



OPINION 6
INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY
UNDER MODI 3.0

WORLD 8
RUSSIA, N KOREA SIGN STRONGEST
DEAL SINCE COLD WAR

NATION 4
KNOWLEDGE CANNOT BE DESTROYED
BY FIRE: PM

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SURGE IN HEATSTROKE CASES

16 succumb to heat fury

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Heatwave continues to take its toll on the population as more than 16 vulnerable people died in the last 24 hours due to heat-related illness, including heatstroke in the Delhi-NCR in the grip of intense weather for the past few days. As per the data available from various hospitals in the city, many are battling with the situation.

In the last 24 hours, one patient each died at Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital while five patients died at other various Government hospitals, including Lok Nayak Hospital (LNJP), according to the Government hospitals officials.

At the Centre-run RML Hospital, the authorities received 22 patients in the last two days. There have been five deaths and 12 to 13 patients are on ventilator support. To give reprieve to such patients, the hospital has set up a first-of-its-kind heatstroke unit.

At the Safdarjung Hospital, there have been a total of 60 heat-stroke cases, including 42 who have been admitted. The hospital has reported six casualties, including a 60-year-old woman and a 50-



People use scarfs to shield themselves from the hot sun in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

year-old man who died on Tuesday. According to LNJP Hospital authorities, four patients have died due to suspected heatstroke in the last two days. "There were two deaths on Tuesday due to suspected heat stroke and two casualties on Wednesday. There are 16 heat stroke patients admitted," said a hospital official.

One of the victims, aged around 39, died during treatment on June 15. He was a motor mechanic who

collapsed while working at his shop in Janakpuri. He was brought in with high-grade fever. It's not only the national Capital but various pockets across the Northwest and Central India are registering some of the highest recorded temperatures in years, causing mortalities. In the adjoining region of Noida, at least 14 people reportedly died in the last 24 hours due to suspected heatstroke, according to the health department. However, post-

mortem reports are awaited to ascertain the exact cause of death, said the officials. The maximum temperature recorded in the national Capital crossed 45 degrees as Pitampura recorded the highest temperature in the city of 45.1 degrees Celsius, six notches above the normal. Safdarjung, considered as a parameter for the whole of Delhi, recorded 43.6 degrees Celsius as the maximum temperature, 4.8 degrees above the normal.

Monsoon off to a slow start

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2024 monsoon season in India is off to a slow start, characterised by delayed progress and uneven rainfall distribution across the country with the India Meteorological Department saying the country will witness below-normal monsoon rainfall in June this year. This is likely to impact agricultural yields and food security, especially the Kharif crop, given that it is largely sown in June and July. While southern and some northeastern regions may see normal to above-normal rains, many areas in northwest and Central India face significant shortages. With at least 52 per cent of India's cultivated area relying on monsoon rains, the implications for agriculture are considerable.

India-Canada ties hit new low over Nijjar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/OTTAWA

Even as Canada's Parliament marked the first anniversary of slain Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar's death by holding a moment of silence in the House of Commons on Tuesday, India reminded the world of the Kanishka bombing in 1985, the most heinous terror-related air disasters in the history of civil aviation. Nijjar was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18 last year. Canadian police have arrested four Indian nationals in connection with the murder. Diplomatic ties remain frosty between the two countries over anti-India activities being carried out from the soil of Canada and alleged



involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar, a Canadian citizen. "India stands at the forefront of battle against the menace of terrorism and works closely with all nations to tackle this global threat", India's Consulate General in Vancouver said as it reminded the world of the Kanishka bombing, the most heinous terror-related air disaster in the history of civil aviation.

The Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, most of them Canadians of Indian descent. The bombing was blamed on Sikh militants in retaliation to 'Operation Bluestar' to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in 1984. The Consulate General of India has planned a memorial service to mark the anniversary of the bombing. "India stands at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and works closely with all nations to tackle this global threat", the Consulate General of India in Vancouver posted a social media message later Tuesday.

MP's daughter runs car over sleeping man

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Daughter of a Rajya Sabha member was arrested by the Chennai Police on Tuesday morning in connection with the death of a painter who was sleeping on the pavement. On Monday night Beeda Madhuri (33), daughter of Rajya Sabha MP and former Kavali (Nellore) MLA Beeda Masthan Rao, was driving her BMW car accompanied by her friend and ran over Satish who was lying on the pavement. Masthan Rao belongs to YSR Congress. According to police, the deceased was under the influence of alcohol. Maduri arranged for shifting the grievously injured Satish to hospital and drove away. But he succumbed to injuries late Monday night and this gave rise to massive protest by the residents of the locality, most of them belonging to the working class. Maduri on being informed about the death of Satish, surrendered before the traffic investigation wing of Chennai Police and she was charged under Section 304 (A) of the Indian Penal Code, for causing death by negligence. Section 304 (A) carries with of punishment of imprisonment for two years or fine or both and is a



Cops at the accident site in Chennai

cognisable and bailable offence which could be triable by the magistrate of the first class. She was let off on bail. Though the locals alleged that she was under the influence of alcohol, the police refuted the same and said there was nothing to suggest that the lady had consumed alcohol. But they were not forthcoming when asked whether her blood sample has been collected and sent for testing.

New lease of life for Nalanda



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the new campus of Nalanda University at Rajgir, in Nalanda district, on Wednesday. Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Union Minister S Jaishankar are also seen. (Detailed report on Page 4)

PTI

Two terrorists killed ahead of Modi's Srinagar visit

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In course of the security forces' drive to sanitise Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Srinagar visit for this year's International Yoga Day function on June 21, two terrorists were gunned down in the Hadipora area of PD Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Two security personnel, including one Army jawan, also received injuries during the operation. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have declared Srinagar city as a temporary "red zone", and banned the operation of drones ahead of PM's visit. This will be Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after being sworn in as the Prime Minister for the third time.

Till the time of filing of this report, the identity of the slain terrorists could not be ascertained as the security forces were still conducting searches in the area and were yet to retrieve the bodies of the slain terrorists from the encounter site. "The deceased was taken to the hospital where he was declared 'brought dead'," a district level police officer said adding the police have started investigation.



Security forces personnel during an encounter with militants, in Hadipora, Baramulla

PTI

conducted on receipt of specific information about the presence of terrorists in the area. "On specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a Joint operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday in the Hadipora area of PD Sopore; two terrorists were eliminated; the operation is still in progress." Meanwhile, in a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested

one person for harbouring terrorists behind the terror attack on a pilgrim bus in Reasi on June 9. Addressing a press conference in Reasi SSP Mohita Sharma said, "A breakthrough has been achieved in the case of the terrorist attack on the pilgrim bus which was coming from Shiv Khori on 9th June. In this case, one accomplice of the Reasi terrorists identified as Hakam, 45, has been arrested by the J&K Police at Reasi.



Setback for Kejriwal as court rejects bail plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The judge hearing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail petition extended his judicial custody till July 3. On Wednesday, he was produced before the court through video conference on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier. The counsel appearing for Kejriwal opposed the ED's application seeking extension of his judicial custody, saying there were no grounds to justify his continued incarceration. Opposing the bail application of Kejriwal, the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday claimed that Kejriwal demanded ₹100 crore bribe from the South Group for his party in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. The ED told the court that if AAP, which has been arrayed as an accused in the case, the person in charge of the party will be held culpable. The ED told the court that when former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was made an accused in the case, the AAP was not named as an accused. "Kejriwal demanded bribe. He asked for bribe of ₹100 crore. Kejriwal asked for funds for the AAP. Kejriwal demanded kickbacks from South Group. You can't say he is not guilty of offence. If AAP commits a crime, then every person in charge of the party will be deemed to be guilty," the ED told Special Judge Niyay Bindu. "Now AAP has been made an accused. Kejriwal is responsible for the conduct (of the party)," it added. Kejriwal is the National Convenor of AAP.

