shading, shades, etc. to ensure there is zero death. The advisory by the Union Health Ministry followed reports that there was no end to the agony of the patients suffering with heat-related illness in the hospitals with air conditioners and cooling units not working properly because of power fluctuations. Attendants were fanning

patients with books and wiping their sweat in an attempt to keep them cool, some reports said. In the last two weeks nearly 170 people have died from heat-related illnesses in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Information Commissioners of the States experiencing severe heatwave conditions.

Since many more States like Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana too are experiencing severe heatwave conditions, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed public health preparedness for management of heat-related illnesses.

"Effective disaster response and management is collaborative work and with coordinated actions between the Centre and States, it can be ensured there are no deaths due to heatwaves," Mandaviya said.

States were advised to increase resilience to extreme heat at health facilities' level by ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply; installation of solar panels and adopting measures to reduce indoor heat through installation of cool/green roof, window shading, shades, etc," said an official from the Ministry.

He urged the states to implement the State Action Plan, based on the National Action Plan, at the ground levels with a timely warning to the people, and ensure preventive preparedness to reduce the severe impact of heatwave.

The Minister had a virtual meeting with State Health Ministers, State Disaster Management Ministers and Principal Secretaries/Additional Chief Secretaries and

The Minister also advised the States that have not yet prepared the action plan to do so urgently detailing specific field level action and ensure effective implementation of the same.

Mandaviya stated that heat alerts and forecasts from the IMD are amplified and shared with all states daily by the Union Health Ministry and urged the states to develop training manuals on heat and health for state officials, medical officers and health workers.

ED busts hawala, illegal Forex network in Kerala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has seized Rs 2.90 crore cash in foreign and Indian currencies, following raids on 14 locations in Kerala against a network of hawala operators and illegal Forex dealers in the State. The searches under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) were conducted following inputs that hawala operations were being conducted at these premises in the guise of Forex money exchange, gifts, textile, jewellery and ready-made garments shops, the ED said. Hawala denotes illegal and fraudulent monetary transactions through both banking and non-banking channels. Currencies of 15 countries worth about Rs 1.50 crore and "unaccounted" Indian currency of about Rs 1.40 crore, generated from illegal foreign currency exchange, were seized during the operation, the agency said. Some of the entities that have been identified by the ED as "key players" in the alleged



hawala network and were covered as part of the search were Suresh Forex, Ettumanoor Forex, Dubai Forex, Sangeetha Foreign Exchange, Crescent Trading, Hana Trading, Fornas Forex Pvt Ltd and their key managerial persons. These persons and entities conducted an illegal exchange of foreign currency and were also involved in arranging cross-border payments to Dubai, the USA and Canada through hawala, bypassing legal banking channels, the ED alleged. The operators "admitted" illegal Forex dealings without

Bishnoi's key crony arrested by NIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested a key associate of incarcerated gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. The arrest was made in connection with the accused's alleged involvement in harboring members of the Lawrence Bishnoi terror syndicate, who are implicated in various criminal cases, including the RPG attack on the Intelligence Headquarters of Punjab Police in Mohali. The arrested individual, identified as Vikas Singh, hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He stands accused of providing shelter to Deepak Surakhpur and Divyanshu, residents of Faizabad, who executed the RPG attack on the intelligence headquarters in Mohali in May 2022. According to the NIA, Vikas has admitted to accommodating Deepak Surakhpur and Divyanshu multiple times, allowing them to stay in his house in Village Devgarh, Janpad Ayodhya, and his flat at 77/04 A Block, Gomti Nagar Vistar, Lucknow, UP. Vikas Singh is already facing charges in 18 criminal cases, including murder, attempted

CBI grills accused in Cordelia drug bust case again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday questioned suspected middleman Sanville Adrian D'Souza for over eight hours on the second day in a case of alleged attempted extortion of Rs 25 crore from actor Shah Rukh Khan for bailing out his son Aryan in the Cordelia drug bust case being probed by the NCB. D'Souza arrived at the CBI headquarters here and he was quizzed till 7 PM about his interactions on the night of October 2-3, 2021, alleged negotiations over payment of Rs 25 crore with the staff of the actor, details of the token amount of Rs 50 lakh allegedly extorted, among other connected issues, officials said, adding, he may be called again for questioning. During the course of the investigation, the CBI will record statements of all those involved in the case, including the staff of the actor and Aryan Khan as per procedure, they said. Fearing his arrest, D'Souza had earlier this month filed for anticipatory bail which was opposed by the CBI on the grounds that his custodial interrogation was needed. The application was turned down by the Special CBI Court on June 14.

murder, Arms Act violations, and involvement in gang-related activities.

During the investigation, the NIA uncovered that Vikas was introduced to Deepak Surakhpur by Vicky Midhukhera, another associate and friend of Lawrence Bishnoi. Vikas, already acquainted with Divyanshu, facilitated his connection to the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate. The duo was allegedly involved in several targeted and contract killings, including those of businessman Sanjay Bijyani in Nanded and Rana Kandhwalia in Punjab. Additionally, Vikas Singh sheltered another accused individual named Rinku after the murder of Rana Kandhwalia, according to the agency. The investigation has further revealed that Vikas Singh harbored several gangsters and associates from other states, including Rinku, Rajpal (Madhya Pradesh), and Bhati (Madhya Pradesh). The current case is linked to a terrorist-gangster conspiracy orchestrated by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi criminal syndicates and gangs, both within India and abroad.

murder, Arms Act violations, and involvement in gang-related activities.

During the investigation, the NIA uncovered that Vikas was introduced to Deepak Surakhpur by Vicky Midhukhera, another associate and friend of Lawrence Bishnoi. Vikas, already acquainted with Divyanshu, facilitated his connection to the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate. The duo was allegedly involved in several targeted and contract killings, including those of businessman Sanjay Bijyani in Nanded and Rana Kandhwalia in Punjab. Additionally, Vikas Singh sheltered another accused individual named Rinku after the murder of Rana Kandhwalia, according to the agency. The investigation has further revealed that Vikas Singh harbored several gangsters and associates from other states, including Rinku, Rajpal (Madhya Pradesh), and Bhati (Madhya Pradesh). The current case is linked to a terrorist-gangster conspiracy orchestrated by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi criminal syndicates and gangs, both within India and abroad.

Shah calls all-party meet on June 24 to discuss Manipur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has convened an all-party meeting on June 24 in New Delhi to discuss the situation in Manipur which has witnessed sporadic violence since May 3.

"Union Home Minister Shri @AmitShah has convened an all party meeting on 24th June at 3 PM in New Delhi to discuss the situation in Manipur," a home ministry spokesperson tweeted.

The announcement came after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met the home minister here this evening.

Sarma is also the convenor of the NDA's Northeast chapter NEDA (North-East Democratic Alliance).

He had also visited Imphal a fortnight ago and met Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and a number of political leaders.

Violent clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

So far, nearly 120 people have lost their lives and over 3,000 are injured.

Amit Shah had also visited



the state for four days last month and met a cross sections of people in his efforts to bring back peace in the northeastern state.

Meanwhile, more than 1,500 children who have shifted along with their families from violence-hit Manipur have been enrolled in various schools across Mizoram, a senior official of the education department said.

Mizoram Education Director Lalsangliana told PTI that the displaced children were given free admission in government schools.

Considering their situation, the students were allowed to enrol in the schools even if they could not produce the required documents, he said.

Meanwhile, Mizoram

Home Commissioner and Secretary H Lalengmawia expressed hope that the state government would receive monetary assistance from the Centre to provide relief to over 11,800 internally displaced people from Manipur.

Lalengmawia told the meeting of the executive committee on internally displaced people of Manipur on Tuesday that, he along with other officials had accompanied Tourism Minister Robert Romawia Royte to Delhi to pursue the assistance sought by the state government recently.

He said that the state government has sought Rs 10 crore from the Centre to provide relief to the displaced people.

The meeting was convened

to review the current situation of the displaced people and relief.

With the monsoon approaching, the meeting decided that suitable government buildings should be emptied to shelter the displaced people instead of keeping them in temporary shelters.

The meeting further decided that funds be raised to provide relief to the displaced people and donations should also be collected from like-minded legislators and government employees.

Altogether, 11,870 people from neighbouring Manipur have taken refuge in all 11 districts of Mizoram as of Tuesday, it said.

North Mizoram's Kolasib district currently hosts the highest number of displaced people at 4,292, followed by Aizawl district (3,866) and Saitual district (2,905).

The remaining 816 people took shelter in Champhai, Lunglei, Mamit, Khawzawl, Hnahthial, Serchhip, Siaha and Lawngtlai districts.

The government and village authorities have set up at least 35 relief camps in Aizawl, Saitual and Kolasib districts.

The state government, NGOs, churches and villagers are providing food to the displaced people.

Prosecution to challenge acquittal of 6 in Umesh Pal murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The district prosecution department, Prayagraj, has decided to move an appeal against the acquittal of six persons in the Umesh Pal abduction case. In this case slain gangster Atiq Ahmed, his lawyer Khan Sault Hanif and Dinesh Pasi were awarded life term but seven other accused were acquitted, out of which one is no more.

According to district government counsel, Gulab Chandra Agrahri, a proposal in his connection was moved before the state government on Monday through the district magistrate, Prayagraj. On March 28, 2023, the MP-MLA court of Prayagraj had awarded life term to Atiq, Khan Sault and Dinesh Pasi in Umesh Pal abduction case.

However, the other seven accused — Atiq's brother Khalid Azim alias Mohd

Ashraf, Abid, Javed, Farhan, Ishrar, Ashif alias Malli and Azaz Akhtar — were acquitted. Out of seven acquitted, Atiq's brother — Khalid Azim alias Mohd Ashraf is more. Therefore, a proposal to move appeal against the acquittal of the remaining six accused, who were acquitted in the said abduction case has been sent to the state government for approval.

YOGA SESSION: On International Yoga Day SHU-ATS conducted a yoga session at convocation ground premises of the university. The event took place with an opening prayer.

The yoga session started under the guidance of Akash from Heartfulness Education Trust, Prayagraj. Officiating Registrar Dr CJ Wesley extended the facilities and said yoga is a powerful tool for individual, communities and countries to improve both mental and physical health.

Coordinator NSS Dr Dipak Kumar Bose welcomed the yoga trainer by presenting bouquet.

More than hundred students, staff and neighbours performed yogasanas. Dr Bose gave special thanks to the higher authorities for their guidance and support.

Satyam Keshri, Assistant Coordinator, NSS and Dr Neena Gupta, NSS Programme Officer gave their contribution in organising the event. Programme officers Dr Prashant Ankur Jain, Dr Rampal Singh, Dr OP Verma, Dr Hira Bose, Dr Jyotsna Jaiswal, Dr Abhinav Dayal, Dr Anup Masih, Rakesh Sahu and Dr Anil Khare participated and worked hard for the success of the programme.

WORKSHOP: A week-long workshop on "Advanced Training Programme on Experimental and Simulation Techniques for Material Sciences" organised by the

Department of Applied Sciences, IIT-Allahabad, began on Jhalwa campus on Wednesday.

Inaugurating the programme at CC-3 building, Director, IIT-A, Prof Mukul Sharad Sutaone said materials science and engineering combines engineering, physics and chemistry principles to solve real world problems associated with nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, energy, manufacturing and other major engineering disciplines.

He said the participants will acquire knowledge in advanced experimental and numerical methods in materials science and engineering. The participants can widen their outlook and deepen their basic knowledge on current challenges in materials sciences. They also have the possibility to gain practical experience by participating in lab projects.

Yoga functions galore in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In this holy city which is known as the 'Karmbhoomi' of Maharshi Patanjali who taught the world about the Yoga about 2,400 years ago, yoga practice functions were organised at several places including all the three universities, Railway units, central and state government premises, and others on the occasion of 9th International Yoga Day here on Wednesday. The police and para-police personnel as well as army soldiers also performed yoga practices.

In Banaras Hindu University (BHU), the faculty members, students, staff and others performed Yogasanas. A number of programmes were organised on the campus at faculties and hostels apart from sports grounds. The main programme took place at Malaviya Bhavan, where Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir Kumar conveyed greetings to the members of BHU on Yoga Day. Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh, Chief Proctor Prof Abhimanyu Singh, Dean of Students Welfare Prof AK Nema, Honorary Director of Malaviya Bhavan Prof Rajaram Shukla and others were present.

In Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV), under the guidance of V-C Dr Anand Kumar Tyagi, a music therapy camp was organised by Dr Durgesh Kumar Upadhyay, coordinator of the Music Therapy Cell and Research Centre of the Department of Psychology, at Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru playground of MGKV.



V-C Prof SK Jain and others doing yoga practice at BHU in Varanasi on Wednesday

During this camp, Registrar Dr Sunita Pandey, Deputy Registrar Harish Chand, Head of Psychology Department Prof Rashmi Singh and many others were also present. In Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU), ex-VC of MM University, Solan, Prof PK Bansal was chief guest who said that to achieve mastery in action is Yoga. Special guest Yogacharya Rakesh Pandey said that Yoga is a way to know and understand spiritual India while the registrar Rakesh Kumar also addressed the function.

Under the Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER), with the theme of 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam' programmes were held at major stations, training centres and diesel lobbies. At Officers' Club here, yoga programme was held under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey. At Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), yoga exercises were conducted by different yoga instructors in various places like Officers Club, Technical Training Centre and BLW Inter College. The chief guest of the programme held at BLW Officers' Club was General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda. The Yoga Day was celebrated enthusiastically by the Department of Posts in various post offices and the main function

was inaugurated by Postmaster General (PMG) Krishna Kumar Yadav at the Regional office located at Varanasi Cantt Head Post Office.

At 95 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the yoga programme was attended by Commandant Anil Kumar Briksh and his wife Dr Bindu. Hundreds of students of the madrasa performed Yoga at Madrasa Daryatul Islah Chirage Uloom, Rasoolpura in which senior officer-bearers of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) were present. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also organised yoga programmes at different assembly constituencies.

Lakhs of people performed

Yoga in rural and urban areas of the district on the occasion of International Yoga Day here on Wednesday. Apart from all the Ganga ghats, the main programme was organised in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) in which Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Ayush and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' was present as the chief guest.

On the occasion, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLA T Ram, Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal and many other officers, employees and general public participated and performed yoga.

The Minister inaugurated the yoga programme by lighting the lamp. He read out the Prime Minister's message after his address. He said that the world is being benefited by yoga. "Our heritage like Yoga and Ayurveda is paving the way for world welfare. Yoga practice prepares us to face the toughest challenges of modern life effectively while making us extremely strong mentally and physically," he said.

"Yoga is such a trend, whose history is thousands of years old and it is one of the best means of our inner peace," he said. Chief yoga instructor Manish Kumar Pandey, Dr Dhananjay Mishra, Shreya Singh and Dr Monika Mohinani also threw light on the importance of yoga. National Liaison Head of World Ayurveda Council Dr KK Dwivedi conducted the yoga practice session while the vote of thanks was proposed by Regional Ayurvedic and Unani Officer Dr Bhavna Dwivedi. Regional Unani Officer Dr Niaz Ahmed and others also performed yoga.

A total of 1,164 dignitaries and others from various institutions participated in the yoga programme at the corridor. Yoga programme was also organised at 30 main Ganga ghats in which a total of 8,321 persons performed yoga. Besides, yoga programmes

were also organised in all 694 gram panchayats of the district in which a total of 48,580 persons participated.

A total of 3,430 persons participated in the yoga programmes held in all the eight development block premises.

A total of 1,560 persons participated in the yoga programmes in all the three tehsil headquarters.

'Evict land grabbers from social welfare department's property'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma has directed the social welfare officer to evacuate the land of the Social Welfare department near Government Children's Home (Juvenile) in Ramnagar from the possession of land grabbers and also lodge an FIR against them.

The DC conducted a physical verification of various projects on Tuesday which are being carried out in Ramnagar. During the physical verification of Government Children's Home (Juvenile), the DC inspected the newly constructed children's home (girls) in the premises of Government Children's Home (Juvenile) and took stock of the facilities available here.

There is a proposal to establish old aged home and composite regional centre for the skill development, rehabilitation and empowerment of divyangjan on the land of the



The DC Kaushal Raj Sharma conducting physical verification of projects in Ramnagar

Social Welfare department near Government Children's Home (Juvenile) besides the construction of a hostel for working women.

This integrated complex proposed by the department of divyangjan, social welfare and probation which will be only in

the country in its nature, the DC said and directed the social welfare officer to evacuate the land from land grabbers showing strictness and also lodge an FIR against them.

The DC took the detailed information about Shastri Ghat in Ramnagar and the propos-

al of Samne Ghat and issued proper directives in this direction. He suggested planting shady trees at the proposed Ghat for the greenery. He also inspected the port and took stock of knowledge about the proposed model, roads, water taxi, etc.

'Ensure availability of adequate fertilisers to farmers'

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Divya Mittal while presiding over the meeting of fertiliser review committee at the Collectorate on Tuesday has directed the officials to ensure availability of adequate fertiliser to farmers according their to agricultural land.

Discussing ways for proper distribution of fertiliser she said it was the duty of the officials to keep a close watch on stock holders, black marketers, illegal traders etc. She asked the AR cooperative and agriculture officer to patrol on state borders to check smuggling of fertilisers to other states.

Publication Form No. 3

[See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA No. 643 of 2020 [Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] Exh. 17992

ICICI BANK LIMITED VS RAKESH MALIK

To, (1) RAKESH MALIK D/W/S/O- MR. ISHWAR SINGH MALIK, RAKESH MALIK S/O MR. ISHWAR SINGH MALIK, R/O FLAT NO.401, ELSA TOWER, OMAXE NORTH AVENUE-1, ROHTAK ROAD, BAHADURGARH, HAJAJAR-124507 HARYANA, HAJAJAR, HARYANA - 124507 (2) MRS. NALINI MALIK W/O MR. RAKESH MALIK R/O FLAT NO. 401, ELSA TOWER, OMAXE NORTH AVENUE-1, ROHTAK ROAD, BAHADURGARH, HAJAJAR, 124507 HARYANA Also At, 2ND ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 & AMP; 2 R/O FLAT NO. 904, 9TH FLOOR, LIBERTE TOWER, OMAXE NORTH AVENUE, BAHADURGARH HAJAJAR, HARYANA (3) M/S OMAXE LTD., R/O SHOP NO. 19-B, 1ST FLOOR, OMAXE CELEBRATION MAIL, SOHNA ROAD, GURGAON- 122001, HARYANA, THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER

SUMMONS WHEREAS, OA/643/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 08/05/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 2098203/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

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

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 18/09/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 29/05/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons.

FORM NO. 3

[See Regulation-15(1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA/644/2020 [Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] Exh. No. 17367

ICICI BANK LIMITED Versus SAJIT NATH MENON

To, (1) SAJIT NATH MENON D/W/S/O- MR. BHASKARAN KARUTHE DATH MR. SAJIT MENON S/O MR. BHASKARAN KARUTHE DATH, R/O FLAT NO. 1203, TOWER NO. 2, OMAXE THE NILE, SECTOR-49, SOHNA ROAD GURGAON-122001 HARYANA Gurgaon, HARYANA (2) MRS. SWATI MENON W/O MR. SAJIT NATH MENON R/O FLAT NO. 1203, TOWER O. 2, OMAXE THE NILE, SECTOR-49, SOHNA ROAD, GURGAON-122001, HARYANA Also At, 2ND ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 & AMP; 2 R/O FLAT NO. G-03, GROUND FLOOR, TOWER-E RESIZONE RESIDENCY, MAYUR VIHAR, SAHASTRADHARA, DEHRADUN-248001 (3) M/S RESIZONE BUILDWELL PVT. LTD. R/O H-157, 2ND FLOOR, SECTOR-63, NOIDA-201301 THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER

SUMMONS WHEREAS, OA/644/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 22/03/2023.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 8029801/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

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

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons.

PUBLICATION

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

Case No.: OA No.670 of 2020 [Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] Exh. 18176

ICICI BANK LIMITED VS SHIKHA YADAV

To, (1) SHIKHA YADAV D/W/S/O- Mr. Ashutosh Yadav MRS. SHIKHA YADAV W/O MR. ASHUTOSH YADAV R/O HOUSE NO.L-298, SECTOR-12 PARTAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH- 201000 (2) MR. ASHUTOSH YADAV S/O MR. SURESH CHANDRA YADAV R/O HOUSE NO. L-298, SECTOR-12 PARTAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD Also At, 2ND ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 & AMP; 2 R/O FLAT NO. 1003, 10TH FLOOR, TOWER-T-12 SPIRE WOODS, SECTOR-103, GURGAON, HARYANA Also At, 3RD ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 & AMP; 2 R/O FLAT NO. 4157, 15TH LEVEL, T. NO.4, PRESTIGE SHANTI NIKETN, WHITEFIELD, MAIN ROAD, MAHADEVAPURA, BANGLORE (3) M/S RAMPRASTHA SHARE REALTY PVT. LTD. PLOT NO. YADAV R/O HOUSE NO. L-298, SECTOR-12 PARTAP VIHAR, GHURGAON- 122015, THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER

SUMMONS WHEREAS, OA/670/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 19/04/2023.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 4709091/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

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

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Holding sway

PM Modi's US visit is an opportunity to bolster the US-India relation and send a stern signal to China

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on his maiden US State visit. His visit has garnered significant attention and anticipation. The Prime Minister has used his stay to meet not only the US administration but a plethora of American businessmen and think tank. His meeting with Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla has left many guessing about the outcome. The visit has the potential to become a defining moment in US-India relations, fostering closer ties between the two nations. It goes without saying that in the US system the businesses play a vital role in the policy framework and the administration is very careful in calibrating its moves keeping in mind the impact it would have on businesses in the US. Thus, Prime Minister Modi's meetings with influential leaders and business magnates during his US visit is a step in the right direction and underscore the growing importance of India on the global stage. Engagements with Elon Musk, a visionary entrepreneur, albeit little off tangent, serve as a testament to India's commitment to fostering innovation and technology-driven growth. Such interactions create a positive framework for bilateral cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, space exploration, and advanced manufacturing, bolstering economic ties between the two nations. Whether or not Tesla would actually come to India is difficult to say right now as it would depend upon many factors but it certainly opens up the avenue for its entry here. Besides, Prime Minister Modi's visit also showcased the strong partnership between the US and India in addressing shared challenges, including climate change, cyber security, and terrorism.



However, in the realm of diplomacy no event takes place in isolation but has to be evaluated in a larger perspective that encompasses multiple regional and global players. India's relations with Russia and China should be evaluated in light of changing geopolitical dynamics. While the US-India partnership has witnessed remarkable growth, it does not necessitate a deterioration of India's relations with Russia and China. India has historically maintained diplomatic balance, engaging with various nations to advance its strategic interests. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US does not undermine India's partnerships with Russia and China; rather, it adds a new dimension to its foreign policy architecture. But this assertion is not free from its limitations. How would China view and react to this visit only China can say and so goes for Russia which is coming closer to China and forming an axis against the US led Western alliance. If Russia takes a strong exception to the PM's US state visit, then India could be in the dock. India depend on Russia for defence supplies in a big way. It also encompasses energy partnerships, and diplomatic support. India's approach to international relations has always been about maintaining a delicate balance between various global powers. It should be India's endeavour to have good relations with the US without annoying Russia or china.

PICTALK



Army personnel perform yoga on the International Day of Yoga, at Siachen

PTI

Career-oriented thinking is must for higher studies

Career-oriented thinking is essential when preparing your child for studying in the US university

The United States (US) has established itself as one of the top destinations for studying abroad. Universities there have the top QS World University Ranking, attracting more and more Indian students. 12 prestigious American universities are now on the list of the top 20 globally ranked universities. According to the US embassy and consulates in India, the number of student visas issued for Indian citizens broke its all-time high in the fiscal year 2022, at almost 1.25 lakh.

For children going there to study, initially, it may feel overwhelming with respect to settling down in a new country, as the way of living, environment, people, cultures, everything changes. Hence, parents must prepare children well to ensure an enriching academic experience. In view of this, we have listed a few points to consider while preparing to send your child to the US.

Start early: It is important to start preparing well in advance. This includes researching schools, programs, and requirements and planning the necessary appli-



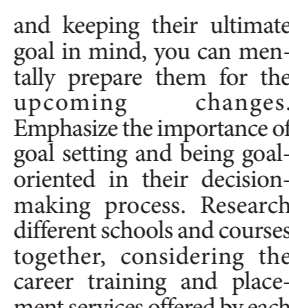
cation procedures. Parents can start researching higher education in the US when their kid is in the 10th or 11th standard.

College is a fresh chapter: It is crucial to make your child aware that their school life in their home country is one chapter and their college life abroad is a new beginning. Motivate them to be ready to handle unfamiliar situations. It will aid in their personal and professional growth.

Think outside of the ranks: Research the schools and programs that interest your child and match their academic and personal goals. Rankings often prioritize certain factors, such as research output or academic reputation, which may not align with your child's goals and needs. It's important to con-

sider factors like program offerings, location, campus culture, extracurricular opportunities, size, academic rigour, and available resources to ensure that it fits your child's individual objectives and requirements.

Plan for finances: The cost of tuition and living expenses in the US can be quite high, and parents should be prepared to cover these expenses. It's important to research the cost of living in the area where your child will be studying, including housing, food, transportation, and other expenses, and to plan for finances early on. Parents should research the scholarship, grants, and financial aid opportunities available to their child, both from the university and external sources, and create a budget to cover living expenses accordingly so the child's study abroad experience is financially sustainable. Career-oriented thinking: Helping your child to look at the wider picture is one of the best things you can do for them. Career-oriented thinking is essential when preparing your child for studying in the US. By helping them understand the bigger picture



PIYUSH KUMAR

and keeping their ultimate goal in mind, you can mentally prepare them for the upcoming changes. Emphasize the importance of goal setting and being goal-oriented in their decision-making process. Research different schools and courses together, considering the career training and placement services offered by each institution. Consider cultural adjustments: Encourage your child to embrace and enjoy learning about American customs, traditions, social norms, and values as they prepare to study in the US. Training in life skills: Encouraging children to learn life skills when studying in the US can enhance their adaptation and success in their new environment. These skills foster self-sufficiency and independence, including cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and time management. By acquiring these abilities, children gain confidence, control, and resilience to overcome the challenges of relocating to a different country.

(The writer is Regional Director- South Asia and Mauritius, IDP Education)

A new chapter in India-US relations

The desire of the political leadership of the two countries to build a strong relationship is based on regional, domestic, and strategic factors

The transformation of the India-US relationship from estranged democracies to a strategic partnership has been a defining movement of the 21st century, with the two countries having witnessed significant cooperation in several areas of common interests. While successive Indian Prime Ministers and US Presidents have played pivotal in cementing the ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden have also taken a slew of measures in this regard. Therefore, the upcoming state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US on June 21-24 is viewed as a historic movement in the relationship.

Modi will become the first Indian Prime Minister to address a joint session of the US Congress for a second time, reiterating to US leaders that a resurgent India is committed to working together with the United States in ensuring peace, security and development in South Asia and other parts of the globe. Undoubtedly, one of the major shifts that have been observed in the relationship is an unprecedented political willingness in both countries to engage each other. This can be gauged from regular interactions between the senior Indian and US political leaders on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues.

Of course, the desire of the political leadership of the two countries to build a strong relationship has not developed in a vacuum. In fact, there is a milieu of structural, domestic, leadership and other drivers responsible for the transformational shift in bilateral ties.

One such driver is the shared security challenges facing New Delhi and Washington. There is a growing sentiment among US security officials and experts that, given its economic slowdown, its involvement in the Russian-Ukraine war, as well as security crises in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and other regions, it is not possible for the United States alone to ensure peace and security. It needs to engage rising powers like India. As the Modi government has accelerated the process of military modernisa-



tion, buoyed by increased foreign direct investment in the defence sector, Washington sees economic opportunities in deepening defence ties with New Delhi. The rise of China and its assertive posturing in the South China Sea is another reason for the United States to expand its security and military relations with India. Washington also views India's Act East policy as compatible with its Indo-Pacific strategy.

India is concerned by China's position on disputed territories and by the growing nexus between Beijing and Islamabad. New Delhi feels that the presence of the United States in South Asia would help maintain the balance of power in its favour. The Modi government also knows it cannot aggressively pursue military modernisation without access to advanced US weaponry and technology. Modi's ambitious 'Make in India' initiative would also not be successful without the active participation of the American defence industry, given its expertise in the field. Isolating Pakistan internationally for failing to adequately address terrorism also requires New Delhi to sustain security talks and military exercises with Washington. The security concerns led India and the US to sign several key defence agreements including the

INDIA IS CONCERNED BY CHINA'S POSITION ON DISPUTED TERRITORIES AND BY THE GROWING NEXUS BETWEEN BEIJING AND ISLAMABAD

Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMA), the Communication and Information Security Memorandum (CISMOA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). With the aim of boosting technology cooperation, the two countries have also signed the Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). This in turn will help in strengthening the innovation ecosystem, defence innovation & technology cooperation, resilient semiconductor supply chains, space, and next-generation telecommunication.

A roadmap for defence industry cooperation has also been signed between New Delhi and Washington early this month. The US policy towards Pakistan and terrorism has also undergone a marked shift to placate India's security concerns. These developments in turn have also led to a sharp rise in India's defence imports from the US from less than US\$ 1 billion in 2008 to US\$ 21 billion in 2021. The signing of an agreement between General Electric (GE) and Hindustan Aeronautics regarding the domestic manufacturing of American jet engines during Modi's visit. This in turn will be a bone for the Make in India initiative. The two sides can

also finalise a defence deal to buy 30 MQ-9 armed drones.