Intensive research crucial for sickle cell anemia treatment

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that Dindori will play a significant role in establishing the Herbal Park at official residence of Vice President at New Delhi. He stressed on undertaking intensive research works for treatment of sickle cell anemia. Dhankhar said that awareness of sickle cell anemia requires coordinated efforts at all levels. A social movement is a must involving researchers, social workers, and doctors. Dhankhar expressed confidence that under the leadership of Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Madhya Pradesh will continue to advance socially, economically, and culturally. Vice President Dhankhar was addressing the state-level World

Sickle Cell Day-2024 program in Dindori. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla welcomed the guests and briefed about the ongoing initiatives aimed at eradicating sickle cell anemia. Governor Patel, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav and Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, Panchayat and Rural and Labour Department Minister Prahlad Patel, MP Faggan Singh Kulaste and Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Vice President Dhankhar were present. Tribal artists welcomed the Vice President. Vice President Dhankhar gave the message of environmental protection by planting saplings at the venue. He visited the exhibition organized by Women and Child Development, Panchayat and Rural Development, Public Health and Family Welfare, AYUSH, and other depart-

ments. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav welcomed Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Additionally, Dr. Yadav presented a Gond painting to the Vice President. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla welcomed Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Yadav. A short film highlighting efforts to control sickle cell anemia was screened. Dhankhar underlined the role tribes in Indian cultural and social fabric. The appointment of Draupadi Murmu as President will be recorded in the history. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the India's economy is witnessing rapid progress, surpassing countries like Brazil, Canada, England, and France. With the continued contributions of the tribal communities, India aims

to surpass even Germany and Japan. Prime Minister Modi has committed to transforming India into a developed nation by 2047 and completely eradicating sickle cell anemia. Dhankhar referred to Prime Minister Modi's announcement he made from Shahdol district in July 2023, wherein the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission-2047 was launched. Stressing on collective efforts, he emphasized that the mission to eradicate sickle cell is underway and requires contributions from all. The government's vision is clear to address genetic diseases like sickle cell anemia with amend- Ayushman Bharat scheme. Addressing the holistic approach to eradication, Vice President Dhankhar commended the state government's leadership. He apprised himself

of abundant biodiversity and medicinal plants in Dindori and neighboring districts. He underscored the special provisions for tribes in the Indian Constitution, highlighting the vast mineral resources in tribal areas. Special initiatives by Prime Minister Modi for the development of these tribal areas have been acknowledged. Vice President Dhankhar acknowledged Chief Minister Yadav's focus, highlighting the priority placed on eradicating sickle cell disease and advancing tribal development from the onset. The choice of Jabalpur for the inaugural Cabinet meeting underscores Dr. Yadav's commitment to tribal welfare, while his decision on loud-speaker usage reflects sensitivity. Under Dr. Yadav's leadership, Madhya Pradesh will continue to lead.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar being felicitated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as Governor Mangubhai Patel looks on during a programme on World Sickle Cell Day in Dindori, Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

26-year-old woman sexually assaulted on pretext of marriage in Chhola locality

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chhola Mandir police have booked a man for sexually assaulting a 26-year-old woman on the pretext of marriage, accused of sexually exploiting the woman for about three months. The police have registered a case and started searching for the accused. According to the Chhola police station, the victim lives in the Chhola Mandir area. She works as a hawk- er of old clothes. About a year ago, she met the accused Ganesh Kuchbandia. He is a resident of Itwara area of Bhopal. Ganesh somehow got the mobile number of the



woman and started calling her and talking. Gradually, the accused lured the woman into marriage and expressed his love. Ganesh physically exploited the woman for three months on the pretext of marriage. A few days ago, when the woman came to know that the accused Ganesh was already married. After

knowing this, the woman started keeping distance from the accused. Despite this, the accused kept following the woman. When the woman stopped talking to the accused, the accused started threatening her. He threatened to kill the girl's younger brothers. Distressed, the girl told the whole thing to her family and lodged a complaint against the accused at the police station. Police have registered a case of rape against the accused Ganesh Kuchbandiya and have started searching for him.



Azad School guest teachers stage a protest demanding regularisation of jobs, at the Directorate of Public Instructions office in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Solve passengers complaints immediately

Jabalpur: Co-ordination review meeting was held on Wednesday at West Central Railway Headquarters under the chairmanship of General Manager Shobhana Bhandopadhyaya. Additional General Manager RS Saxena along with other Chief Departmental Heads of the Headquarters were present in this meeting. Apart from this, Divisional Railway Managers of all three divisions were also connected through video conferencing. In this meeting, many important topics like station re-development, freight loading, rail help, punctuality and infrastructural work were discussed. Along with this, emphasis was laid on safety, ensuring availability of water at all stations and trains, quick resolution of other passenger complaints and safe operation of trains. At the beginning of the meeting, General Manager Shobhana Bhandopadhyay has directed to give first priority to safety during monsoon. She has instructed the concerned officials to maintain monitoring and coordination with the local officials to remain prepared during rain, storm or change in weather conditions. Along with this, she has also directed to review and inspect by the concerned section engineers in sensitive railway

sections and ensure deployment of gatemen at all such places. Emphasis was laid on ensuring availability of water at all stations and all passing passenger trains, prompt resolution of other passenger complaints within the time limit. Apart from this, necessary guidelines were given to expedite the ongoing station redevelopment work under Amrit Station Yojana and complete it within the time limit. During the meeting, the General Manager said that there is a need to lay special emphasis on rail help analysis under passenger facilities, and discussed measures to increase railway revenue by increasing freight loading. He talked about monitoring the punctuality of trains, and emphasizing on speed related works and safety of trains. The General Manager also reviewed the progress of infra-structure works. He said that safety is paramount for Railways. While reviewing the progress of work and projects for increasing passenger facilities, he directed the concerned officials to expedite the work. Bhandopadhyay directed the departmental heads and divisional railway managers to ensure the operation of trains on time by giving priority to safety and security and passenger facilities.

Five new gen crop protection launched

PNS ■ INDORE

Shriram Farm Solutions, a division of the DCM Shriram Ltd., launched its new age Crop Protection and Specialty Plant Nutrition products. The event took place at Hotel Sayaji in Indore, Madhya Pradesh where prominent channel partners from the region convened to witness the electrifying launch of these innovative solutions. Not only this, 200+ distributors and 5000+ viewers online via live telecast also witnessed the grand prize distribution ceremony of Shriram Super Wheat Seed Gehuntsav Scheme which had 188 winners from the Central India. Addressing the challenges associated with weed management and cost elevation due to manual operations, Shriram Farm Solutions introduced SHIRAM BIKUTA, an early post-emergent selective herbicide designed to combat both broad-leaved and narrow-leaved weeds in cotton crops. This innovative product is formulated with two highly effective, active ingredients and an ME formulation, offering an economical solution for growers.

Sand laden truck mows down 28-year-old man at Ayodhya Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A truck filled with sand mowed down a 28-year-old man in front of Arjun Nagar Shiv temple located in Ayodhya Nagar police station area in the night on Tuesday. The man died on the spot in the accident. The accused driver fled leaving the dumper. The police have seized the truck and started an investigation. After the postmortem on Wednesday afternoon, the body was handed over to the family. Police Head constable Manish Mishra said that Ritesh Rajput (28) of Jheel Nagar Ayodhya Nagar. He used to work with a private firm. He was returning home from duty on the intervening night of Wednesday while crossing the road in front of Shiv temple located in Arjun Nagar, Ritesh's bike was hit by a truck bearing registration APMIO4HE9670 from the front. The man died on the spot in the accident. The maternal uncle of the

Police Head constable Manish Mishra said that Ritesh Rajput (28) of Jheel Nagar Ayodhya Nagar. He used to work with a private firm.

deceased said that his nephew often returned late from work at night. Like every day, he was returning home late at night, during which he became a victim of the accident. The dumper filled with sand was moving at a high speed. Due to which he lost control of the dumper and hit Ritesh along with his bike. Vinod said that his nephew got married two years ago. At present he had no children. Ritesh was the only earning member in the family. His father is ill, he is on bed rest after a paralysis attack. The police have seized the truck.

DTG of BHEL Bhopal wins prestigious PSE Award 2024

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Digital Transformation Group (DTG) BHEL Bhopal, has won the prestigious Indian Express PSE Awards 2024, in the Enterprise Applications category. The Award was given by eminent personalities of IT fraternity at the award ceremony held at Jaipur, on June 14, 2024. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Bhopal continued to add to its impressive list of accolades and recognition winning the prestigious PSE Awards 2024 by Indian Express for Enterprise Applications presented the award to BHEL Bhopal during the PSE 2024 Summit at Hotel Clarks Amer at Jaipur with a theme of 'Celebrating digital excellence in public sector enterprises'. S.N. Shrivastava and Vivek Pathak from BHEL Bhopal receives the Award. The



Project has been developed by Digital Transformation Group division of BHEL Bhopal. The PSE Summit 2024 organized by Indian Express for recognizing the public sector Enterprise Pioneers who are raising the bar for excellence in technology is conferred to the BHEL Bhopal unit in recognition of their initiatives to enhance customer delight by improving Process Effectiveness using Real-Time Vande Bharat Management

System, Incoming Document Management System and myBHELApp. The PSE Summit recognizes forefront of digital innovation in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for their initiatives taken towards enhancing process optimization. BHEL was chosen for the award after an extensive screening levels of organization's processes and systems. Some key parameters that were presented include customer focus and

alignment of sustained process initiatives with business objectives while ensuring customer gains. More than 250 Applications were received in this Award Category, from Various Top Public Sector Enterprises, industry professionals, start-ups and practitioners from across India. BHEL Bhopal nomination was evaluated by an eminent jury of experienced, qualified, and exceptional technology professionals, which acknowledged and adjudicated it as the finest amongst a large number of entries and nominations. At the unit, S.M. Ramanathan, Executive Director, BHEL Bhopal, presented the Award, in the presence of Gautam Majumdar, General Manager (CMG, PMG, CC & DTG) to N P Sanodia, AGM(IT) to S.N. Shrivastava and Vivek Pathak and his Team on Wednesday at BHEL, Bhopal.