Economic interests are another driver of the relationship. While the volume of bilateral trade has reached US\$ 190 billion, the two countries have set a goal of taking it to \$500 billion in the next few years. For that to happen, the two countries have established an India-US Investment Initiative as well as an Infrastructure Collaboration Platform. Sure, the above account of encouraging trends however does not blind us to the challenges that the relationship has continued to face. The Biden administration's reluctance to restore India's status under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and the two countries divergent approaches in the agriculture and dairy sectors are a set of obstacles facing the relationship. The two sides also have differences in Myanmar, Iran, and Afghanistan. The US continues to feel uneasiness with the idea of India's strategic autonomy. Thus, with the visit by Modi to Washington, one hopes that both countries would be able to address these issues to realise the full potential of the relationship.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

Sir — Revered Kalyani Shankar's analysis of the electoral prospects for both the ruling BJP and several groups of opposition parties, those thinking of contesting the-2024 Lok Sabha polls unitedly (The BJP must go to the drawing board to pull off a hat trick, The Pioneer, June 21) is perfectly good, as it is. 'The Congress' recent landslide win in the Karnataka assembly elections flies in the face of the wishful thinking about the BJP's invincibility even as the poll pundits have predicted better days for the GOP. Hence, the grand old party has a reasonable spring on its feet before going to the polls in Rajasthan, MP and Mizoram.

The columnist's observation that for a hat trick, BJP needs an assessment of its strategy for the next year's grand finale, is spot on given that a weak Congress and divided Opposition is an ideal scenario for the BJP ruling the States largely and is at the Centre's helm as well. What were these political crumbles now is a crucial question; its answer squarely hinges on the kaleidoscopic political scenarios in the country. Hence, wait is the only answer that only time will tell.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

TITANIC TRAGEDY REVISITED

Sir — On April 10, 1912, R.M.S. Titanic left her port in Southampton, England, and began the transatlantic voyage to New York City in the United States. The ship hit an iceberg on 15 April 1912 and sank. More than 1,500 people died in the maritime disaster, while about 700 survived. The wreckage of the Titanic—which was discovered on September 1, 1985—was found at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 13,000 feet underwater. This mystery and adventure became the centre of interest for people around the world when director James Cameron made the blockbuster film 'Titanic' in 1997. It is said that this filmmaker went to the ocean floor 33 times to see and analyse the remains of Titanic

Setback to Mamata Banerjee



West Bengal is more infamous for poll-related violence. The latest in the series of violence is in respect of Panchayat polls. At least 24 people are reported killed in the violence. Free and fair poll elections cannot be expected where violence rules the roost. The saying "Politics is war without bloodshed and War is politics with bloodshed" needs to be changed to say politics is also war with bloodshed without arms and ammunition but with cudgels, stones, knives, daggers etc. But violence unleashed on the eve of polls resulting in fatalities due to the involvement of hostile parties is 'war' within the nation over greed for power. Central forces have been

deployed to monitor the poll progress. The Calcutta High Court order directing the deployment of central forces for the July 8 panchayat elections challenged by the state government and State Election Commission (SEC) has been rightly upheld by the Supreme Court. The opponents of security forces are largely the ones who have the upper hand in unleashing violence to win the election by hook or crook. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Manoj Mishra of the Supreme Court (SC) have recognized the need for security forces to ensure free and fair elections.

If both the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court have favoured central forces, it shows the depth of the ongoing violence in West Bengal. Central governments in the past have misused Article 356 which confers powers to impose president's rule. There were many occasions in the past for the imposition of presidential rule when West Bengal was ravaged by violence. The Modi government has exercised admirable restraint. The case for the presidential rule was strong in the violence perpetrated in the aftermath of the Assembly election in 2021.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

in the ocean floor. After that, the bottom of the ocean has now become a center of tourism for the rich people around the world. But this Sunday, the contact of submarine, which went out to see the Titanic remains with five people, has been broken after a few hours. Now even the oxygen is almost on the verge of ending. God forbid that it too should not meet the fate of Titanic.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

NO HOPE FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE

Sir — Two Palestinians opened fire on Israelis on Tuesday afternoon at a gas station and an adjacent restaurant outside the central West Bank settlement of Eli, killing four Israelis and wounding four others. Taking immediate notice, the White House did not delay even a minute to declare this attack as an act of

terrorism. In addition to the previous killings, in this year 2023 alone, Israeli forces have killed at least 156 Palestinians, including 26 children. Have the Americans condemned those killings even once during that time? Are Israelis called terrorists? No, not at all. This is the reason why, from the beginning, the world, including the United Nations, sided with the Israelis and ignored the legitimate demands of the Palestinians. The Palestinian territories — encompassing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem — have been illegally occupied by Israel since 1967. It would be ridiculous to imagine peace in the Middle East until this region is freed from Israel.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

COMFORTABLE LIFE AND A LITTLE PROGRESS

Material progress and comfortable living must be understood properly



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I was recently asked about life's goals. My answer was: "Comfortable living and a little progress". Why is that? Aren't there unlimited possibilities? Shouldn't we aim for the moon? The answer to both these questions is a firm no. Let us see the big picture. We are forever doing 'karmas' with our bodies, minds and words. These bring 'karmaphalas' both good and bad. They are carried forward till they come to fruition life after life. And the cruel truth is: most of what fructify in this life comes from karmas of past lives. What we do in the present life does make a difference but in a minor way. That is why big successes come to only a few even though many try very hard. What we do in this life will not go waste but will give us results in future lives only.

What does the Bhagavad-Geeta teach us? "The place of action and the doer and many different kinds of instruments and many different efforts and fifth in this connection is the providence only." (18.14) That is why Lord Krishna has advised, "Be satisfied by any benefit, which comes of its own accord (due to acts done earlier)." (4.22) We must do our very best, but we must not get attached to lofty results; chances of that happening are very low. So, small progress is what we can really hope for.



Such progress can be of two types. The first one is material, which is applicable to the majority. The other is spiritual, which is only sought by the minority. Most people work for someone else or for the government. Landing a good secure job, which pays well, and is respected is also in progress. Such jobs are essential to society; people in these jobs are caring; they evoke trustworthiness. Similarly, running a business, which is service-oriented, is progress, if one supplies quality goods at reasonable prices. The underlying idea is to shun greed in whatever we do because that goes against the karmaphala principle. Anything obtained, which is much more than what we deserve at the expense of others, is not progress but is regress.

Now we come to the spiritual progress. We should all know that we are parts of God (15.7); we must connect with Him to become complete. And the easiest ways to do it are to pray, remember Him, etc. Wise persons reinforce the mode of goodness in themselves. This is simply done by choosing goodness as opposed to passion or darkness. This is crucial because we all have bad karmaphalas waiting to fructify and faults in nature, which give us trouble like getting angry readily. Such spiritual progress will also help in removing the insufficiency in the material progress we make.

Now we can take up comfortable living. What do we consider living comfortably? A nice residence comes to mind first. We all must have a comfortable home either owned by us or rented by us. Then, we must have plenty to be able to maintain ourselves. Unfortunately, many pass these two tests but fail to be comfortable due to poor sanskaras. They want to show off. I never understood why one needs an expensive car to go from one place to another. Children learn these poor habits and pay their price. Then, there should be good family relationships. A good support base of dependable doctors, etc. helps. Even if one passes all these tests, one's mood is under the influence of externals. Things go wrong and one is not comfortable in the best of surroundings. This is why spiritual progress is critical.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Strive to achieve Net Zero emission

Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023 (FCAB) reiterates India's commitment towards realising 'Net Zero Emission' by 2070



BKP SINHA



ARVIND KUMAR JHA

Law is the primary instrument for the implementation of policy. The Forest Conservation Act 1980 (FCA) amendment was enacted for regulating the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. The skillfully drafted preamble of Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023 (FCAB) once again reiterates India's commitment towards realizing the national targets of Net Zero Emission by 2070; maintenance and enhancement of forest carbon stocks through ecologically balanced sustainable development; Nationally Determined Contribution target of creating carbon sink of additional 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent by 2030; increase in the forest and tree cover to one-third of its land area with an enhanced growth trajectory; maintaining country's important tradition of preserving forests and their bio-diversity; and enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits including livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. The preamble also indicates the need for provisions relating to the conservation, management and restoration of forests, maintenance of ecological security, carbon neutrality, etc. It does make a pious reading and a great impression.

Succinctly and surely, the preamble sums up the Government's intentions and the purpose of FCAB. When one starts giving a closer look at the provisions expected to serve the preamble's key contents, one notices that what they leave out is much more than what they cover. In this context, it also becomes imperative to look for the effect of FCA. FCA managed to reduce the diversion of forest in just a few decades from 1.43 lac ha to 15000 ha annually. At the same breadth, one may like to add that FCA fostered seething discontentment among a class of influential political and social circle of resourced human civilized class, who believed in the quick development of non-resilient eco-fragile infrastructures and who further believed in resource-hungry neoliberalism. The FCA, in its core spirit, notwithstanding some implementation issues increasing with time, attempted to serve public good and environmental sustainability, particularly in the face of climate change impacting all walks of life.

Examining from the above perspective, one finds that because FCAB is restricting the categories of forest land covered by the FCA and also simultaneously exempting, through an express provision, certain other forest lands from its coverage; huge stretches of forest lands of the country go out of the regulatory system prevalent for permitting non-forestry use of forest lands. For example, huge chunks of the proposed Reserve Forest areas (under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act 1927) and many areas critical for the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity including the life and livelihoods of local communities become vulnerable to land-use change. Examples of such lands left out are sacred groves, unclassed forests, zudpi jungle, paisari lands, oran lands, gainrans or gochars, etc. and the related provisions clearly militate against the twin objectives of creating carbon sink and increasing forest and tree cover using the instrument of FCAB. With the growing population, expanding economy, and impacts of unsustainable practices and climate change; whether the remainder can fulfill the eco-services needs of the country is anybody's guess.



ANY FURTHER LOSS OF VEGETATIVE COVER WILL IMPACT WATER AVAILABILITY, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND THEIR OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY THAT NURTURES PEOPLE'S LIVES

(The writers are former IFS officers)



While it is apparent that the inclusion of Clause 1A (1)(b) is, prima facie, an attempt to undo the order dated 12.12.1996 of the Supreme Court of India in T.N. Godavarman vs Union of India that had brought control on mindless diversion of many ecologically important areas, the proposed relaxation for many areas including the largest chunk of 100 km strip all along the international boundary of the country is worth examining.

Out of a total of 37 river basins in the country, those appurtenants to the international boundary is two in the north, one in the north-east, ten on the east coast side, and seventeen on the west and north-west. Studies have found that vegetation cover is the most important parameter for their ecosystem resilience. Currently, with 60% forest cover in its basin, only the Brahmaputra among the above is found to be highly resilient.

A study of the response of river basin systems to water stress has revealed that only six basins of India are climate change resilient. The assessment of Gross Domestic Climate Risk conducted by the Cross Dependency Initiative (XDI) considering vulnerability from eight climate change events has found that most of our border states fall within the 100 high-risk areas of the world. Needless to say, the concerned areas are required to be restored, managed and conserved, rather than opened up for easy diversion.

Any further loss of vegetative cover will impact water availability, agricultural production, and their overall contribution to the economy that nurtures people's lives. One must also realize that allowing diversion without following a robust process fails to

address ground-level issues and leaves wounded susceptibilities so far as locals are concerned. Water and agricultural security for the populations in the west and north, as well as other areas mentioned in the exemption-related clause, being a matter of serious concern, the proposal to ease the diversion of forest lands deserves reconsideration.

A snapshot of the field situation in regard to compensatory afforestation in lieu of the diverted forest area is revealed by the CAG report no. 21 of 2013. It shows that a total of 1,14,877.26 ha. Forest land was diverted in the country during 2006-12 whereas non-forest land received in exchange (Odisha did not provide data and Jharkhand's data post-2002) was just 23,246.80 ha. The issue of site quality of the non-forest land offered for 'compensating' the losses due to diversion notwithstanding, it's a fact that compensatory afforestation is often taken up on forest land itself due to a generously issued 'non-availability of non-forest land certificate' by the collectors. Quite recently also earmarking of non-forest land in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh in lieu of forest land diverted in Great Nicobar raises questions on the philosophy of 'compensating' ecological losses. In such a situation, the efficacy of the principle of 'ease of doing business' for achieving the mandated objectives of FCAB appears questionable.

The experience gained in the case of blanket exemption given to recognition of rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) provides some insights. In the absence of a clearance system under FCA, forest land virtually lost its status. With no penalty clause, section 3(2) of FRA is manipulated to fit

in ineligible cases and FCA is skillfully circumvented. In the last 15 years, a total of 18.5 lakh hectares of forest land stands diverted for self-cultivation and habitation. They exist in 22 lakh mostly un-demarcated patches, ever ready to get multiplied and expanded. Recently Maharashtra recognized 33,154 such pockmarks in the 15th year of implementation.

The history of exemptions and burgeoning applicant-specific guidelines must make us wiser. The handling of exceptions and provisions of discretionary powers sprinkled in the FCAB, in addition to the newly inserted Section 3C, needs a professionally oriented and much stronger forest bureaucracy since unwanted relaxations will be to the peril of integrity of our ecosystems.

We, as part of the comity of nations, have entered a point in time when the Doctrine of Non-Regression of Environmental Laws (that they must not be diluted in any manner) should reign supreme. Accordingly, provisions of FCAB be modified to align with its preamble and strengthen the FCA. An efficient institutional framework can improve its implementation. Various ministries, agencies, and people seeking clearances should, in accordance with Articles 48(A) and 51A (g) of the Constitution, support the forestry sector in maintaining the ecological security of the country. An approach focusing on the sustenance of cultural and traditional values in the background of India's traditional reverence for forests will go a long way to support conservation and sustainability. The task is not too big considering the need for and importance of securing a better ecological future for our country.

Art must reach the children in rural areas

While urban children get an opportunity to cultivate art, rural children often remain unaware of art and literature, let alone pursue it

India is renowned for its rich artistic heritage, with various art forms depicting cultures and traditions throughout history. In the state of Bihar, the Mithila painting style, frescoes, and Aripan have become synonymous with artistic expression. Mithila painting, also known as Madhubani painting, has garnered worldwide acclaim for its distinctive style and artistry across Asia. This ancient art form thrives in the regions of Darbhanga, Purnia, Saharsa, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani in Bihar, and Nepal, where both men and women vividly recreate the cultural essence of Mithilanchal through their intricate paintings, depicting ancient epics, natural scenes, and socio-cultural themes.



AMRITANJ INDIWARI

(The writer is an expert on issues of rural India. Views are personal)
Charkha Features

While the inclusion of painting in school curricula has allowed children to develop skills in artistry, creativity, logic, and imagination, there remains a lack of awareness about painting in government schools. Particularly in rural areas, boys and girls often lack the necessary knowledge about art and craft education and potential careers. Recognizing this gap, the Bihar government has declared Saturdays as Bagless Days, which have helped raise awareness and interest in art and crafts among children. However, in a society divided by caste, religion, gender, and other factors, marginalized individuals face challenges not only in social and economic development but also in cultural enrichment.

In an era of expensive education, the question arises as to how children from financially struggling families can access and learn folk art, folk culture, painting, dance, and music. Renowned painters often seem distant and unattainable to those on the margins, making it difficult for them to find time for artistic pursuits. Furthermore, without financial support, many talented artists find it challenging to develop their skills. Despite these obstacles, a group of young individuals is kindling the flame of art and painting in the rural areas of Bihar.

In the Ahiyapur-Muradpur Dalit-Mahadalit Basti, situated 10 kilometres from Muzaffarpur headquarters, girls from underprivileged backgrounds, including

Suruchi, Chandni, Amandeep, Megha, Anoop Priya, Rakhi, Vaishnavi, Neha, and others, are using their paintbrushes to vividly express the sorrows, childhood experiences, poverty, discrimination, and gender biases they face. These girls study in government schools and have embraced painting as both a career and a means of self-expression. Despite their low social and economic status, they are determined to bring their feelings, moods, desperation, and helplessness to life on canvas. Their aspirations find support at the nearby Artifact Art Studio, where they learn painting free of cost for two days a week since 2018. Sujit Kumar, a talented young painter who grew up in a Dalit family, has played a pivotal role in empowering these

girls and giving them a new dimension to their artistic endeavours. Having experienced the challenges of poverty firsthand, Sujit chose painting as a medium to express his sorrows and struggles. After completing his studies in a government school, he obtained a bachelor's degree from the Art and Craft College in Patna, followed by a master's degree from Tripura Central University. Inspired by the hardships faced by the Dalit-Mahadalit slums, Sujit embarked on a mission to educate and bring about change in the lives of girl children through folk art, painting, and drama. Through art studios, he has nurtured the artistic abilities of approximately 50 underprivileged children since 2018. Sujit believes that paint-

ing enables these children to gain a unique understanding of education, health, society, culture, nature, and art.

Several of these children have showcased their talent in various art exhibitions and festivals. Notably, Jaya Pramara, Neha Kumari, Megha, Chandni Kumari, and others are currently preparing for entrance examinations in Arts.

Sujit, using his own pocket money, has taken on the responsibility of teaching these children the intricacies of art, despite his own modest earnings from teaching painting at a private school. He believes that by nurturing their interest in art from a young age, the lives of children from marginalized and neglected families can be improved.

While urban families

demonstrate an awareness of art and actively cultivate it at home, rural families often remain unaware of the advantages and disadvantages of art and literature. It is essential to acknowledge that every individual possesses some form of art, whether it be writing, painting, drama, music, or others. To promote art in rural areas, schools play a crucial role.

The Bihar government's efforts to kindle the flame of art in schools on Bagless Days have been commendable. It is imperative for the Department of Art and Culture to focus on honing the skills of these budding artists at the local level, ensuring that one day, these children will bring pride to the nation through their artistic contributions.

UKRAINE RECOVERY SUMMIT

Russia must pay, says UK PM

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday opened the Ukraine Recovery Summit here to say that "Russia must pay" for the destruction inflicted on its European neighbour as he announced UK government loan guarantees worth USD 3 billion.

Sunak praised Ukraine's "ingenuity and defiance" and attacked Russia for trying to destroy the country's energy grid, which he said is back online and even exporting energy.

The two-day summit is being jointly hosted with Ukraine in London as part of efforts to mobilise international support in favour of the country in its ongoing conflict with Russia.

"It's clear that Russia must pay for the destruction that they've inflicted. So, we're working with allies to explore



lawful routes to use Russian assets," said Sunak in his opening address.

"The British government will continue to play its full part and I'm proud that today we're announcing a multi-year commitment to support Ukraine's economy. Over three years, we will provide loan guarantees worth USD 3 billion," he said.

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga welcomed the UK government's

"generous" guarantees to support the people of Ukraine at a critical moment.

"The UK's support is backed by a major signal of intent from world-leading businesses, with more than 400 companies, from 38 countries, with a combined annual revenue of over USD 1.6 trillion, pledging to back Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction in the wake of Russia's illegal invasion," said the Indian-origin World Bank chief.

"The World Bank Group is designed to do hard things like helping people rebuild their lives after the devastation. With this support, we will keep delivering on that mission and help Ukrainians imagine a life after the war," he said.

Sunak also announced the launch of a new "UK-Ukraine TechBridge" to foster investment and talent along with support for green energy as

part of a collective effort with global allies and revealed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is putting USD 15 billion into Ukraine over four years, as part of a USD 115 billion commitment by the G7.

"This is a vibrant, dynamic, creative, European country that refuses to be subdued. So, together with our allies, we will maintain our support for Ukraine's defence and for the counter-offensive.

We will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes as they continue to win this war," added Sunak.

He then welcomed "friend" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy virtually to the summit, who once again made a case for full membership of the military alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) saying that Ukraine is already a key part of European defence.

Allies pledge billions to rebuild Ukraine

AP ■ LONDON

Ukraine's allies pledged several billion dollars in non-military aid on Wednesday to rebuild its war-ravaged infrastructure, fight corruption and help pave the country's road to membership in the European Union.

Stressing the vast scale of the task, diplomats and political leaders at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London urged private-sector companies to invest and revive an economy battered by almost a year and a half of war.

Delegates from more than 60 countries attended the conference, which is both a fundraising forum and a message to Russia that Ukraine's Western supporters are in it for the long haul.

The World Bank has estimated the cost of the reconstruction at more than USD400 billion, a figure rising daily alongside the human toll of Russia's invasion.

Politicians from Europe and the US vowed that Russia would one day be made to pay for the destruction — though officials acknowledged that day is some way off.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US would give more than USD 1.3 billion in new aid, including more than USD 500 million to restore and improve



President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is applauded by British PM Rishi Sunak (R) at the opening session of the first day of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) in London, Britain on Wednesday.

Ukraine's battered energy grid.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced 50 billion euros (USD 55 billion) in support through 2027, while Britain pledged 240 million pounds (USD 305 million) in aid and 3 billion pounds (USD 3.8 billion) in World Bank loan guarantees for Ukraine. Germany announced a further 381 million

euros (USD 416 million) in humanitarian aid.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who addressed delegates by video, said his country needed action, not just pledges.

"We must move from vision to agreements and from agreements to real projects," he said.

Russia downs 3 drones near Moscow

Suspects it was attack by Ukraine

AP ■ MOSCOW

Two drones were brought down outside Moscow as they approached the warehouses of a local military unit, Moscow region Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said on Wednesday, in what could be the latest attempt by Ukraine to strike targets inside Russia during the early stages of Kyiv's most recent counteroffensive.

They came down near the village of Lukino, administratively part of the city of Moscow, Russian media reported.

The wreckage of a third drone was reportedly found about 20 kilometers (12 miles) away. No damage or casualties were reported. Russia's Defence Ministry claimed it was "an unsuccessful attempt at a terrorist attack" by "the Kyiv regime" on its facilities in the Moscow region, adding in a statement that all three drones were brought down by electronic jamming.

Ukraine, which usually doesn't confirm attacks on Russian soil, made no immediate comment about the downed drones. Previously, Ukrainian officials have emphasised the country's right to strike any target in response to Russia's invasion and war that started in February 2022. In December, Moscow claimed it had shot down drones that targeted military air bases in the Saratov and Ryazan regions in

western Russia. Other drones have reportedly flown deep into Russia multiple times. Since February, when a UJ-22 crashed 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Moscow, Ukrainian drones have repeatedly approached the Russian capital.

Last month, a drone attack jolted the Russian capital, though it caused only slight damage, in what appeared to be one of Kyiv's deepest and most daring strikes into Russia. It was the second reported strike on Moscow that month after Russian authorities said two drones targeted the Kremlin. At that time, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow's air defence "worked in a satisfactory way," but added it was "clear what we need to do to plug the gaps" in the system.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, confirming Wednesday's drone attack, said only that "the means of combatting drones did their job."

Meanwhile, train traffic was disrupted on the Crimean Peninsula on Wednesday, according to its Russian-installed governor Sergei Aksyonov. Aksyonov didn't say what caused the disruption, but some Russian media outlets reported that the rail lines were blown up overnight in apparent sabotage operations.

EU countries agree on new sanctions against Russia

Brussels (AP): European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine. Sweden, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said that the package includes measures aimed at countering sanctions circumvention and individual listings.

Details of the measures will be unveiled later this week when the sanctions are officially adopted by written procedure. The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit — even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through. However, it is the first time that plans have been announced to target trade via other countries, apart from sanctions against Iranians alleged to be supplying drones to Russia.

Senior leader of ex-Pak PM's party arrested

Islamabad (PTI): A senior leader from Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party and the country's former aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan was arrested here on Wednesday over his alleged involvement in the May 9 anti-government violence. The ex-minister of PTI was arrested in a joint raid carried out by Rawalpindi and the Capital Police who also took into custody former National Assembly member Mansoor Hayat Khan and ex-Punjab member of the provincial assembly Ammar Siddique Khan. The Dawn newspaper quoted Rawalpindi police spokesperson Inspector Sajjadul Hassan as saying,

Ghulam is among the latest of the PTI leadership to have been arrested after several of the party's senior members including former human rights minister Shireen Mazari and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry were apprehended in the wake of May 9 violence.

Court grants pre-arrest bail to Imran

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Wednesday cancelled the arrest warrants against former prime minister Imran Khan and granted him pre-arrest bail till July 7 in two cases related to arson attacks during the May 9 violence which erupted following his arrest in a corruption case.

The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief appeared before Lahore's Anti-Terrorism Court amid high security and challenged the arrest warrants issued against him on Tuesday.

"After a brief argument from Khan's counsel, the ATC granted him pre-arrest bail till July 7 in both cases and asked him to submit surety bonds worth PKR 100,000," a court official told PTI.

After securing bail, Khan moved to the Lahore High Court (LHC), where he sought an extension to his protective bail in the case of the murder of a senior Supreme Court lawyer in Quetta.

Advocate Abdul Razaq



Shar was a petitioner in a treason case against Khan, and Shar's son accused his father was killed at the PTI chief's behest.

Khan's lawyer told the court that the former premier could not leave for Quetta on Wednesday because of security issues, following which the LHC granted an extension to his protective bail till July 3.

On Tuesday, the ATC issued non-bailable warrants for the PTI chief's arrest in two cases related to attacking and torching a ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office and a container here

during the violence that erupted in reaction to Khan's arrest early last month.

Widespread violence erupted in Pakistan after the former premier 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 Punjab. The country's powerful military announced that the May 9 culprits would be tried under the Army Act and so far, some 74 civilians have been handed over to the Army for their court martial. Khan on Wednesday raised his voice for his party's women workers incarcerated in jails for their alleged involvement in attacks on military installations during the violence.

Musk: Comply with local laws or face shutdown

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Twitter chief Elon Musk on Wednesday said the social media platform has no choice but to follow the local laws in any given country or risk being shut down. Musk's comments came in response to questions regarding Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's allegations that the Indian government had threatened the social networking platform with raids if it did not take down critical content during the farmers' protests against the three farm laws.

"Twitter doesn't have a choice but to obey local governments. If we don't obey local government laws then we will get shut down," he told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York.

"The best we can do is to follow the laws in any given country," adding that it is impossible for "us to do more



than that". Musk said there were different rules and regulations for different forms of governments, and "we will do our best to provide the freest speech that is possible under the law." "One cannot just apply America to the earth," Musk said. In a recent interview, Dorsey, who quit as Twitter CEO in 2021, claimed that during his tenure as CEO, Twitter received requests from the Indian government to block accounts covering the 2020-2021 farmers' protests and those critical of the government.

Alvi appoints Faez Isa as next Pak CJ

Islamabad (PTI): Justice Qazi Faez Isa, considered an independent-minded judge, was appointed as the next chief justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court by President Arif Alvi.

He will assume office on September 17 after the retirement of incumbent Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

"The president has appointed the chief justice under Article 175 of the Constitution. The president will administer the oath to Justice Qazi Faez Isa on September 17," according to a statement issued by the presidency.

The senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has said that on becoming the chief justice later this year, he would endeavour to make the system of formation of benches and fixation of cases transparent, reported The Express Tribune.

Pak watchdog calls on Holi celebrations at University, cites Islamic identity concerns

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Taking an exception to a Pakistani university celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi, the country's Higher Education Commission has voiced concern over the erosion of the country's Islamic identity and asked them to "prudently distance" themselves from all such activities, a media report said on Wednesday.

While the letter from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Executive Director Shaista Sohail to the heads of educational institutions did not name the varsity in question, it comes days after Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad gained attention on social media for hosting an event for Holi, which took place on March 8. In its letter, issued on Tuesday, the HEC said that it had "caused concern and disadvantageously affected

the country's image", reported the Dawn newspaper.

"Unfortunately, it is sad to witness activities that portray a complete disconnect from our socio-cultural values and an erosion of the country's Islamic identity," the letter read.

"One such instance that has caused concern was the fervour exhibited in marking [the] Hindu festival of Holi... This widely reported/publicised event from the platform of a university has caused concern and has disadvantageously affected the country's image," the letter said.

In one of the videos circulating on social media on the March 8 event, students can be seen dancing and throwing colours in the air as loud music plays in the background.

"While there is no denying the fact that cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity leads towards an inclusive and tolerant society, that profoundly

respects all faiths and creeds; albeit it needs to be done so in a measured manner without going overboard.

The students need to be apprised to be aware of the self-serving vested interests who use them for their own ends far from the altruistic critical thinking paradigm," the HEC letter read.

The letter advised higher education institutions (HEIs) to "prudently distance" themselves from all such activities "obviously incompatible with the country's identity and societal values".

It said that HEIs had the "ultimate responsibility to polish and nurture the exuberance of youth into learned, mature, and responsible citizens - ready to take on the reins of the country and play their role in nation building".

The HEC director said the notification was not a "ban" on such celebrations.

Singapore is prized target of terrorists, says Dy PM Wong

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore is considered a "prized target" by terrorists who have been increasingly targeting youths, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said on Wednesday, underlining the need to have strong community leaders to inoculate Singaporeans against extreme ideologies.

Speaking at the Religious Rehabilitation Group's (RRG) 18th annual retreat, Wong said that while terrorism may not be at the top of many Singaporeans' minds, the threat of radicalism and extremism remains high.

"This includes Singapore, which is considered a prized target by terrorists. There is a need to inoculate Singaporeans against extreme ideologies," Wong was quoted as saying by Channel News Asia.

The RRG was formed in 2003, after Singapore authorities arrested members of the Jemaah Islamiyah group.

Global terrorist groups like ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and Al-Qaeda continue to rebuild their strength and "remain determined to sow disorder and chaos" by conducting attacks in other countries, said Wong.

The groups have become more sophisticated at using digital platforms like social media to spread propaganda and incite followers to conduct attacks.