Senior Congress leader and former leader of opposition Govind Singh talking to media persons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Dr Soni of AIIMS conferred with International Fellowship

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Dr B.L. Soni, Assistant Professor of Maxillofacial Surgery in the Department of Trauma and Emergency Medicine, has been honored with the prestigious International Fellowship, FDS RCPS (Glasgow, United Kingdom), by The Royal College of Physicians and

Surgeons of Glasgow. This accolade is in recognition of his remarkable contributions to the field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery over the past decade. Dr. Soni completed his post-graduation and senior residency at AIIMS, New Delhi. For the past two years, he has served as a Faculty member in the Department of Trauma and

Emergency Medicine at AIIMS, Bhopal. In his current role, Dr. Soni manages general emergency and trauma patients, along with maxillofacial emergency cases. The Fellowship conferred upon Dr. Soni by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow is a testament to his expertise, achievements, and dedication to patient care, research, and academic excellence.

**Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer,
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MODI INAUGURATES NEW NALANDA VARSITY CAMPUS

Knowledge cannot be destroyed by fire: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/RAJGIR(BIHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that he wanted India to re-emerge as the world's "most prominent knowledge centre" with an "advanced and research-oriented" higher education system.

Modi, while inaugurating the new Nalanda University campus in Rajgir, called upon students to always remain curious and courageous.

The varsity is named after the world-renowned ancient seat of higher learning, which was razed by invading armies in the 12th century.

Modi said Nalanda bore testimony to the fact that "knowledge cannot be destroyed by fire", and that India was looking forward to playing its role in the 21st century, "which belongs to Asia", by becoming a developed country by 2047.

He underscored that history was proof that all developed countries became economic and cultural leaders only after they made a mark in the field of education.

"Our country, too, enjoyed



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha and other delegates during the inauguration of Nalanda University, in Nalanda district, Bihar on Wednesday

such a status in the ancient times when seats of learning like Nalanda and Vikramshila were flourishing," said Modi, who also made a mention of the International Yoga Day celebrations, due in a couple of days, to stress that India was continuing with cultural exchanges on a global scale.

"It is my mission that India re-emerges as the world's most prominent knowledge centre. To this end, the spirit of

innovation is being inculcated into our children from a very early age. More than one crore children are getting exposed to latest technology at 'Atal Tinkering' labs. The Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan missions are also boosting their interest in science," he said.

Modi also pointed out "till about a decade ago, we had only 100 startups. The number has swollen to more than 1.30 lakh. We are also filing a record

number of patents and publishing research papers. Our government has announced a special fund of Rs 1 lakh crore to give a fillip to research and innovation".

"It is our endeavour to build, in India, the world's most comprehensive and complete skilling system, and advanced research-oriented higher education system. The efforts have started showing results. Our universities' global

rankings have improved. Till a decade ago, only nine educational institutions had QS rankings. Now, the number has reached 46," the PM asserted.

The Prime Minister, who reached the venue after spending a few minutes at the ruins of the 'Nalanda Mahavihara', expressed delight at having got the opportunity "within 10 days" of return to power for a record third term in office.

He also highlighted that the country has "lived, through ages, a sustainable model in which progress was achieved while taking care of the environment".

The prime minister informed that on an average, India has witnessed setting up of one university every week in the last 10 years, along with establishment of an industrial training institute (ITI) every 10 days.

"There has been a new Atal Tinkering Lab every second day, two new colleges every day. We have 23 IITs. The number of IIMs has reached 21, from only 13 a decade ago. During the period, the number of AIIMS trebled to 22 and the number of medical colleges doubled.

Tibetans have right to self-determination: McCaul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/DHARAMSALA

The Tibetan people have the right to self-determination, US House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Michael McCaul said on Wednesday, asserting they have a unique culture and religion, and they should be able to freely practice their religion.

McCaul, who is leading the US Congressional delegation that met the Tibetan spiritual head the Dalai Lama at Dharamsala, said that is why we are here today in defiance of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Speaking at a facilitation function organised by the Dharamsala-based Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), he said even after violence and forceful removal from his home by the CCP, the Dalai Lama continues to preach tolerance, peace and forgiveness.

McCaul asserted that people are free in a democracy while they are enslaved in tyranny. "The Tibetan people possess a distinct religion, culture and historic identity and they should have a say in their own future. You should be able to freely practice your religion and that is why we are here



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama being greeted by US representative Michael McCaul during a meeting with US Congressional delegation at his residence, in Dharamsala

today in defiance of CCP warning," McCaul said.

"Our delegation received a letter from the CCP warning us not to come here, they repeated their false claim that Tibet is part of China since the 13th century but we did not let the CCP intimidate us and we are here today," he said, adding the Dalai Lama, people of Tibet and United States of America know that Tibet is not a part of China.

McCaul said the timing of this visit cannot be better as last week the House of Representatives and the Congress passed Resolve Tibet Bill, which makes it clear that

Tibet has its own unique culture, language and religion, and has the right to self-determination.

This bill, which will be signed in the coming days, also requires to aggressively challenge the CCP propaganda about Tibet, he added. The delegation consisting of former US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congress members Mariannette Miller, Gregory Meeks, Nicole Malliotakis, Jim McGovern and Ami Bera led by McCaul, called on the Dalai Lama ahead of the function and held discussions.

Oram praises role of ASHA, anganwadi workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram on Wednesday emphasised the critical role of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and anganwadi workers in combating not only the Covid-19 pandemic but also in achieving the government's ambitious goal of eradicating sickle cell disease in India.

Speaking at an event marking World Sickle Cell Day at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, Oram highlighted that while top experts and doctors contribute significantly to the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission, success hinges on the involvement of grassroots workers.

"ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and anganwadi workers are the ones who work at the gram panchayat level. They worked



more than the top doctors during the pandemic. I can say this with confidence," said Oram, who recently assumed office as the tribal affairs minister for the third time.

"Therefore, until we engage ground-level workers in this

mission, it will not be successful. When malaria was prevalent, a malaria inspector would visit every house in the village to take samples. We need to adopt a similar approach to eradicate sickle cell disease," he added.

The minister also said that while top doctors can plan and share their knowledge and resources, it is the ground-level workers who have to actually work.

Oram suggested involving major companies operating in tribal areas in the mission to tackle sickle cell anaemia.

On July 1 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, with the aim of eradicating the disease by 2047.

On the occasion, earlier Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated the government's commitment to overcoming sickle cell disease, and said it has been working on aspects like creating awareness, universal screening, early detection and proper care.

"On World Sickle Cell Day, we reiterate our commitment to overcome this disease. Last year, we launched the National

Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission and have been working on aspects like creating awareness, universal screening, early detection and proper care," Modi said in a post on X. "We are also leveraging the power of technology in this area," he said.

Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited blood disorders that affect haemoglobin, causing red blood cells to become sickle-shaped and block blood flow, which can lead to serious complications such as stroke, eye problems, and infections.

The government aims to screen seven crore people up to 40 years of age as part of the mission. State governments have already screened 3.5 crore people, detecting 10 lakh active carriers and one lakh individuals with the disease.

A carrier is an individual who carries and can pass on a genetic mutation associated with a disease, and may or may not display symptoms.

Jaishankar travels to Lanka today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Sri Lanka on Thursday in his first bilateral visit abroad in his second consecutive term in office.

The visit reaffirms India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and underlines New Delhi's continued commitment to Sri Lanka as its "closest" maritime neighbour and time tested friend, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The MEA said Jaishankar's visit will add momentum to connectivity projects and other mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors between the two countries.

Jaishankar was last week part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's delegation at the G7 Outreach summit in Italy's Apulia region.

The trip to Sri Lanka will be Jaishankar's standalone bilateral visit after he assumed charge as the external affairs minister for the second term on June 11.



The MEA said the external affairs minister will have meetings with the Sri Lankan leadership on wide-ranging issues.

"This will be the external affairs minister's first bilateral visit after the formation of new government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," it said.

"Reaffirming India's Neighbourhood First Policy, the visit underlines India's continued commitment to Sri Lanka as its closest maritime neighbour and time tested friend," the MEA said in a statement. "The visit will add momentum to connectivity projects and other mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors," it said.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe was among seven top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi and the Union council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9.

BJP, Congress war of words over NEET

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

BJP and Congress on Wednesday Bengaged in a political slugfest on NEET issue with the former demanding an apology from Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the latter announcing it will hold nationwide protests on Friday over alleged irregularities in the medical entrance examination demanding justice for students.

Seeking an apology from Priynaka, the BJP also sought legal action against her a day after the Allahabad High Court said the NTA can take action against a NEET aspirant who submitted fake documents alleging the testing agency failed to declare her result.

Latching on the high court's order, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged Priyanka had recently posted a social media message of this NEET aspirant who had made some "outlandish claims" about her result in NEET exam "including torn OMR, lesser marks being given to her".

"Turns out this girl Ayushi Patel, who claimed her OMR was torn and marks were not correct, had provided fake documents even to court and made false claims about her OMR being torn," he wrote a social media message, citing Priyanka's June 10 post on the micro-blogging site.

He slammed the Congress accusing it of running a "jhooth ki dukan" and demanded that a probe be also conducted into the matter to ascertain if the Congress had "sponsored" Patel to make false claims.

Sharing on the social media the video of Patel claiming some irregularities in declaration of her NEET result recently, Priyanka had demanded that the government will have to take serious steps to correct these irregularities.

"Lakhs of children prepare hard for exams like NEET and spend the most precious moments of their lives in this preparation. The whole family puts their faith and strength in this effort. But year after year, paper leaks and irregularities related to results of these exams have come to the fore," she had written in her post.



"Shouldn't the accountability of the agencies conducting the exams be fixed? Shouldn't the government give up its careless attitude and seriously consider the exam system?" she also asked.

"We cannot see the dreams of our young friends being shattered like this. This injustice being done by the system with their hard work must stop. The government will have to take serious steps to correct these irregularities," she had said.

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday said Patel, who had alleged in her petition that the National Testing Agency (NTA) failed to declare her result and that her OMR answersheet was found torn, had submitted forged documents and the NTA can take legal action in the matter.

This came after NTA, on the direction of the high court's Lucknow bench, produced before it the original OMR answer sheet of the student which was found to be intact.

The NEET aspirant in her petition had claimed that NTA sent her a communication saying her result would not be declared as her OMR sheet was found torn. She had also posted a video on social media repeating the allegations that caused a stir amid the ongoing row over claims of irregularities in the conduct of the undergraduate medical entrance exam NEET.

The petitioner had demanded that her OMR sheet be evaluated manually. She had also called for an inquiry against NTA and demanded that the counselling for admission be stopped.

Meanwhile, Congress said it will hold protests in all state headquarters on Friday over the alleged irregularities in medical entrance exam NEET, demanding justice for the students.

Restore statues to original places in Parliament complex, demands Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman over the shifting of statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and other national leaders to a new location in the Parliament complex and has demanded that they be restored to their original places.

Kharge said the statues of national leaders have been relocated to a separate corner "arbitrarily" without any consultation and this amounts to violation of the basic spirit of democracy.

"I wish to emphasise at the very threshold that such removal of these statues arbitrarily, without any consultation, violates the basic spirit of our democracy. Needless to mention that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other national leaders were situated at prominent locations after due deliberation and consideration.

Each statue and its location across the Parliament House complex held immense value and significance," Kharge said in his letter sent separately to the Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman.

The Congress chief, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, pointed out that there is a dedicated committee for installing portraits and statues of national leaders and MPs in the Parliament House Complex -



"Committee on the Installation of Portraits and Statues of National Leaders and Parliamentarians in the Parliament House Complex" but the panel has not been reconstituted since 2019.

"Hence, such decisions made without any proper discussion and deliberation with relevant stakeholders are against the rules and traditions of our Parliament. Therefore, I demand that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other national leaders who greatly contributed for the unity and integrity of our nation must be relocated to their original locations with due respect and regard," he wrote. The Congress has taken strong objection to the shifting of the statues.

The opposition parties have often held protest marches and agitations within the Parliament complex before the statues of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

Indian Army launches skin bank facility

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has launched a first-of-its-kind skin bank facility that aims to revolutionise the treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions for service personnel and their families.

The defence ministry in a statement on Tuesday said the skin bank will be staffed by a team of highly-trained medical professionals, including plastic surgeons, tissue engineers and specialised technicians.

The Army Hospital (Research and Referral) here announced the opening of the skin bank facility, a first-of-its-kind to be established within the Armed Forces Medical Services, it said.

"This landmark initiative aims to revolutionise the treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions among service members and their families," the statement said.

This bank will serve as a centralised hub for the collection, processing, storage and distribution of skin grafts,



providing a "critical resource" for military medical centres across the country, officials said.

By establishing this facility, the armed forces are ensuring that personnel and their families have access to the most advanced skin replacement therapies, they said.

The facility will adhere to the highest standards of quality control and safety, ensuring the integrity and reliability of the skin grafts, the statement said.

DGMS (Army) and Col Comdt Lt Gen Arindam Chatterjee termed the launch of this skin bank as "a testament to the unwavering commitment to the

health and well-being of service members".

He added that the facility will not only enhance the quality of care, but also strengthen the ability to support those who have been affected by serious injuries.

"By having a dedicated resource for skin tissue, we can provide our patients with the most effective and personalised treatments, ultimately improving their chances of recovery and rehabilitation," Commandant, Army Hospital (R&R) Lt Gen Ajith Nilakantan, was quote as saying in the statement.

INS Sunayna completes short refit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's ship INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel based at Southern Naval Command entered Port Victoria, Seychelles on June 15 in company of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster. Zoroaster had recently completed her short refit at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), India, officials said here on Tuesday.

Upon arrival, INS Sunayna was warmly received by officials of



Seychelles Coast Guard and Embassy of India. During the ship's visit, personnel from Indian Navy and Seychelles Defence Forces will engage in official and social interactions and cross deck visits.

The ship will undertake joint EEZ surveillance with the

Seychelles Coast Guard during the deployment. The visit is aimed at further strengthening the camaraderie and mutual cooperation between Indian Navy and Seychelles Coast Guard in line with the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

Will work to protect dharma, unite society: Union Minister

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday said he would work to safeguard national interests, protect "dharma", unite society and try to bring funds for the development of Telangana and his Lok Sabha constituency of Karimnagar in the state.

Sanjay Kumar, who reached Karimnagar in Telangana for the first time after assuming charge as a minister, told reporters that credit for his elevation as union minister goes to the party activists and their hard work. Prostrating on the ground as a mark of respect for his 'karmabhoomi' soon after reaching Karimnagar where he rose through the ranks as a leader in the saffron party, Sanjay Kumar said it is only possible in the BJP for a person like him to rise from being a corporator in Karimnagar to a union minister.

He was accorded a rousing welcome by the party leaders and activists who showered flower petals on him. Recalling that party activists



had faced police action in the form of lathi charge, rowdy sheets and house arrests when he was Telangana BJP president during the previous BRS regime, he said he has now got recognition because of the hard work and sacrifices of the party workers. This post is dedicated to the party activists, he said. "I will use this responsibility of being union minister not for enjoying the post or to make money illegally, but for protecting the country and 'dharma', uniting society, and bringing funds for

Telangana and the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency. There is no question of misusing the post," he said. He also said he would remember the sacrifices of those who gave their life for the sake of Telangana statehood. He was given a guard of honour by the police and welcomed by government officials in Karimnagar. Sanjay Kumar retained the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency in the recent Lok Sabha polls by a margin of over 2.25 lakh votes.

Karnataka mulls policy to boost groundwater recharge

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology N S Boseraju on Wednesday said the state government is contemplating formulating a new policy aimed at enhancing groundwater recharge throughout the state. The announcement was made during the inauguration of the three-day National Conference on Sustainable Groundwater Management for Water Security, organised by the Karnataka Science and Technology Academy. Speaking at the event, Boseraju pointed to the decline in groundwater levels and attributed this trend to the escalating urbanisation and deforestation. Emphasising the historical reliance on groundwater for industrial, agricultural, and domestic purposes, he said the depletion of this vital resource poses significant risks for future generations. "The exploitation of groundwater is intensifying while efforts to recharge it are diminishing. The natural recharge processes are



hampered by urban expansion. Immediate action is required to mitigate these effects, or our successors will suffer the consequences," Minister Boseraju was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his office. Noting that the current drought has highlighted the need for water conservation and to prevent further groundwater exploitation, the Minister underscored the importance of implementing rainwater harvesting systems and promoting groundwater recharge.

He called for a collective effort to adopt sustainable practices and said the Directorate of Groundwater is actively considering a policy that would provide incentives for such initiatives. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has also shown interest in this regard. Boseraju also stressed the importance of raising awareness about advancements in groundwater management through national conferences and urged cooperation with relevant departments for effective implementation.