"This has not only made extremist material easier to access, but it has also accelerated the process of radicalisation to a matter of months, or even weeks, because all of this now takes place behind a computer screen and it is much harder to detect," he said.

He said that terrorist groups have been increasingly targeting youths who are more impressionable and susceptible to influence. Apart from traditional social media channels, they have started to exploit online music streaming sites



and gaming platforms that are popular with young people.

Since 2015, the Internal Security Department (ISD) has issued ISA orders to 11 self-radicalised Singaporeans below 21. Some of them started their process of radicalisation from as young as 14 years old, he noted.

Before 2015, there was only one case of youth radicalisation.

"The threat has also gone beyond Islamic extremism because we have seen a broader range of radical extremist and violent groups active in spreading their ideologies online," said Wong.

For example, one of the 11 youths was a 16-year-old Protestant Christian who had planned to conduct attacks against Muslims at two mosques in Singapore, after he imbibed far-right extremist ideology, he pointed out.

"What all this means is that extreme and violent ideologies can radicalise any Singaporean, regardless of age, regardless of race or religion," said Wong.

"And this has serious implications for our society. The extremist and terror threat is far more insidious now, it can reside within our own communities. It will seek to exploit our racial and religious differences in attempts to divide us."

It will not be possible to "completely insulate" Singaporeans from everything online, said Wong. "So, our approach must be to inoculate Singaporeans against extreme ideologies," he added.

Massive turnout at UN for Yoga Day celebration

PTI ■ NEW YORK/ SINGAPORE

A spirit of enthusiasm and celebration overflowed outside the UN headquarters here as people arrived in large numbers to attend a historic event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga.

The overwhelming number of people of Indian origin mixed with a smattering of yoga enthusiasts of other nationalities formed a long queue outside the entrance amid tight security measures.

Many people who arrived in the hope to get in without the pass given in advance were left disappointed.

"I took a chance but it is alright. It is nice to see such an enthusiastic crowd for yoga," said Madhusudan, who travelled from New Jersey on a train to reach here.

Modi's presence at the event has worked as a magnet-



to draw Indian-Americans in large numbers to the venue as they arrived in buses and trains.

"Modi is the ambassador of yoga for the world. World needs peace and harmony amid war and conflict, yoga is the medium for this," said Pramod Bhagat of the World Peace and Health Foundation.

Standing in the queue, Caroline, a German national, said she came after she got to know about the UN event and

praised yoga's benefits.

Meanwhile, Over 150 people from the Indian community participated in the 9th International Yoga Day organised by the India High Commission in Singapore.

The hour-long event led by the High Commissioner P Kumaran at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Little India also saw the launch of a book on health, happiness and harmony.

"High Commissioner P Kumaran led Singapore Indian community leaders in celebrating international yoga day at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on Wednesday and launched a special book on health, happiness and harmony," the High Commission said.

The 161-page book is a three-year work of Archana Amlapure who has been teaching yoga in Singapore for 10 years.

She said yoga enthusiasts are mostly doing physical postures but she wants to promote yoga awareness as a lifestyle.

Talking of the event and benefits of Yoga, Manoj Thakur, a permanent resident in Singapore, said: "Yoga is one of the most popular sports in Singapore."

Thakur, who is the owner of the Vyasa Yoga School where he has trained 3,000 yoga teachers, said there are over 150 schools teaching yoga in Singapore.



In this photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, is an eruption taking place on the summit of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, on last Friday. The eruption that began nearly two weeks ago has come to a pause, scientists said. Kilauea, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, began erupting on June 7 after a three-month pause, displaying fountains of glowing red lava without threatening any communities or structures.

China slams Biden's dictator remarks

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday called comments by US President Joe Biden referring to Chinese leader Xi Jinping as a dictator "extremely absurd and irresponsible."



Putin over his country's invasion of Ukraine.

While Xi heads a country formally named the People's Republic of China, he faces no limits on his terms as head of state, commander of the military and leader of the ruling Communist Party, which brooks no challenges to its authority.

Blinken's trip was originally scheduled for February but was put on hold after the balloon incident. While the visit marked a return to high-level contacts between the sides, China continues to refuse talks between their militaries.

In recent days, the US says Chinese warplanes and naval ships have maneuvered in ways that threaten their US counterparts in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, despite agreements between them on protocols for avoiding such incidents.

During Blinken's visit, China reiterated its strong objections to US support for the self-governing island

democracy of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory. The US has also sought to block China's access to cutting-edge computer chip manufacturing technology that could be used for military purposes and accused Beijing of stealing American intellectual property.

In his comments at the fundraising event for his 2024 re-election campaign, Biden said he believed the balloon incident had caught Xi unaware.

"That's what's a great embarrassment for dictators, when they didn't know what happened. That wasn't supposed to be going where it was. It was blown off course up through Alaska and then down through the United States. And he didn't know about it," Biden said.

Despite their sharp political divide, the countries continue to have deep economic and cultural links. Bilateral trade

passed \$690 billion last year and an estimated 300,000 Chinese are believed to be studying in the US, shoring up American institutions that have come under financial pressure. After meeting with Xi on Monday, Blinken acknowledged entrenched differences.

"We have no illusions about the challenges of managing this relationship. There are many issues on which we profoundly, even vehemently, disagree," he said.

Xi sounded a similar note but suggested the rivalry could be overcome. "The competition among major countries is not in line with the trend of the times and cannot solve the problems of the United States itself and the challenges facing the world," he told Blinken.

"China respects the interests of the United States and will not challenge or supplant the United States. Similarly, the United States should also respect China and not harm its legitimate rights and interests."

Japan's Kishida leads NATO summit

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday announced plans to visit Lithuania next month to attend a NATO leaders' summit as his country steps up cooperation with the Western organisation amid China's increasingly assertive military activity.



Kishida on Wednesday announced plans to visit Lithuania next month to attend a NATO leaders' summit.

Kishida stressed the importance of dialogue with China in order to develop "constructive and stable" relationship with Beijing while his country cooperates with its key ally, the United States. He said the state of US-China relations are crucial to international peace and stability.

At a news conference marking the end of a five-month long parliamentary session, Kishida said reinforcing diplomatic and security measures were among his top policy priorities in the first half of this year.

The goal he said, is "to raise Japan's presence in the international society, to defend the peace of our country and the people's lives."

Japan has been strengthening ties with NATO against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and concerns that it may embolden China's already assertive military activity in East Asia. The prime minister said he will join NATO leaders at the July 11-12 summit in Lithuania at the invitation of the organization. He said he also will visit NATO headquarters in Belgium. Discussions are also underway to open a NATO office in Japan.

Describing the current security environment of the global community as "the most severe and complex" of the postwar era, Kishida vowed to "fully utilise diplomatic tools" to contribute to the peace and stability of the global community while serving Japan's national interest.

Kishida said Japan will cooperate with the United States on China policy, while encouraging Beijing to fulfil its responsibility as a global power

to observe international rules and order. Japan is increasingly concerned about China's coercive activity in the region, especially around Japanese-controlled disputed East China Sea islands that Beijing also claims. "It is important to continue making effort to have close dialogue at all levels, including myself, and in that process I will consider my possible visit to China, though nothing has been decided right now," Kishida said.

His comment comes on the heels of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's meeting earlier this week with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, where they agreed to stabilise their countries' deteriorated ties but fell short of resuming military-to-military contacts aimed at avoiding mishaps and conflict over Taiwan.

Kishida also stressed the importance of dialogue with North Korea, and reiterated that he is stepping up his effort toward achieving a possible summit with leader Kim Jong Un on the decades-old issue of abductions of Japanese nationals by Pyongyang.

The issue was only partially resolved and North Korea has never provided a full account for those still believed to be held.

With many families of the abductees growing older, resolving the problem has become an increasingly urgent human rights issue, Kishida said.

41 inmates killed in riot at prison

AP ■ TEGUICIGALPA

A riot Tuesday at a women's prison in Honduras killed at least 41 women, most of them burned to death, in violence linked to gang activity, authorities said. Most victims were burned but there also were reports of inmates shot at the prison in Tamara, about 30 miles (about 50 kilometers) northwest of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said Yuri Mora, the spokesman for Honduras' national police investigation agency.

At least seven female inmates were being treated at a Tegucigalpa hospital for gunshot and knife wounds, employees there said. Julissa Villanueva, head of the country's prison system, suggested the riot started because of recent attempts by authorities to crack down on illicit activity inside prisons and called Tuesday's violence a reaction to moves "we are taking against organized crime."

Israeli settlers torch Palestinian homes, cars

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Hundreds of Israeli settlers stormed into a Palestinian town in the occupied West Bank, setting fire to dozens of cars and homes to avenge the deaths of four Israelis killed by Palestinian gunmen the previous day, residents said. The settler attack came as the Israeli military deployed additional forces across the occupied West Bank, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced plans to build 1,000 new settler homes in response to the deadly shooting.



Israeli border police officers are seen on a main road next to the West Bank town of Turmus Ayya, Wednesday.

The moves threatened to further raise tensions after days of deadly fighting in the West Bank. Residents in Turmus Ayya said some 400 settlers marched down the town's main road, setting fire to cars, homes and trees.

Mayor Lafi Adee said some 30 houses and 60 cars were partly or totally burned.

"The attacks intensified in the past hour even after the army came," he said. At least

eight Palestinians were hurt during the ensuing clashes, which the army tried to disperse by firing rubber bullets and tear gas. By the mid afternoon, he said the situation was calming down. Tuesday's shooting in the settlement of Eli came

a day after seven Palestinians were killed in a daylong battle against Israeli troops in the militant stronghold of Jenin.

The worsening violence has created a test for Israel's government and prompted calls for a widespread military operation

in the West Bank. As Israel deployed more forces to the area, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had approved plans to build 1,000 new homes in Eli.

"Our answer to terror is to strike it hard and to build our

country," Netanyahu said.

The international community opposes settlements on occupied lands sought by the Palestinians for a future independent state. Netanyahu's far-right government is dominated by settler leaders and supporters.

Israeli media identified the four killed in the shooting as Harel Masood, 21, Ofer Fayerman, 64, and Elisha Anteman, 18, Nahman-Shmuel Mordoff, 17. An Israeli civilian killed one assailant at the scene, while Israeli troops chased and killed the second shooter after he fled. The army said it was beefing up its troop presence in the West Bank. On Wednesday morning, it said troops arrested three suspects in the Palestinian village of Urif in connection to the attack and mapped out the homes of the two gunmen ahead of their likely demolition.

Israel demolishes the homes of Palestinian attackers as part of a policy it says aims to deter others, but critics say the tactic amounts to collective punishment.

Kazakhstan withdraws as host for Syria talks

AP ■ MOSCOW

Kazakhstan abruptly said on Wednesday it will stop hosting talks aimed at resolving the Syrian conflict that erupted 12 years ago. The decision was a surprise to Russia and other participants at the wrapping up of the 20th round of talks held in the capital, Astana. Since 2017, the former Soviet nation has provided a venue for talks to representatives of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran on ways to resolve the Syrian conflict.

Arab League and the efforts to restore ties with Turkey as achieved their purpose. But Alexander Lavrentyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy to Syria, who led Moscow's delegation at the talks, said that Kazakhstan's decision came as a complete surprise.

"The Kazakh foreign ministry's move was unexpected," he told reporters after the talks wrapped up. Lavrentyev said that no decision has been made regarding the venue for future talks, but added that they could be held in Moscow, Ankara, Tehran, or even Damascus in the second half of the year.

This week's round of talks followed an ongoing improvement in ties between Syria and some Arab countries that once backed opposition groups fighting inside the country and called for the ouster of Syrian President

Bashar Assad.

Lavrentyev hailed Syria's reinstatement to the Arab League in May during its summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as an "important step" towards ending the conflict. Representatives from the UN and Syria's neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq attended the Astana talks as observers. They expressed hope to see a swift end to the conflict and the return of millions of refugees living in their countries.

A statement by Turkey, Russia, and Iran noted that the latest round of talks in Astana was "constructive" and discussed "progress in preparing the roadmap for the restoration of relations between Turkey and Syria." Moscow has waged a military campaign in Syria since September 2015, teaming up with Iran to help Assad's government reclaim control over most of the country.

Tate appears in Romanian court to face rape, human trafficking charges

Bucharest (AP) Andrew Tate, a social media personality known for expressing misogynistic views online, appeared on Wednesday at a court in Romania, where prosecutors have charged him with rape, human trafficking and forming a criminal gang to exploit women.

Tate and his brother, Tristan, who is also charged with the offenses, arrived Wednesday at a court in the capital Bucharest, flanked by six bodyguards. Prosecutors have also filed charges against two Romanian women in the case. Romania's anti-organised crime agency alleged that the four defendants formed a criminal group in 2021 "in order to commit the crime of human trafficking" in Romania as well as

the United States and Britain. The agency alleged that seven female victims were misled and transported to Romania, where they were sexually exploited and subjected to physical violence by the gang.

One defendant is accused of raping a woman twice in March 2022, according to the statement. Tate, 36, has resided in Romania since 2017. The former professional kickboxer has repeatedly claimed Romanian prosecutors have no evidence and alleged the case is a political conspiracy to silence him.

Asked by reporters "how much money have you made from trafficking women?" outside court ahead of Wednesday's hearing, Tate snapped: "Zero."

PUBLIC NOTICE PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No. II No. CE/HW-11/W-11/23/141 Date: 16/06/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd (that Mrs. Meenakshi Rajput intends to purchase & mortgage the Property No. 70A, Ground Floor, Pocket Ad, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 with her own self-financing assistance. Whereas Mr. KC Malhotra and Mrs. Urmila Malhotra are the owners of above said property by way of Conveyance Deed dated 20.11.2014, regd. on 20.11.2014 and after their death their legal heirs (I) Mrs. Nishi Sehgal & (II) Mrs. Poonam Arora (surviving Member Certificate) becomes the joint owners of said property. No. I/ Mrs. Nishi Sehgal & (II) Mrs. Poonam Arora intends to sell the same to Mrs. Meenakshi Rajput.

Missing submersible: Desperate search for 5 aboard

AP ■ BOSTON

A Canadian military surveillance aircraft detected underwater noises as a massive operation searched early Wednesday in a remote part of the North Atlantic for a submersible that vanished while taking five people down to the wreck of the Titanic.

Vinland and the Atlantic Merlins, the Coast Guard tweeted.

Meanwhile, questions remain about how teams could reach the lost submersible, which could be as deep as about 12,500 feet (3,800 metres) below the surface near the watery tomb of the historic ocean liner.

Newly uncovered allegations also suggest there had been significant warnings made about vessel safety during its deployment.

Last aboard the vessel are pilot Stockton Rush, the CEO of the company leading the expedition. His passengers are a British adventurer, two members of a Pakistani business family and a Titanic expert.



Searchers then moved an underwater robot to that area to search. However, those searches "have yielded negative results but continue."

"The data from the P-3 aircraft has been shared with our US Navy experts for further analysis which will be considered in future search plans," the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard statement came after Rolling Stone, citing what it described as internal US Department of

Homeland Security emails on the search, said that teams heard "banging sounds in the area every 30 minutes."