Rain triggers landslides, flood-like situation in several Arunachal districts

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

Incessant rain over the past few days had triggered landslides and flood-like situations in various parts of Arunachal Pradesh, officials said on Wednesday.

The state capital witnessed landslides at several locations, with waterlogging reported along the Doimuk-Potin Road and several stretches of the Itanagar-Yupia Road. A portion of NH-415 and a culvert were washed away at Karsingsa sinking zone on Tuesday morning, severing connectivity between Nirjuli and Banderdewa. Vehicular traffic between these areas has been diverted via Gumto Road.

With the IMD forecasting heavy rains in the state capital over the next few days, the district administration has urged residents in vulnerable areas to move to safer locations or designated relief camps. Eight relief camps have been established in the state capital to aid those affected by landslides and flooding, officials said. Landslides also damaged a few vehicles and a newly

constructed house in Banderdewa. Fortunately, no loss of human lives has been reported. Similar reports of landslides have emerged from other districts. Major rivers and their tributaries in the state are in high spate, though still below the danger mark. West Siang District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO) Dorjee Nima reported that several hectares of agricultural fields were damaged after water from the Hu stream, a tributary of the Yomgo river, flooded fields in Taba Sora village under Kodum circle. Aalo township also experienced artificial flooding due to an inadequate drainage system, they added. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who also holds the Disaster Management portfolio, convened a meeting on Wednesday with officials to review monsoon preparedness. "Chaired a review meeting today with the Department of Disaster Management to assess our monsoon preparedness, in the presence of Hon'ble Advisor Disaster Management Shri Nakap Nalo Ji," Khandu posted on X.

Former Haryana Congress leader Kiran, her daughter join BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after quitting the party, former Haryana Congress leader Kiran Choudhary and her daughter Shruti Choudhry, along with their supporters, joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders in New Delhi on Wednesday.

She took the primary membership of the BJP in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Manohar Lal (Khattar), and National General Secretary Tarun Chugh.

Both Kiran Choudhry and Shruti Choudhry had resigned from the primary membership of the Congress on Tuesday, alleging the state unit of the party was being run as a 'personal fiefdom', in an apparent reference to former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Kiran Choudhry is daughter-in-law of former Haryana chief minister Bansi Lal and a sitting MLA from Tosham in Bhiwani district. Shruti Choudhry was the working president of the Haryana unit of the Congress.

Addressing a joint press conference along with the BJP leaders after joining the party, Kiran Choudhry said, "Now I am also painted in saffron



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini felicitates former Haryana Congress leader Kiran Choudhry after she joined the BJP in New Delhi on Wednesday. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and party leader Tarun Chugh also seen

RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

colour. But this colour was also the colour of Choudhary Bansi Lal." "We merged the Haryana Vikas Party into the Congress 20 years ago. Today, I call upon you to take the flag of the BJP in your hands, leaving the Congress's flag, and move forward till the last moment to ensure the BJP's landslide victory in Haryana assembly polls for a third consecutive term," she said in her message to her supporters who had gathered in large numbers to witness the joining ceremony. "From today, our work begins. Take the name of Choudhary

Bansi Lal and start working on the BJP's policies, hail the BJP's top leadership, visit every nook and corner of Haryana. This will be our true tribute to Choudhary Bansi Lal and Choudhary Surendra Singh," she added. Choudhry said she joined the BJP as she was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work and noted that people of the country have given him mandate for the third consecutive term after seeing his work. "People have once again given him this responsibility to fulfil his resolve to make India a

developed country by 2047," she said. She assured the BJP leaders that she and her daughter Shruti will work like "grassroot workers" to strengthen the party in Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. "We are ready", she added. Choudhry also praised Khattar for his "honesty" and his work during his term as Haryana chief minister. Referring to him as her "big brother", she said Khattar was a "source of inspiration" to her. Shruti said she joined the BJP inspired by the party's policy and "historic decisions" taken by Prime Minister Modi in his last ten years of government.

Welcoming them to the party fold, Chugh said the Bansi Lal family contributed to strengthening the "foundation of the Congress in North India". "It's a very big family and a very big vote bank. They will be given due respect in the party", he told reporters. Khattar also assured Kiran Choudhry and her daughter that they will get due respect in the party "as per their ability and seniority" and hoped that they will also fulfil the expectations of the party. Saini said the BJP will be strengthened further with them joining the party. "We will work together as BJP family to make Haryana stronger," he added.

Murder case: Darshan confessed to have given ₹30 lakh to accused to dispose of body, say police

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who has been arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case, has confessed to have given Rs 30 lakh to another accused Pradosh for the disposal of the body and to ensure that "his name does not come out anywhere," a police official said.

A total 17 people, including Darshan and his friend Pavithra Gowda, are accused in the murder case. According to police sources, Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Gowda, which enraged Darshan, allegedly leading to his murder. His body was found near a storm-water drain next to an apartment in

30 lakh to Pradosh (A14) to dispose of the body, and for the expenditure that would cost...For persons to carry out this task, and to ensure that his name doesn't come out anywhere," a police official said. A total 17 people, including Darshan and his friend Pavithra Gowda, are accused in the murder case. According to police sources, Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Gowda, which enraged Darshan, allegedly leading to his murder. His body was found near a storm-water drain next to an apartment in

Sumanahalli here on June 9. "From the spot of the crime, things such as lathi and wooden logs used for the alleged assault have been recovered along with water bottle, blood stains and material evidence, and DVR containing the CCTV footage," the official said, adding, "blood stains were also found on the vehicle allegedly used for disposing of the body." According to the autopsy report, Renukaswamy's death was caused due to shock and haemorrhage as a result of multiple blunt injuries he sustained. "Viscera samples have been sent to the Forensic

Science Laboratory for further analysis," he said. According to sources, one of the accused, Raghavendra, who is part of Darshan's fan club in Chitradurga, had brought Renukaswamy to a shed in R R Nagar here, on the pretext that Darshan wanted to meet him. It was in this shed that he was allegedly tortured and killed. The investigation team is believed to have gathered enough evidence, including CCTV footage, which could establish that Darshan was present during the alleged assault on Renukaswamy, leading to his death, sources said.

OBC activists' fast over quota enters seventh day

PTI ■ JALNA

The fast by two activists, seeking an assurance that the OBC quota will not be disturbed amid the Maratha reservation demand, entered the seventh day on Wednesday, with doctors saying that their health has started deteriorating. After requests by OBC (Other Backward Classes) members, the activists - Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare - took a few sips of water, but maintained that they would continue their protest.

Hake and Waghmare have been sitting on their hunger strike at Wadigodri village in Jalna district since June 13. Government medical officer Anil Waghmare said the activist's blood pressure has risen and their blood sugar levels are low. Doctors have stressed that both need to be hospitalised to prevent further health complications. The OBC activists have been demanding the scrapping of the Maharashtra



government's draft notification that recognises Kunbis as 'sage soyare' (blood relatives) of Maratha community members. Kunbi, an agrarian group, enjoys quota benefits under the OBC category. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Hake said no government representative has visited them, rejecting Maratha activist Manoj Jarange's allegations that their protest was government-sponsored. "Officials would have shown concern and visited us had our protest been backed by

the government," Hake said. He criticised Jarange for his "ignorance" regarding the complexities of the reservation system. "Jarange does not understand the law and reservation system," he said. Hake also extended an invitation for an open debate with Jarange's team to discuss the intricacies of the reservation issue. Meanwhile, OBC members have called for a bandh at Ambad. On Tuesday, they blocked the Dhule-Solapur national highway for some time over their demands.

Murder victim whose body parts were found on two trains identified

PTI ■ INDORE

A murder victim whose body parts were found on two trains has been identified as a 35-year-old married woman who had gone missing from Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district a fortnight ago, police said on Wednesday. The body was found on a passenger train at Indore on June 9, while the severed hands and legs were found on another train at Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, 1,100 km away, on June 10, said a senior official of the Government Railway Police (GRP) here. "The victim of the brutal murder has been identified as Meera (35), resident of Bilpank police station limits in Ratlam district," said Santosh Kori, Superintendent of Police, GRP Indore.

The woman, who has two daughters, left home on June 6 after a quarrel with the husband, and the family lodged a missing person complaint at Bilpank police station six days later, the SP said.

Wild elephants in Udupi leave trail of destruction

PTI ■ UDUPI (KARNATAKA)

Wild elephants have been roaming freely in deeply wooded plantations allegedly causing a trail of destruction in several pockets of Udupi district, officials said on Wednesday. The pachyderms damaged areca, plantain and spice plantations in Nellikatte in the Nadpalu Grama Panchayat area in Hebri taluk of the district in the early hours of June 18 and 19, they said.

Forest Department officials have estimated that there could be two individual jumbos behind the incidents and said they are in hot pursuit of the animals. According to the forest officials, the wild elephants have ravaged the plantations and have even uprooted the sprinkler and drip irrigation systems laid out in the estate owned by one Meena Poojarti in the village. The villagers have expressed fear of carrying on with their daily routine; children are being prevented from going to school, and farm workers

are staying put indoors. The villagers demanded that the animals be tranquillised and translocated into their natural habitats. This is reportedly the first time that wild elephants have entered the human habitations in the taluk, although Hebri taluk is known for its forest cover. According to officials, earlier it was leopard sightings in these villages that disturbed the people. Historically, elephants have followed a predictable path from Sullia to Naravi, passing through Maala Ghat, Valikunja, Kabbinala, Thingalamakki, Thengumar, Kigga, Barkana, Mallandur, Agumbé, and Hosanagar. However, this year's deviation into Nadpalu village on the foothills of the western ghats has baffled the forest officials and the people alike. Range Forest official Gaurav has confirmed the presence of elephants and said the officials are tracking their movements, and that they will soon be restored to the wildlife sanctuary.

Security forces recover firearms, explosives after encounter with Naxalites in Sukma

Sukma: Three firearms, explosives and Maoist-related materials were recovered by security personnel following an encounter with Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Wednesday, a police official said.

The gunfight took place at around 6 am on a forested hill near Kanparraju Metta village

under Bheji police station limits when a joint team of security personnel were out an anti-Naxalite operation, the official said here. This was the second gun-battle between security forces and Naxalites in Sukma district in as many days. The exchange of fires lasted for about 20 minutes after which Naxalites escaped. PTI

Women at higher risk of heart diseases as early symptoms difficult to detect: Physicians body

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Women in India are at a higher risk of having cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) as early symptoms like angina are difficult to detect due to uncommon symptoms, which can pose a challenge in diagnosis, said an association of physicians on Wednesday.

Indians experience cardiovascular diseases a decade earlier than those in Western countries, which makes it necessary to address the early age of onset and rapid disease progression in a timely manner, noted Association of Physicians of India (API) president Dr Milind Y Nadkar here. "Women are more likely than men to display uncommon symptoms like jaw or neck

pain, exhaustion and non-chest discomfort, which can pose a challenge in diagnosis. This may result in doctors offering symptomatic relief solutions without addressing underlying angina causes, which is further heightened when patients deny the existence of their symptoms," Nadkar said at a press conference. CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and the leading cause of death globally. India ranks second worldwide when it comes to cardiovascular disease-related mortality, and CVDs account for 20.3 per cent and 16.9 per cent of annual mortality across men and women in the country, respectively, according to data. "Obesity is also a strong angina risk factor, especially in women.



People living with diabetes also tend to report more extensive coronary disease, if unaddressed," said Nadkar. While incidence of angina (a type of chest pain caused by reduced blood flow to the heart) in women is lesser than in men, it is on the rise due to lifestyles and demographic

patterns, he pointed out. Indians have a 20-50 per cent higher coronary artery disease (CAD) mortality rate than any other population. Also, CAD-related mortality and disability rates have doubled over the last 30 years in India, according to API, the apex professional body of

consultant physicians in the country. "People frequently display atypical angina symptoms, which may lead to missed diagnoses, like shortness of breath, excessive sweating, heartburn, nausea or stable angina, a kind of chest pain that can be triggered by emotional or physical stress or exercise. Women are more likely than men to display uncommon symptoms like jaw or neck pain, exhaustion and non-chest discomfort, which can pose a challenge in diagnosis," emphasised Nadkar. This may result in doctors offering symptomatic relief solutions without addressing underlying angina causes, which is further heightened when patients deny the existence of their symptoms, said the API president.

"Indians experience CVDs a decade earlier than those in Western countries, which makes it vital to address the early age of onset and rapid disease progression in a timely manner. With India also recording the highest rate of coronary artery disease worldwide, it is essential to bring more awareness about symptoms like angina," he stated. Abbott India Medical Director Dr Ashwini Pawar, who also addressed the press conference, said, "angina remains an under-diagnosed condition in India. As a result, many do not receive optimal treatment. It's important to address this challenge given the growing burden of CVDs as well as its associated cost to the country at roughly USD 2.17 trillion between 2012 and 2030."

FIRST COLUMN

THE INFALLIBLE LAW OF KARMA




RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It is said that ‘Honesty is the best policy’. But sometimes people get appalled when they see a dishonest corrupt person rising to the heights of success, power and fame while a sincere and kind person toiling it out without much success. As a result, often life seems unfair and the seeming injustice turns people bitter and revengeful. However one fails to understand an important fact that the law of karma is an eternal law that works on the simple principle of cause and effect- ‘as you sow so shall you reap’.

We all know that the issue of corruption has stirred up numerous debates and agitations and attracted extensive coverage in the Indian media over the past few years. It is also a well known fact that in many countries taking and giving bribes, financial scams and misuse of public money have become a norm. Many times those involved in these activities go scot free and they lead a luxurious life and enjoy many privileges without being accountable for their nefarious deeds. But we forget that the law of karma is infallible and immutable.

As per this law every act or expression by a human being will be experienced by him/her in the same degree and nobody can escape the effects of this law. What we cannot see most of the time is how and when an action is punished or rewarded, as a result of which we get disillusioned. However, as per karmic law, sometimes the result of an action may be carried over to the next life and hence it says that there is always perfect justice in whatever happens.

This can be seen when we see someone who is born with physical, economic and social challenges. Why? Simply because past karma is carried over and experienced in the next birth. Thus, understanding the law of karma will help us to perceive life in a deeper and holistic way. Firstly, we must realise that the doer of karma is not the body but the being or the soul which is immortal and the eternal Law of karma facilitates and shapes the continuous journey or evolution of the human soul. We are here to express our true nature and experience the reward of that. Our expressions may be a subtle feeling or thought or they may be a visible action.



It is unfortunate that most people today are blind to their spiritual identity and law of karma, as a result of which they believe that they are here for one lifetime and so they can eat, drink, make merry and indulge in all pleasures through right or wrong means. But the fact is that such people may have wealth but they lack peace of mind, health and true joy. This narrow-minded limited view of human life has spawned vices such as lust, greed, ego and attachment. In the effort to have more, enjoy more and possess more, people have become totally callous about values like honesty, compassion, sharing and cooperation. Even when people suffer the result of their bad karma they do not realise that they have to improve themselves instead they blame others and become even more corrupt and vicious. If people could see in advance that each corrupt deed they commit would boomerang into a painful suffering or loss for them either in this life or in the future lifetime, they would never commit a wrong again. But they neither have the wisdom nor have the strength to live a life of total moral integrity. We must realise that richness of character is the most essential and real wealth that raises the value of human life, for, without this, a rich person may have temptations to commit more crime. But, it seems that there is little attention to these things. Today people have lost faith in God and good karma. But the law of karma is the most foolproof law that guarantees good return to those who do good. The time and place and the source from where it will come will vary. But the wheel of divine justice never fails. So, instead of seeking short-term pleasures and rewards through corrupt deeds let us live a righteous life and reap the fruit of abundant joy and wellbeing.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

NAM faces challenges of neo-colonialism



GYAN BHADRA

The Non-Aligned Movement must rejuvenate its commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty and resist the subtle encroachments of neo-colonialism

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was quoted as saying : “Those who forget history and do not learn from it are condemned to repeat it”. Churchill’s remark coming as it did from excerpts of his 1948 speech delivered in House of Commons was purportedly made against his predecessor whose failure to re-equip the country with requisite arms and ammunition made second world war ineluctable. On one hand, he cast aspersions on the dark side of colonialism. Paradoxically on the other, he, the great liberator of Europe, opined that colonialism should have continued in Asia and Africa in the wake of winning second world war.. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which India manned as a founding member in 1955, was established in the aftermath of the Second World War, ostensibly with a view to safeguard the country’s sovereignty, integrity from the evil designs of colonialists. As is well known, during ‘50s and later a sizeable number of countries were unshackled from the chain of colonialism. They joined NAM en bloc ; and soon the organisation became a force to be reckoned with and played a pivotal role as a mouth-piece for freedom of its members in the world besieged by the Cold War. With diplomatic sleight of hand, its most vocal member-countries introduced in its organisational charter the “neutralist policy” to be followed by other member-countries. Under the diplomatic scheme of things, member-countries would resist temptations and allurements offered either by capitalist West or the communist East to make them their allies. Instead in the quagmire unleashed by two superpowers, the organisation opted the middle path and stood tall as “third formidable forum”. As a matter of fact, nothing illustrates the fact of NAM being a power broker more explicitly than the “swing votes” at the UN courted and shared by the east and west bloc. It provided succour to erstwhile have-not countries. Proof of pudding is in eating. The fact that most of the countries in the world refused to kowtow to either bloc spoke volumes about its sustenance as an independent entity. All this notwithstanding, Churchill was seemingly opinionated in his views about countries including India that they might have failed to learn from history. Without a powerful deterrent force against colonialism, possibilities for it to resurface again could not be ruled out. It might metamorphose into different forms in sync with different age. Undeniably, after the collapse of Cold War, NAM’s relevance was on decline. Many factors which constituted early and undisputed principles of the Movement were blown to smithereens. A case in point: Economic Self-reliance. In the charter of Movement, Self-reliance acquired an ideological role as bulwark against economic aggression perpetrated by multinationals and monopolistic commercial, financial and industrial companies. Conflicting nature of Statements emanating from member-countries and incidents of trading charges amongst them on diplomatically impertinent issues led to strengthen the belief that the organisation had digressed from its chosen path and its future seemed bleak. . Today it goes without saying that the war of attrition against colonialism was far from over during the post-war period. What could not be pre-empted by NAM to happen was the rising graph of neo-colonialism presence in the countries ; and its pres-