In underwater disasters, a crew unable to communicate with the surface relies on banging on their submersible's hull to be detected by sonar. However, no official has publicly suggested that the case and noises underwater can come from a variety of sources.

Yet the reports have sparked hope in some, including Richard Garriott de Cayeux, the president of The Explorers Club. He wrote an open letter to his club's adventurers, who include the missing British man and the Titanic expert aboard the Titan, that they had "much greater confidence" now after they spoke to officials in Congress, the US military and the White House about the search. Three C-17 transport

planes from the US military have been used to move commercial submersible and support equipment from Buffalo, New York, to St. John's, Newfoundland, to aid in the search, a spokesperson for US Air Mobility Command said.

The Canadian military said it provided a patrol aircraft and two surface ships, including one that specialises in dive medicine. It also dropped sonar buoys to listen for any sounds from the Titan. Rescuers have been racing against the clock because even under the best of circumstances the vessel could run out of oxygen by Thursday morning. In addition to an international array of ships and planes, an underwater robot had started searching in the vicinity of the Titanic and there was a push to get salvage equipment to the scene in case the sub is found.

SBFC Finance Limited Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270 PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the Public that Auction of Pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Ltd. on 28th June 2023 at Delhi District branch A-86, First Floor, Arjun Nagar, Bhisma Pitamha Marg, Opposite Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024 and (if any persons) have any objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below mentioned address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client Axis Bank Ltd will proceed with the mortgage process. MANJO YADAV ADVOCATE 9-B, Divan Estate, Dwarka Mor Metro Station, New Delhi-110059 #011-49930937, 9810957163

Sensex, Nifty close at all-time highs on gains in HDFC twins, RIL

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied to close at all-time highs on Wednesday following buying in index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries. Positive trends in European markets also added to the momentum in domestic equities.

Rising for a second straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 195.45 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at a record high of 63,523.15. During the day, it jumped 260.61 points or 0.41 per cent to its all-time intra-day peak of 63,588.31. On December 1 last year, the Sensex hit its intra-day record peak of 63,583.07.

The NSE Nifty advanced 40.15 points or 0.21 per cent to end at its lifetime closing peak of 18,856.85. The stock touched an intra-day high of 18,875.90 following gains in financials, IT and power shares.

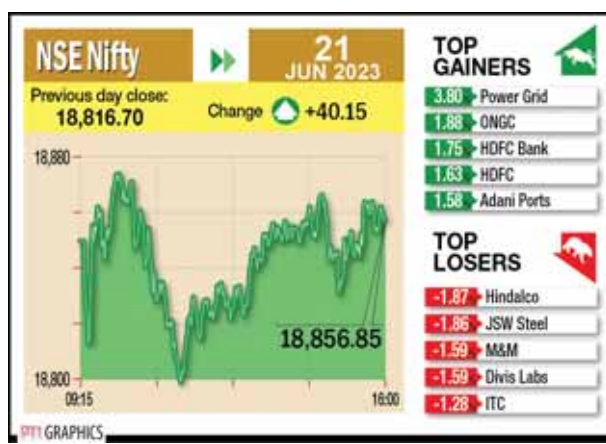


From the Sensex pack, Power Grid rose the most by 3.68 per cent. HDFC Bank rose by 1.71 per cent, HDFC by 1.66 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 1.13 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services by 0.94 per cent. Wipro, Reliance Industries and Larsen & Toubro were among the gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra fell the most by 1.59 per cent, fol-

lowed by ITC, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and Maruti.

"It's a pleasure to see Sensex reaching a new all-time high in spite of several challenges from the global front. We are waiting for the June quarterly results to trickle in with hopes that it would be by and large in sync with expectations," said Rakesh Mehta, Chairman, Mehta Equities Ltd.



"Sensex rallying to all-time-high is in tune with the global rally in stock markets. Most markets are at 52-week highs. Last year, global markets had corrected discounting a US recession early this year and its impact on global growth and corporate earnings," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services said.

In the broader market,

the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.68 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.24 per cent. Among the indices, utilities jumped 1.19 per cent, services climbed 1.18 per cent, power (1.08 per cent), telecommunication (0.81 per cent), financial services (0.60 per cent) and oil & gas (0.57 per cent). Commodities, industrials, auto, metal and realty

were the laggards. S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities said that benchmark indices touched new highs on the back of sustained increase in capital expenditure by the government coupled with rising manufacturing PMI. The return of FIIs to Indian markets since April has boosted sentiments even as domestic investors continue to repose confidence in Indian equities, Ranganathan said.

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

Equity markets in Europe were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.03 per cent to USD 75.98 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,942.62 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.



5G seen accounting for 57% of mobile subscriptions in India by 2028 end: Ericsson report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 5G subscription in India is estimated to have reached about 10 million by 2022 end, and is seen accounting for about 57 per cent of mobile subscriptions in the country by the end of 2028, making it "the fastest growing" 5G region globally, according to Ericsson Mobility Report.

With the launch of 5G services in October 2022, the major 5G Indian market is witnessing huge network deployments under its Digital India initiative, it observed.

The geopolitical challenges and macroeconomic slowdown in some markets notwithstanding, communications service providers globally are continuing to invest in 5G, the June 2023 edition of the Ericsson Mobility Report revealed.

"5G subscriptions in India reached about 10 million by end of 2022 and are estimated to account for about 57 per cent of mobile subscriptions in the country by the end of 2028, making it the fastest growing 5G region globally," it said.

The fifth generation mobile subscriptions are growing in every region and forecast to top 1.5 billion globally by the end of 2023.

The uptake of 5G subscriptions in North America has been stronger than expected in previous forecasts. The region

had the highest 5G global subscription penetration at 41 per cent at the end of 2022.

Global mobile network data traffic continues to rise with the monthly global average usage per smartphone expected to exceed 20 GB by the end of 2023.

The report also highlighted the continued revenue growth in leading 5G markets.

"The global adoption of 5G technology has surpassed one billion subscriptions, bringing positive revenue growth for communications service providers in leading 5G markets," Fredrik Jejdling, Executive Vice President and Head of Networks, Ericsson, said.

In the past two years, the 5G introduction in the top twenty markets has resulted in a seven per cent revenue boost, Jejdling said, underlining a strong link between the increase in 5G subscriptions and service revenue.

Globally, around 240 communications service providers (CSPs) have launched commercial 5G services and about 35 have deployed or launched 5G standalone (SA).

The most common 5G services launched by service providers for consumers are enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB), Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), gaming and some (Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality) AR/VR-based services, such as training and education.



Amazon Pay accepts ₹2K notes during doorstep delivery to top up customers' digital wallet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon customers can now use their Rs 2,000 notes to top up their Amazon Pay balances during cash-on-delivery orders, as it offers a doorstep solution to ease the stress of exchanging such currency.

Customers can deposit cash of up to Rs 50,000 per month, including notes of Rs 2,000 denomination, Amazon said.

The cash load at doorstep service by Amazon Pay is helping consumers convert high-value notes for digital transactions. "Don't stress if stores are refusing to accept Rs 2,000 notes for payments. You can hand them over to an Amazon delivery agent during your next cash-on-delivery order," Amazon said. On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation; the existing notes in circulation can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchanged by September 30.

"With Amazon Pay's 'cash load at doorstep' service, KYCed customers can hand over additional cash or leftover change to the delivery agent to load the same to their Amazon Pay balance during a cash-on-delivery

order," it said. In order to avail the facility, customers have to complete video KYC on the Amazon app, which takes about 5-10 minutes.

During their next cash-on-delivery order, they can simply hand over the currency notes to the delivery agent. The updated balance will start reflecting in the customer's Amazon Pay balance shortly thereafter. Subsequently, customers can create a UPI handle on their balance account in under one minute and begin paying anyone, anywhere.

Customers can scan and pay with any QR code in shops, send money to any phone number/person, or pay on all their favourite online apps with the 24x7 convenience and security of Amazon Pay. "The facility to top up your Amazon Pay balance with cash handed to delivery agents at your doorstep is one of our unique services in India available to full KYCed customers.

"Staying true to our mission, we will continue to provide holistic experiences to our customers by facilitating such simplified solutions and further catalyse the digital payments revolution in India," Vikas Bansal, Whole-time Director, Amazon Pay India, said.

Home sales likely to grow at 8-10% this fiscal: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Residential real estate developers across the top six cities are expected to clock 8-10 per cent sales growth this fiscal despite rising interest rates and home prices last financial year, according to a report.

Continuing strong collections and lower debt levels will strengthen developers' credit profiles too, Crisil Ratings

said in a report on Wednesday. Buoyant residential demand across the mid, premium and luxury segments led to robust sales in the past two fiscals.

This helped strengthen the leverage and credit profiles of realtors and the same should sustain over the medium term, said the report based on 11 large and listed and 76 small and mid-sized residential developers accounting for 35 per cent of sales.

According to Aniket Dani, a director of the agency, demand for residential real estate is rising because of healthy economic growth and offices continuing with a hybrid working model, especially for bigger and premium residences.

This demand is expected to hold firm at 8-10 per cent despite a rise in interest rates and capital value for the aforesaid reasons, and the demand momentum is expected to

continue on the back of inventory being at comfortable levels of around three years of sales on an average against 4.5 years before the pandemic.

Sales by the 11 large and listed realtors in the sample set rose 50 per cent year-on-year last fiscal in value, while the area sold rose 20 per cent. The higher realisation (Rs/sqft) for these developers reflects the preference for bigger and premium homes, as per the report.

Gold plunges ₹360; silver tumbles ₹1,200

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by Rs 360 to Rs 59,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid weak cues from overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had ended at Rs 60,110 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also tumbled Rs 1,200 to Rs 72,300 per kilogramme.

"Gold extended losses on Wednesday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 59,750/10 grams, down Rs 360 per 10 grams, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international markets, gold and silver were trading lower at USD 1,936 per ounce and USD 23.09 per ounce, respectively.

K Raheja Corp Homes eyes ₹1K cr sales revenue from ultra luxury housing project in Juhu, Mumbai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

K Raheja Corp Homes is expecting a sales realisation of around Rs 1,000 crore from its newly launched ultra-luxury housing project at Juhu in Mumbai. Last year, the company bought BR House — the house of famous Bollywood director late B R Chopra — for around Rs 200 crore. The size of land parcel is nearly one acre.

In a statement, K Raheja Corp Homes said it has launched ultra-luxury limited edition homes in Mumbai's Juhu micro-market, coming up at the nerve centre of cinema, BR House.

The company has one lakh square feet of premium saleable area in this project named 'Maestro'. The project is RERA registered, with possession slated for the year 2026. "The project signifies the

preservation of artistic heritage, the legacy of BR Chopra, and the geniuses who were masters at their craft.

"It will weave in just the right proportions of nostalgia, creativity, and luxury, offering residents an opportunity to immerse themselves in a world of contemporary elegance at Juhu's centre stage," the statement said.

The company did not disclose the project cost and sales realisation. However, property consultants said that the sales revenue in this project would be around Rs 1,000 crore.

Ramesh Ranganathan, CEO of K Raheja Corp Homes said, "We are delighted to add this iconic project to our residential portfolio, — in the plush Juhu micro-market. This is not just a significant milestone, but also a strategic move to capitalise on the market's business potential.

Saya Group to invest ₹2,000 cr in 14 lakh sq ft-shopping mall in Noida

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Saya Group will invest Rs 2,000 crore to develop a 14 lakh square feet shopping mall in Noida as part of its expansion plan, its CMD Vikas Bhasin said on Wednesday.

The construction work has started and the shopping mall 'Saya Status' is expected to be operational in January 2025. "We are developing the country's tallest mall in Sector 128, Noida Expressway. The total built up area is 14 lakh square feet while the leasable area is 11 lakh square feet," Bhasin told reporters. The height of the 9-floor shopping mall is around 160 square feet, the company said.

The company will keep 70 per cent area in the mall and sell 30 per cent area to



"There is a great demand for luxury retail on Noida Expressway because of large scale residential development," Bhasin said.

After the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said the retail sector has bounced back.

Saya Group has completed four residential projects in Delhi-NCR comprising more than 3,000 units. It is currently developing three retail projects in Noida and Greater Noida.

It is investing around Rs 200 crore to develop a shopping mall, comprising of 2 lakh square feet area, named 'Saya Piazza'. The company is also developing another commercial project 'Saya South X' in Greater Noida West having retail space of 5 lakh square feet and 3 lakh square feet of business suites.

investors. The company however will retain the leasing rights. Asked about investment, Bhasin said the total cost will be around Rs 2,000 crore, including expenditure on land, construction and marketing.

The investment will be funded through internal accruals and loans from IIFL.

Saya Group is selling the retail space in a price range of Rs 18,000 to Rs 40,000 per square feet.

Four Indian firms in WEF's 100 most promising tech startups list

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The World Economic Forum (WEF) on Wednesday named four Indian entities, including Giftolexia Solutions and Xacmaz Technology, in its annual list of 100 most promising technology pioneers, comprising companies making progress in sustainability, advanced manufacturing and inclusive healthcare.

The other two Indian entities on the list are evolutionQ, which offers quantum-safe cybersecurity products to help clients in deploying and man-

aging quantum technologies across their networks, and Next Big Innovation Labs — which is developing customisable 3D bioprinter to bridge the gap between organ demand and availability via 3D bioengineered organs.

Giftolexia Solutions is developing a deep technology-enabled screening tool to identify the risk of dyslexia in school children by analysing gaze patterns.

Xacmaz Technology is developing a platform that converts satellite data into climate intelligence for climate risk,

ESG (environmental, social and governance) investing and carbon markets.

The global list also includes Farmerline (Ghana), which connects farmers, agribusinesses and governments to form an end-to-end and holistic solution to the sector's challenges.

In Israel, Electriq Global is pioneering new methods of separating hydrogen from water to create a renewable energy alternative to fuel.

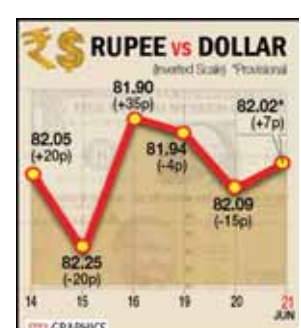
CarbonCapture, from the United States, is removing CO2 from the atmosphere via direct air capture technologies.

Rupee rises 7 paise to close at 82.02 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 7 paise to close at 82.02 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as a positive trend in domestic equities and easing crude oil prices supported investor sentiments.

However, a strong dollar against major rivals overseas and foreign fund inflows capped the rupee's gain, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened weak at 82.13 and touched the intra-day peak of 81.99. The domestic unit final-



settled at 82.02 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a gain of 7 paise over the previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 82.09 against the dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.10 per cent at 102.64.

Crude oil price benchmark Brent crude was down 0.09 per cent to USD 75.83 per barrel. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 195.45 points, or 0.31 per cent to settle at a fresh peak of 63,523.15, and the broader Nifty advanced 40.15 points, or 0.21 per cent to end at a record 18,856.85.