ence manifested itself by controlling countries through money, debt and media. Colonialism was replaced by neo colonialism - the control of countries though independent in name through many means, but namely through the media, money and debt. Herein, NAM’s purpose remained unfulfilled.

In the context of Britain, King Charles III, while on a visit to Kenya, rendered his profound apologies for unleashing reigns of dictatorial oppression by his many predecessors within the colonised countries is a significant historical Statement. Now the United Kingdom’s diplomatic intentions are clear. It seeks to enter into partnerships with countries based on motto of mutual respect. A free trade deal between the United Kingdom and India likely to be implemented in New Year may be cited as a case in point. That is slated to pave the way for bringing together the two countries as equals.

But France, once regarded as Britain’s close competitor with respect to setting up colonial hegemony in countries has not expressed such feelings of remorse over its past deeds. On the contrary, they have the audacity to run their fiefdom of neo-colonialism with alacrity.

As a matter of fact, France is running its writ in so-called independent countries of West and central Africa by controlling two currencies, the west and central African francs. Notably the two currencies are used by 14 African countries. France’s diktat is : these countries must deposit 50 percent of their foreign assets in the French Treasury. Obviously France’s intention to maintain economic hegemony over them is loud and clear. These countries have been bearing the brunt of France’s disdainful economic activities for decades after colonialism was considered to have ended. France behaved obsequiously with these countries for its own advantages.

Desperation of these nations—who are only independent in name and not in reality—could be gauged by the fact that in the past twelve months almost all countries in French-speaking Africa have asked French military, diplomats and businessmen to leave their lands for good.

More or less France is engaged in the same agonising activities against the countries in other parts of the world where France has daringly disallowed any further independence.

For instance, in 2021 the French territory of New Caledonia in the South Pacific faced the diabolical designs of France as the last of three independence referenda was deliberately thwarted by security pressure. The island of Corsica in the Mediterranean witnessed the murder of a freedom fighter which eventually culminated into island-wide riots leaving 76 policemen injured in its wake.

Paradoxically France has even furthered its neo-colonial interests in countries which were never part of its erstwhile empire. In the last two years France has thwarted plans for a peace process in the south Caucasus, ostensibly to please Armenia with whom it has entered into deal of arms sales. French diplomats have publicly reprimanded Azerbaijan, Armenia’s neighbour. Not only this, but also those diplomats instigated the million-strong Armenian diasporas in France to pressurise lawmakers in the French National Assembly to pass laws against Azerbaijan ; also they left no stone unturned in maligning the country in French media.

Whether to say unlikely coincidence or no coincidence at all, Azerbaijan is now at the helm of NAM as its chairperson. After assuming office of chairperson, Azerbaijan had vowed to win back a quarter of the territory of its country known as Nagorno-Karabakh which was illegally occupied by Armenian neo-colonialists for three decades. In a 44-day war against Armenia in 2020 and later a 24-hour military operation against it in 2023, Azerbaijan finally got back its occupied territories. The fact of Azerbaijan winning back its occupied territories from Armenia did not go down well with France. It reflected in France’s action of using its power initially and unabashedly to undermine European Union-

led peace negotiations from within; it sent senior French politicians - including the Mayor of Paris - to Nagorno-Karabakh before its liberation to praise Armenian separatist leaders. In sheer violation of international law related to war, France did not think twice before allowing its own citizens of Armenian descent to fight in the 2020 conflict without penalty.

There are no two opinions about the fact that in order to impede such attempts of geopolitical manipulation, NAM was set up. Azerbaijan’s leadership has resuscitated the group which is evident from international media in far off Australia confirming and writing to vouch for it: “There is life in the Non-Aligned Movement Yet”.

In January 2024, Uganda will take the Chairmanship baton from Azerbaijan. To Uganda’s utter discomfiture; it is also shackled with tentacles of neo-colonialist powers who have asked this traditionalist country to abrogate a law on child protection.

The inherent motive of neo-colonialist powers is to widely spread and teach modern western social mores in Ugandan schools. The Ugandans have out rightly renounced this socially and culturally demeaning directive. It is also for India to stand with Uganda—independent and fellow NAM’s member—and repudiate the unwarranted interference in the Ugandan education system.

With NAM rejuvenating in a new avatar(incarnation), it is high time for all its members alongwith its co-founder India to get their acts together and set up a cohesive group with a view to fight against the act of usurping the sovereignty and wherewithal’s of countries by neo-colonialists belonging to both western and eastern bloc.

If not intervened by NAM members now and left unchecked, the ever-burgeoning presence would get the world poorer, unsafe and susceptible to conflicts. Therefore Churchill’s advice to learn from history has not lost relevance in these modern times.

(The author is a columnist, views are personal)




AFTER ASSUMING THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON, AZERBAIJAN VOWED TO WIN BACK A QUARTER OF THE TERRITORY OF ITS COUNTRY KNOWN AS NAGORNO-KARABAKH, WHICH HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED BY ARMENIAN NEO-COLONIALISTS FOR THREE DECADES

Navigating farmer discontent amid unfulfilled promises

As the Govt embarks on its third tenure, winning back the trust of the farming community will require genuine and substantial reforms that prioritise farmers’ welfare

Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of India’s economy and social structure. Despite its critical role, the sector has witnessed a turbulent relationship with the central Government in recent years. The Union Government’s ambitious promises and subsequent policies aimed at revolutionizing agriculture have often been met with skepticism and anger from the farming community. This discontent was vividly reflected in the recent general election results in States like Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The deep-seated issues that plagued the sector, including the contentious farming laws and the unmet demand for legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price (MSP), continues to fuel



BK JHA

farmers’ agony and anger. Around 65 per cent of India’s population lives in rural areas, with 47 per cent reliant on agriculture. Despite India’s rapid economic growth, agricultural income has stagnated, averaging about Rs 10,000 rupees monthly in 2019, with half of the families in debt and lacking traditional financing. Public spending on farming has declined over the past decade and needed reforms

have not been implemented. Consequently, the agriculture sector, which employs nearly half of India’s workforce, contributes less than a fifth to the GDP. Modi’s promise to double farmers’ income by 2022 remains unfulfilled. The Modi Government’s first tenure starting in 2014 saw a significant focus on agriculture, with promises to double farmers’ income. However, these promises were overshadowed by controversies and policies perceived as anti-farmer. Agony and anger of farmers reached its tipping point in 2020-21 and nationwide protests begun against controversial farm laws aimed at easing rules for crop sales, pricing and storage. The protests ended after Modi promised to repeal the laws.