Toyota Mobility Foundation launches USD 9 mn global city challenge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Toyota Mobility Foundation on Wednesday announced a USD 9 million global initiative in sustainable city mobility space in collaboration with Challenge Works and World Resources Institute.

The three-year programme, Sustainable Cities Challenge, is aimed at helping cities reduce carbon, improve access and enhance data-driven concepts for more resilient transport systems, the Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) said.

Set up in 2014 by the Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan, the foundation utilises Toyota's expertise and technologies to support strong mobility systems while eliminating disparities in mobility.

The challenge aims to improve the lives of people by increasing access to jobs, education and other essential services. It will bring cities and innovators together to implement mobility solutions that could reduce carbon, improve accessibility, and use data to build resilient transport systems, it stated.



With more than half of the world's population currently living in cities, the United Nations predicts that this will increase to two-thirds by 2050, as per TMF. Additionally, cities are responsible for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, it said.

Toyota Mobility Foundation, in partnership with Challenge Works and World Resources Institute, has launched USD 9 million global challenge to help cities adapt to the future, with the potential to transform the lives of millions around the world, TMF said.

As part of the challenge, shortlisted cities will be invited to attend a capacity building academy in the US and will receive support developing their challenge design, becoming part of a wider network of other innovative city teams, it said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The markets in the national capital will soon get a digital platform to reach out to customers across the country and worldwide with the launch of Dilli Bazaar e-portal which will feature 10,000 vendors in its initial phase, a statement said on Wednesday. The Delhi Government is in the final stages of launching the platform, which will soon be available to Delhi sellers, the statement said, claiming it to be the first such portal in the coun-

Delhi's markets to go online with Dilli Bazaar portal

try.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of the Dilli Bazaar Project on Wednesday. Industries Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and other senior officials were also present. Within six months of its launch, the Delhi Government aims to bring over one lakh shops in Delhi to the Dilli Bazaar portal, offering them a

24x7 digital storefront.

The government plans to develop a unique virtual experience that allows users to explore Delhi's iconic as well as local markets and browse through the products on offer, the statement said. The Dilli Bazaar portal will have a dedicated team responsible for complete branding solutions, including visiting the markets. Emphasising the "Go Local" motto, customers on

this platform will be able to search for products, markets, sellers, and geographical areas to discover the unique markets of Delhi, each with its distinctive branding, the statement added.

The portal will give a significant boost to the renowned local shops in various markets of Delhi, offering search options by market, shop name, and product category. Regardless of whether they

have GST numbers or not, all shopkeepers in Delhi will be allowed to register on the portal. Each shopkeeper will have a personalised digital storefront on the portal, listing all their products.

Dilli Bazaar plans to go beyond being just an e-commerce platform by introducing virtual market tours. Customers and visitors will be able to view market streets and shops, making their purchas-

Stokes 'devastated' by defeat in Ashes opener



AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM (UNITED KINGDOM)

Ben Stokes said he felt "devastated" by England's dramatic two-wicket defeat in the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston but insisted his aggressive approach could yet secure a series win over Australia.

An unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 55 between Australia captain Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon on Tuesday's final day proved decisive in a see-saw contest as the tourists chased down a target of 281.

This was just England's third defeat in 14 Tests since captain Stokes joined forces with coach Brendon McCullum last year.

The duo's policy of all-out attack, dubbed 'Bazball' in honour of McCullum's nickname, came after a run of just one win in 17 Tests under former England skipper Joe Root.

England signalled their intentions right from the start at Edgbaston, with Zak Crawley driving the first ball of the match for four.

And with England bidding for a first Ashes series win since 2015, Stokes had no qualms about his approach.

"I am devastated we've lost that game but in terms of what it's done for the series, it's hard to not be too disappointed because it has set up a

great series," he said. "It's not a psychological blow at all.

"We've lost but if you look at the way we've played, compared to how the last few Ashes series have gone, it proves what we're capable of doing against Australia.

"Losing sucks but the way we applied ourselves literally from ball one proves we're able to stand up to Australia... We've got four games left and that's what we're going to be concentrating on."

All-rounder Stokes defied convention by declaring on the opening day with England 393-8 in their first innings after Root's first Ashes hundred in eight years.

England, however, might still have won had they taken all their chances and a few batsmen pressed on in a second innings where there were several scores in the 40s but no major contribution.

An unapologetic Stokes said of his declaration: "I'm a captain who saw it as an opportunity to pounce on Australia. The way in which we played and took Australia on actually allowed us to be able to do that.

"If we didn't declare, would we have got that excitement like we did at the end? I'm not 100 per cent sure but I'm not going to be looking back at this game as what ifs. We just didn't manage to get over the line."

Australia, England penalised for slow over-rates

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia and England have been fined 40 per cent of their match fee and penalised two ICC World Test Championship (WTC) points each for maintaining slow over-rates during the first Ashes Test in Birmingham.

Andy Pycroft of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions after the teams were ruled to be two overs short of their targets after time allowances were taken into consideration, according to the ICC release.

"Captains Pat Cummins and Ben Stokes pled guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for formal hearings.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Marais Erasmus, third umpire Chris Gaffaney and fourth umpire Mike Burns levelled the charges," it said. The sanctions see Australia



lost two WTC points, leaving Cummins' side with a total of 10 points after their first Test of the new cycle.

England are also deducted two points, meaning they are behind all eight of their rivals in the 2023-25 WTC cycle.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, play-

ers are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

In addition, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC World Test Championship playing conditions, sides are penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, two World Test Championship points will be deducted from both teams' points total.

Aus method stood up against Eng: Ponting



IANIS ■ BIRMINGHAM

Sky Sports.

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes Australia's method has worked against England as they won the first Ashes Test in Edgbaston by two wickets and opined that the Ben Stokes-led side were left questioning their 'Bazball' approach.

Captain Pat Cummins led Australia to a thrilling victory at Edgbaston through an unbeaten 44 and match-winning ninth-wicket stand of 55 with Nathan Lyon to chase down 281 on the last day of the match.

Australia's win came following Stokes' daring first-innings declaration on 393/8 on day one's play.

"I think England have got the most questions to answer. Their style of play: Is it going to hold up in an Ashes series? By no means am I saying that England's method is wrong, I have loved watching them play, but it just goes to show there is more than one way to skin a cat."

"This is a long and hard game. Australia's method has stood up and it has worked. I want this series to be played the same way and I know Ben and Brendon (McCullum, England head coach) will play the same way, which adds even more to next week," Ponting told

On the other hand, former England captain Kevin Pietersen feels that the side's fans will now be rooting for a hosts' victory in the second Test at Lord's, starting from June 28, adding that results matter a lot in a series like the Ashes.

"I don't think we can pick this team apart too much. The declaration is of course something which will be spoken about.

However, the way both teams played, and for Test cricket as a whole with Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum identifying it, needs some entertainment, we got it here this afternoon and we got it over the last five days. David Warner said some of the guys in the England dressing room were 'throwing their wickets away' and he said 'we aren't going to play that way,'" said Pietersen.

"That is also saying something from a senior player in the Australia side that they don't think Test cricket can be played like this or should be played like this. English fans want a win. Of course, they want to be entertained and the atmosphere was great. The game was tight and was a nail-biter, but the England fans want them to win. You can talk as much as you like, but in an Ashes series it's about results," he added.

Leask leads Scotland to thrilling win over Ireland

IANIS ■ BULAWAYO

All-rounder Michael Leask hit a four on the final ball of Scotland's chase to secure a thrilling one-wicket win for Scotland over Ireland in their Mens ODI World Cup Qualifier Group B match at Queens Sports Club, here on Wednesday.

All-rounder Curtis Campher's superb 120 and George Dockrell's fine 69 helped Ireland to a total of 286/8, after being reduced to 70/5, thanks to Brandon McMullen's 5/34.

In reply, Scotland were in trouble at 152/7. But Leask had other ideas, slamming a glorious unbeaten 91 off 61 balls,

laced with nine fours and four sixes, to gain a thrilling win for Scotland.

Leask also shared a vital 82-run stand for the eighth wicket with Mark Watt (47), before stitching a 50-run stand with Safyaan Sharif (6). With this, Scotland have now won 13 of their last 14 ODIs batting second.

Scotland's chase had a less than ideal start as Matthew Cross fell to Mark Adair in the second over. Christopher McBride took the charge with the bat in the following overs, ensuring that his side maintained a healthy scoring rate while making 56 off 60 balls.

Adair struck again in the 11th over, when he got



Brandon McMullen caught at cover. Nine overs later, McBride was trapped lbw by Campher in the 20th over. One brought two, as Ben White accounted for George Munsey (15) in the very next over, putting Ireland on top.

Josh Little was exceptional in his second spell, getting rid of Scotland captain Richie Berrington and Tomas Mackintosh in the 26th and 28th over respectively, followed by Chris Greaves falling to Dockrell in the 34th over.

But it was the eighth-wicket stand between Leask and Watt which gave Ireland a huge headache. They staged a resistance, and added quick runs to give Scotland a chance of coming back in the match.

The fiery partnership of 82 runs off 67 balls was finally broken in the 46th over, when Dockrell had Watt (47) stumped. But Leask didn't give up, hitting two sixes and two fours off Little as Scotland took 22 runs in the 47th over.

They took 14 off the next two overs to get closer to a famous win. Leask hit the first ball of the final over for a four, but Ireland clawed their way back in by picking a wicket and giving merely two runs off the

next four balls.

Earlier, Ireland had a terrible start to their innings when they lost opener Paul Stirling and skipper Andrew Balbirnie off back-to-back deliveries in the very first over, to seamer McMullen. The collapse continued when McMullen sent Harry Tector back to the pavilion in the fifth over, followed by Lorcan edging to first slip off Watt.

Campher and Andy McBrine were forced to take the conservative route in order to rebuild. But the slow run rate increased the pressure on the batting side, and McBrine (35) fell in the 19th over while going for a pull against McBride.

India A clinch Emerging Women's Asia Cup title

IANIS ■ HONG KONG

The spin troika of Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap and Kanika Ahuja played crucial roles in helping India A emerge victorious in the Women's Emerging Asia Cup T20 tournament after beating Bangladesh A by 31 runs in the final on Wednesday.

Ahead of the title clash, India A played just one group stage match - against Hong Kong A - and made it to the final based on that result as rest of their matches were abandoned due to rain.

But that made little difference to the Shweta Sehrawat-led side grabbing the silverware, the second such title won by an India women's team after winning inaugural edition of U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in January.

Electing to bat first, Kanika (30 not out off 23 balls) and Vrinda Dinesh (36 off 29 balls) played decisive knocks in taking India to a competitive 127/7 in 20 overs.



In reply, off-spinner Shreyanka took 4/13 while left-arm spinner Mannat picked 3/20 and Kanika clinched two scalps to bowl out Bangladesh for just 96 in 19.2 overs.

In the initial part of the match, the Indian batters

struggled to get runs as Bangladesh's bowlers never gave them the room to break free, resulting in them losing wickets at regular intervals.

It resulted in only Shweta (13) and wicketkeeper Uma Chetry (22) being the other two batters apart from Vrinda

and Kanika to reach double digit scores from the Indian innings. For Bangladesh, left-arm spinner Nahida Akter and off-spinner Sultana Khatun were the pick of the bowlers by picking two wickets each.

In reply, Mannat provided initial breakthroughs by taking out opening pair of Dilara Akter and Shathi Rani in the first four overs. Shreyanka arrived to get a wicket in her very first over by removing skipper Lata Mondal and later, had Murshida Khatun stumped.

From there, the result was a foregone conclusion as Bangladesh batters continued to be outwitted by Indian spinners, with pace all-rounder Titas Sadhu taking the last wicket to ensure India signed from the rain-hit tournament with a silverware.

Kanika was named player of the match for her all-round efforts in the final while Shreyanka was adjudged Player of the Tournament for picking nine wickets in two matches.

PCB's likely chairman Ashraf rejects 'hybrid model'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI

The likely new chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf has rejected his predecessor Najam Sethi's much-publicised 'hybrid model' for the upcoming Asia Cup, which is slated to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in September.

"The first point is that I had rejected the hybrid model (for Asia Cup) in the past itself - because I do not agree with it. The board of the Asian Cricket Council had decided that it should be held in Pakistan, then we should host it," Ashraf said during a press conference in the Pakistan capital on Wednesday.

Ashraf's comments could also put Pakistan's World Cup participation in a limbo and it is expected that the BCCI will

also play hardball and there wouldn't be any middle ground if they back-track from what was agreed upon by members of Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

With the ACC executive body approving the hybrid model, if Ashraf doesn't change his stand, the Asia Cup could be held without Pakistan as a five-nation tournament.

"The Asia Cup model has been accepted by ACC and there would be no change. Ashraf is free to say whatever he wants," an ACC board member told PTI.

Ashraf is one of the two nominees for the PCB chairman's post handpicked by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who is the patron-in-chief of the board and the man who has the final say in appointment. As of now, Ashraf's appointment



is just a formality.

The hybrid model was accepted by the ACC, headed by BCCI boss Jay Shah, after India made it clear that it won't travel to Pakistan due to the prevailing geo-political situation.

It was decided that four

games will be held in Pakistan with the host country playing their group league match against Nepal and three other games involving Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan would also be scheduled in Lahore.

However, things changed dramatically in the last 48 hours after Sethi announced on twitter that he is quitting.

"I don't want to be a bone of contention between Asif Zardari and Shehbaz Sharif. Such instability and uncertainty is not good for PCB. Under the circumstances I am not a candidate for Chairmanship of PCB. Good luck to all stakeholders," Sethi had tweeted.

Ashraf, a banker by profession, has earlier been the PCB chairman.

During his media interac-

tion, Ashraf said that he doesn't like the idea of inconsequential games being held in their country when they have got hosting rights.

"All the main matches are happening outside (of Pakistan). (Teams like Nepal and Bhutan are going to play in Pakistan - which is not fair for Pakistan. I do not know what the board has decided previously, I do not have the access to the information.

"I will check, whatever is doable in the shortest possible time, will do that for the betterment of Pakistan," he said. Ashraf also said that the World Cup issue is yet to be sorted which could mean that the release of schedule will be delayed further.

"There are challenges lined up ahead for Pakistan, there are many pending issues, the Asia

Cup is there, then the World Cup, the team's preparations, a lot of issues. I do not want to speak against anyone because I have not (yet) taken over," Ashraf said while not wanting to say anything about Sethi.

"Once I take over, I will see what the scenario is. I always take media along, I do not hide anything. We have to work for the betterment of Pakistan, we have a clear conscience."

It is understood that Pakistan's demands to play World Cup matches at a neutral venue will not be accepted by either the BCCI or the ICC at any cost, and now Ashraf's tough stance on Asia Cup could spoil relations further.

IANIS ■ JOHANNESBURG

Cricket South Africa (CSA) have announced that the South Africa women's team will be hosting New Zealand for three ODIs and five T20Is, which will be played across five cities from September 24 to October 15, 2023.

The ODI series holds immense importance for both teams as it forms a crucial part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 qualification journey ahead of the next 50-over World Cup, to be held in India in 2025.

To kick off the tour, a New Zealand XI will take on a South Africa XI in a 50-over warm-up match at Willowmoore Park on 21 September as the visitors acclimatize to the South African conditions. South Africa will go head-to-head against New Zealand in ODIs at Potchefstroom, Pietermaritzburg, and Durban on September 24, 28, and October 1 respectively.

"We are thrilled to welcome New Zealand for this highly anticipated tour, and we extend our warmest wishes to both teams. We eagerly look forward to witnessing some exhilarating cricket and wish them the best of luck."

once again showcase their skills, determination, and commitment to the game on home soil. We have full confidence that they will make the nation proud with their outstanding performances," said Pholetsi Moseki, CSA Chief Executive.

The third ODI, set to be held in Durban on October 1, will be observed as Black Day to continue their fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and promote gender equality.

In the third ODI match which will be marked as third Black Day since it began from 2021, players from both teams will don black armbands and their respective black kits as a symbol of solidarity and support for the cause.

"The ODI series, featuring the third chapter of Black Day, holds great importance for our team as they compete in the ICC Women's Championship, aiming to secure crucial points for qualification in the next 50-over World Cup."

"The Black Day initiative exemplifies the devotion of CSA and the Proteas Women's team in using the platform of cricket to address vital social issues. The inclusion of the Black Day ODI adds a meaningful dimension to the series, shining a light on the transformative power of sports in advocating for positive change in society," added Moseki.

Ronaldo scores late winner in record 200th game for Portugal



AP ■ BERLIN

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first men's player to make 200 international appearances and celebrated the milestone by scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute as Portugal beat Iceland 1-0 in European Championship qualifying.

The 38-year-old Ronaldo was honoured by Guinness World Records before kickoff for reaching 200 games for Portugal almost 20 years after he made his debut.

And he was celebrating at the end, too, after being on hand to score the later winner from close range on Tuesday and keep Portugal on track for Euro 2024 qualification with its fourth win from four games in Group J.

Erling Haaland scored twice

in Norway's 3-1 win at home over Cyprus, as did Romelu Lukaku in Belgium's 3-0 victory over Estonia.

But another star forward - Robert Lewandowski - was left disappointed as his Poland team squandered a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 away to Moldova.

Euro 2024 host Germany lost 2-0 to Colombia in a friendly game.

GROUP J
Ronaldo padded his record for international goals as well, by netting his 123rd for Portugal - making it another memorable night for the former Real Madrid and Manchester United star.

"So happy. It's that kind of moment that you never expect to do it, 200 caps. For me it's an unbelievable achievement,"

Ronaldo told UEFA's website. "Of course, to score the winning goal, it's even more special."

Ronaldo's teammates Rafael Leão and Bruno Fernandes had looked more likely to provide an opening in Reykjavik, until Iceland midfielder Willum Willumsson was sent off with 10 minutes of normal time remaining for a second yellow card.

Ronaldo had missed several chances and was booked for diving in the 83rd, before he finally got the winner when Goncalo Inacio headed the ball down for the forward to score from close range. Even then there was an anxious wait for a VAR check before Ronaldo could celebrate in his own distinctive style.

Also, Luxembourg upset Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-0

away thanks to goals from Danel Sinani and Yvandro Borges Sanches, while Slovakia beat Liechtenstein 1-0.

GROUP A
Despite Haaland's goals for Norway, Scotland stayed top of Group A with a 2-0 win over Georgia in a game that was suspended for about 1 hour, 40 minutes because of heavy rain and a waterlogged field.

Callum McGregor gave hosts an early lead before play was suspended. Scott McTominay made it 2-0 early in the second half despite lots of water still on the field.

It was Scotland's fourth win from four games and it lifted the team four points above Georgia.

Norway is third with four points from four games, while Spain is a point further back

after playing just two. Spain won the Nations League on Sunday.

GROUP E
Lewandowski scored but couldn't prevent Poland slumping to a loss in Moldova, its second in three games.

Albania earned a 3-1 away win over the Faeroe Islands to stay second in the group, one point behind the Czech Republic after three games played.

Poland dropped to second last in the group with three points.

GROUP F
Lukaku scored twice in the space of three minutes to lead Belgium to a 3-0 win in Estonia. Lukaku broke the deadlock with a flick after an uneventful first half-hour and doubled Belgium's lead with another clinical finish for his 75th goal in 108 internationals.

Johan Bakayoko marked his first start for Belgium by adding the third goal in the 90th minute.

Christoph Baumgartner scored twice for Austria to defeat Sweden 2-0 in the other group game.

Austria leads the group with 10 points from three games, three points ahead of Belgium.

GROUP G
Hungary defeated Lithuania 2-0 and Bulgaria drew with Serbia 1-1.

It left Hungary top of the group on seven points, ahead of Serbia on goal difference.



France's Kante joins Benzema at Saudi club Al-Ittihad

AFP ■ FRANCE

Saudi Arabian soccer champion Al-Ittihad has another high-profile French player to accompany Karim Benzema at the team next season.

N'Golo Kante completed his move on a three-year deal on Wednesday after leaving Chelsea, with Al-Ittihad welcoming the 32-year-old midfielder with a series of tweets containing the hashtag "WelcomeBox2Box" - referring to his hard-running style of play.

He will reportedly earn more than \$100 million across the length of the deal at a club based in Jeddah and coached by former Tottenham and Wolverhampton manager Nuno Espirito Santo. It recently won the Saudi league ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr.

Kante, who won the World Cup with France in 2018, the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021 and has been one of the best players in the Premier League in recent years as a back-to-back champion with Leicester and Chelsea, has struggled with injuries over the past two seasons.

That hasn't put off Al-Ittihad from apparently spending big on Kante, a few weeks after bringing in Benzema after the expiry of the reigning world player of the year's contract at Real Madrid.

"It is part of the club's efforts to establish itself as a top choice for world-class players in the Saudi Professional League," Al-Ittihad said.

The big names - albeit players nearing the end of their careers - are being enticed to the Saudi league, where spending is being

fueled by a move by the kingdom's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund to take a majority ownership stake in four of the country's top clubs, including Al-Ittihad and Al-Nassr. The move is part of a nationalization project that encourages public sector organizations to invest in sports, with soccer teams a priority under the initiative backed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Another of those four teams, Al-Hilal, tried to buy Lionel Messi but Argentina's World Cup winner decided to join Inter Miami in the United States.

A slew of leading players are being linked with moves to Saudi Arabia in this European offseason, including Manchester City winger Riyad Mahrez, Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and Wolverhampton midfielder Ruben Neves.

Man City agree deal to sign Chelsea's Kovacic

AFP ■ LONDON

Manchester City have agreed a £30 million (\$38 million) deal with Chelsea to sign midfielder Mateo Kovacic, according to reports on Wednesday.

The treble winners are set to pay an initial £25 million for the 29-year-old Croatia international, with a further £5 million to follow in potential add-ons.

Kovacic, who joined Chelsea from Real Madrid in 2018, initially on loan, is entering the final year of his contract at Stamford Bridge.

The midfielder is set to become City's first signing of the summer transfer window and will give manager Pep Guardiola more midfield options at a time when captain Ilkay Gundogan's future is uncertain.

Gundogan's contract expires at the end of this month and the Germany international has not yet



agreed new terms.

Kovacic, who won the Champions League three times with Real and once with Chelsea, is likely to be one of several departures from the London club as new manager Mauricio Pochettino trims his squad.

Chelsea earlier Wednesday bid farewell to France midfielder N'Golo Kante, who is joining Saudi club Al Ittihad.

'Thin voice' tells Ghana legend Gyan to retire aged 37

AFP ■ ACCRA

Ghana football legend Asamoah Gyan, whose missed penalty in the 2010 World Cup cost his country its place in history as the first African nation to reach the semi-finals, has retired at the age of 37.

Ghana's all-time top scorer with 51 goals called time on a career spanning over two decades at a press conference in Accra.

"I want to take this great opportunity, a stage that is difficult in every footballer's career, a moment all footballers do not wish, but when nature dawns, that thin voice will keep echoing into the ears," said Gyan on Tuesday.

"It is time... that voice has been clear in my ears, and I have succumbed to it, it is time."

"It is time to hang up the jersey and boots in glory as I officially retire from active football."

The former Ghana captain featured at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups and represented his country at seven Africa Cup of



Nations tournaments -- reaching the final on two occasions.

A pivotal member of the Ghana side that reached the 2010 World Cup quarter-finals -- he missed the penalty in the last minute of extra-time against Uruguay after Luis Suarez had been sent off for handling a goal bound effort.

Ironically Gyan converted

his penalty in the shoot-out which Ghana lost 4-2.

"Baby Jet" as he was known played for several European clubs including Sunderland in the Premier League, Udinese in Serie A as well as Rennes in Ligue 1.

Gyan is expected to remain in football as a television pundit, promoter and ambassador.

Venus Williams handed Wimbledon wild card

AFP ■ LONDON

Five-time Wimbledon singles champion Venus Williams has been awarded a wild card for next month's championships.

The American, who played mixed doubles at the All England Club last year, has not featured in the singles event since 2021 but rolled back the years on Monday to beat Camila Giorgi at the Birmingham WTA event, days after her 43rd birthday.

Williams played her first tournament since January at a grass-court event in the Netherlands last week before heading to Birmingham.

Her three-set victory over Giorgi was her first win against a top-50 opponent since 2019.

Ten singles wild cards have been handed to British male and female players, including Liam Broady and Katie Boulter, while Ukraine's Elina Svitolina will be in the draw after she missed last year's tournament due to her pregnancy.



Former world number three Svitolina, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2019, gave birth in October but made the quarter-finals at this year's French Open.

Belgium's David Goffin, the world number 124, has been handed a wild card following his run to the quarter-finals in 2022.

The All England Club has one more women's singles and two more men's singles wild cards to hand out.

Bopanna to end Davis Cup career in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top doubles player Rohan Bopanna on Wednesday revealed that he will bring curtains down on his Davis Cup career when the country hosts Morocco in September but the Karnataka player won't be able to play his farewell match in his home state, as desired by him, since AITA has already awarded the match to Uttar Pradesh.

India are scheduled to play Morocco in a World Group II tie in September.

The 43-year-old Bopanna, who made his Davis Cup debut in 2002 and is still playing solid tennis on the ATP Tour, has played 32 ties for India.

"I am planning to play my last Davis Cup match in September," Bopanna told PTI from London.

"I have been in the team since 2002. I want it to be held at home and I spoke to all the boys (Indian players) they are all happy to play in Bengaluru. KSLTA is also happy to have it there. Now it's up to our federation to see if they want to do



it in Bangalore.

"Since I have been playing for 20 years, I just have to speak to captain and figure out if they want to do it there. It will be good for everyone to come and watch one last time. Playing at 43 is a bonus," Bopanna, who is only one on the four Indians to have won a Grand Slam title, added. It is only apt that a player, who has contributed to Indian tennis' success in the prestigious tournament over the years, gets to play his last match at the venue of his choice.

However, the All India

Tennis Association (AITA) confirmed to PTI that it won't be able to give the tie to Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA).

"To be fair, it would have been good for Rohan to play his last India-match in Bengaluru but we have already committed to UP. The tie will be played in Lucknow, it has already been decided," AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar said.

Leander Paes has played the most number of ties for India with 58 appearances, fol-

lowed by Jaideep Mukherjee (43), Ramanathan Krishnan (43), Premjit Lal (41) Anand Amirtraj (39), Mahesh Bhupathi (35), Vijay Amirtraj (32).

So, Bopanna will overtake the legendary Vijay Amirtraj in terms of number of Davis Cup appearances when he plays against Morocco.

In his 32 ties, Bopanna won 12 singles matches and 10 doubles rubbers.

Asked if he will continue to play on the ATP Tour, Bopanna replied in an affirmative.

"If I don't play on Tour, another Indian won't get that spot. Like if I don't play Wimbledon it's not like that spot will go to an Indian. But in Davis Cup, my spot will go to an Indian. It's been so many years, so there is a bunch of players coming up."

Colombia upset Germany in international friendly

AP ■ GELSENKIRCHEN (GERMANY)

Juan Cuadrado scored one goal and set up another for Colombia to beat Germany 2-0 in a friendly and deepen the sense of crisis around the German team one year before the country hosts Euro 2024.

Colombia's win on Tuesday was its first ever over Germany, a four-time world champion that appears to have forgotten how to win games.

German supporters whistled their team off after the latest disappointment, the third in a week after a 1-0 loss to Poland and 3-3 draw with Ukraine.

Germany, which flopped at the World Cup with a second straight group-stage exit, has won only three of its 11 games this season under coach Hansi Flick - an ultimately futile win over Costa Rica at the World Cup, and two friendly victories over Peru and Oman.

Flick had been hoping to finish the season on a high note, saying before kickoff that a win was imperative.

"We know that we need successful results to take the



next steps, otherwise it will be difficult," Flick told broadcaster RTL.

Flick again made a host of changes to his team after the disappointments against Poland and Ukraine. He dropped Joshua Kimmich as captain in favour of Champions League-winner Ilkay Gundogan, and brought in Marius Wolf, Robin Gosens, Leon Goretzka and Leroy Sané for Thilo Kehrer, Benjamin Henrichs, Jonas Hofmann and Florian Wirtz.

There was a brief holdup midway through the first half after a group of people in the crowd ran onto the field. Two almost made it to the goalposts

before they were tackled by stewards.

Colombia seized the initiative once play resumed, capitalizing on uncertain German defending to create several good chances.

Malick Thiaw, who started for the second consecutive game after making his debut against Poland, made a crucial tackle to stop Luis Diaz, who was through on goal, and Marc-Andre ter Stegen produced a flying save to deny Yerry Mina.

Jamal Musiala and Kai Havertz combined for a chance just before the break - it was Germany's first, and it didn't prevent fans' whistles for the team at the break.

Mane strikes twice as Senegal beat Brazil in friendly

AFP ■ LISBON

Sadio Mane scored two goals as Senegal came from behind to defeat Brazil 4-2 in an international friendly in Lisbon on Tuesday.

Five-time World Cup winners Brazil are still without a coach after the departure of Tite last year, while Neymar remains sidelined by an ankle injury suffered in February.

Lucas Paqueta headed the South Americans ahead from Vinicius Junior's cross 10 minutes in, but Senegal equalised through a thumping left-foot volley by Strasbourg forward Habib Diallo.

Marquinhos put Senegal ahead early in the second half when the Paris Saint-Germain defender inadvertently turned the ball into his own net.

Mane, who missed the World Cup with injury and endured a tough first season at Bayern Munich, added a third minutes later with a superb curling shot into the top corner.

Brazil halved the deficit when Marquinhos this time scored at the right end, looping a mishit effort over Senegal goalkeeper Mory Diaw.