Farmers demanded legally guaranteed MSP for 23 crops, set at 50 per cent above production costs, as recommended by scientist MS Swaminathan. While the Government sets MSPs for 22 crops, it primarily buys only wheat and rice for welfare programs and private buyers aren’t legally required to pay MSP. The controversial farming laws were aimed at liberalizing the agricultural sector but were seen by many farmers as a threat to their livelihoods. The prolonged protests that followed led to the eventual withdrawal of these laws, yet the underlying discontent persisted. The recent Lok Sabha elections reflected this ongoing anger, with significant losses for the ruling party in agricultural strongholds. What

future awaits Indian Agriculture Ministers? Newly appointed Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will have to bring in all his expertise and experience of transforming Madhya Pradesh agricultural landscape at national level to address the challenges. He must curious and cautious about the fate of his predecessors. Initiator of the Soil Health Card scheme, under then Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh was never inducted in the Cabinet again. The scheme, intended to boost soil productivity, ended up mired in inefficacy and controversy. The subsequent minister, including Narendra Singh Tomar shifted to Madhya Pradesh State politics and now he is speaker in Assembly. Recently, Arjun Munda, faced electoral defeat. Defeat of Junior Ministers Kailash Choudhary and Sanjeev Balyan also indicate farmers’ dissatisfaction with the Government’s agricultural policies. A critical demand from the farming community has been the legal guarantee of MSP. The Government’s failure to address this demand has been a significant source of anger. Farmers argue that a legally guaranteed MSP would provide a safety net against market fluctuations and exploitation by middlemen. Despite multiple assurances, the Modi administration has not enacted legislation to this effect, fueling the perception that their interests are being ignored. Experts argue that legally guar-

anteeing MSP could create a fiscal burden and potential inflationary effects. However, opinions differ on this impact. Some believe that containing cultivation costs could mitigate inflation concerns. The cost of MSP implementation for all crops is also uncertain, varying with market prices, Government procurement quantities and duration. Estimates range widely, from CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics’ 210 billion rupees to other analysts’ 10 trillion rupees annually. A more effective approach might be direct income support linked to farmland investment. Additionally, revamping the current procurement process. Farmers could also benefit from a price stabiliza-

tion fund to cover the difference when market prices fall below MSP levels. This combination of strategies could better support farmers without causing significant fiscal or inflationary issues. In response to the ongoing challenges in the agricultural sector, the Modi 3.0 Government is poised to introduce several initiatives aimed at placating the agrarian community. Among these, the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) stands out as a significant and ambitious effort. Modi 3.0 Government’s focus on agriculture, marked by programs like the KSCP, reflects a recognition of the critical role farming plays in India.

(The author is a senior journalist; vews expressed are personal)

Russia, N Korea sign strongest deal since Cold War

AP ■ SEOUL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a new partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country is attacked, during a Wednesday summit that came as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

The deal, which the leaders said covered areas including security, trade, investment, and cultural and humanitarian ties, could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Both leaders described it as a major upgrade of their ties.

The two met as Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years. The summit came as the US and its allies express growing concerns over an arms arrangement in which the country provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine in exchange for econom-



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un exchange documents during a signing ceremony of the new partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday. Putin and Kim signed a new partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country is attacked, during a Wednesday summit that came as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

ic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile programme.

Kim said that the deal was the "strongest ever treaty" between the two nations, putting the relationship at the level of an alliance,

and vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine. Putin said that it was a "breakthrough document" reflecting shared desire to move relations to a higher level. The North Korean leader gave Putin a lavish welcome, meeting him at the airport Tuesday night, where the two shook hands, hugged twice and then rode together in a limousine in a huge motorcade that rolled through the capital's brightly illuminated streets, where buildings were decorated with giant Russian flags and portraits of Putin.

After spending the rest of the night at a state guest house, Putin attended a welcoming ceremony at the city's main square, filled with what appeared to be tens of thousands of spectators, including children holding balloons and people wearing coordinated t-shirts in the red, white and blue of the Russian and North Korean flags. Huge crowds lined up on the streets to greet Putin's motorcade, chanting

"Welcome Putin" and waving flowers and North Korean and Russian flags. Putin and Kim saluted an honour guard and walked across a red carpet. Kim then introduced key members of his leadership including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui; top aide and ruling party secretary Jo Yong Won; and the leader's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong.

As the talks began, Putin thanked Kim for North Korea's support for his war in Ukraine, part of what he said was a "fight against the imperialist hegemonistic policies of the US and its satellites against the Russian Federation". Putin hailed ties that he traced back to the Soviet army fighting the Japanese military on the Korean Peninsula in the closing moments of World War II, and Moscow's support for Pyongyang during the Korean War. Kim said Moscow and Pyongyang's "fiery friendship" is now even closer than during Soviet times, and promised "full support and sol-

idarity to the Russian government, army and people in carrying out the special military operation in Ukraine to protect sovereignty, security interests and territorial integrity".

It wasn't immediately clear what that support might look like. Kim has used similar language in the past, consistently saying North Korea supports what he describes as a just action to protect Russia's interests and blaming the crisis on the US-led West's "hegemonic policy". North Korea is under heavy UN Security Council sanctions over its weapons program, while Russia also faces sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine. US and South Korean officials accuse the North of providing Russia with artillery, missiles and other military equipment for use in Ukraine, possibly in return for key military technologies and aid. Both Pyongyang and Moscow deny accusations about North Korean weapons transfers, which would

violate multiple UN Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed. Along with China, Russia has provided political cover for Kim's continuing efforts to advance his nuclear arsenal, repeatedly blocking US-led efforts to impose fresh UN sanctions on the North over its weapons tests.

In March, a Russian veto at the United Nations ended monitoring of UN sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear programme, prompting Western accusations that Moscow is seeking to avoid scrutiny as it buys weapons from Pyongyang for use in Ukraine. Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters in Pyongyang that the two leaders exchanged gifts after the talks.

Putin presented Kim with a Russian-made Aurus limo and other gifts, including a tea set and a naval officer's dagger. Ushakov said that Kim's presents to Putin included artworks depicting the Russian leader.

French police shoot dead an attacker with screwdriver in Paris suburbs

Paris (AP): A French police officer in the northern suburbs of Paris opened fire and killed an attacker on Wednesday who assaulted a cleaning worker with a screwdriver and also injured another police officer, police said. The cleaning worker suffered "several blows" with the screwdriver, but the extent of the injuries wasn't immediately clear, police said. A police officer who sought to intervene also suffered an arm injury, police said. Another officer then opened fire, killing the attacker, police said. Police said they had no other immediate information about the attack in the Paris suburb of Aubervilliers, including about the attacker's gender or possible motives.

Explosions in Chad's capital kill 9 people, 46 hurt

AP ■ N'DJAMENA (CHAD)

Nine people were killed and more than 40 injured when a fire set off explosions at a military ammunition depot in Chad's capital, an official said Wednesday. Government spokesperson Abderaman Koulamallah said 46 people were being treated for various injuries after the explosions jolted residents from their sleep late Tuesday in the Goudji district of the capital, N'Djamena. The situation was being brought under control, Koulamallah said. The explosions lit up the sky as thick smoke covered the clouds in the West African nation, setting off frantic efforts to extinguish the fire as residents fled their homes for safety.

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear, and President Mahamat Deby Itno said an investigation would be conducted.

"Peace to the souls of the victims, sincere condolences to the bereaved families and quick recovery to the injured," Deby said on Facebook. He later visited the scene of the accident as well as hospitals where the injured were being treated. People living in the area panicked, thinking the explosion was an armed attack, resident Oumar Mahamat said. Local media reported the blasts started just before midnight as nearby buildings shook and ammunition was thrown from the depot with explosive force. Authorities called on residents to stay out of the area, which was taken over by security forces gathering the scattered artillery shells.

Allamine Moussa, a resident, called on the government to "come to our aid urgently" after he and other residents fled their homes. "Many families have recorded

deaths and it's sad," Moussa said. Chad, a country of nearly 18 million people, has been reeling from political turmoil before and after a controversial presidential election that resulted in Deby Itno's victory. He had led the country as interim president during the period of military rule that followed the death of his father in 2021. Cameron Hudson, an Africa expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the explosions might not be entirely coincidental and "feels more like a message" to the government, which has been embroiled in internal political tensions and as well as regional tensions over the war in neighboring Sudan. Recent claims about Chad's alleged involvement in the war in Sudan create an untenable position at home for Deby Itno, said Hudson, a former U.S. official. "A house divided cannot stand,"

Police detain 8 after revolt against French rule

Paris (AP): Police in the restive French Pacific territory of New Caledonia rounded up eight people on Wednesday, including an independence leader, who are suspected of having a role in the deadly violence that wracked the archipelago where Indigenous Kanak people have long sought to break free from France. The early morning round-up was part of an ongoing police investigation launched May 17, just days after unrest first erupted, into a wave of armed clashes, looting, blazes and other violence that turned parts of the capital, Noumea, and its suburbs into no-go zones. New Caledonia's prosecutor, Yves Dupas, said in a statement that eight people were detained from 6 a.m. in Noumea and its Mont-Dore suburbs. He said those taken in custody include Christian Tein, a leader of a pro-independence group that French officials alleged played a leading role in weeks of violence over contested voting reforms for New Caledonia.

Yemen's Houthi rebels sink ship in Red Sea in second attack

AP ■ DUBAI

A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign. The sinking of the Tutor in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The attack comes despite a monthslong US-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most-intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship.

Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned-and-operated Tutor sank in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said in a warning to sailors in the

region. "Military authorities report maritime debris and oil sighted in the last reported location," the UKMTO said. "The vessel is believed to have sunk."

The Houthis, quoting foreign reports in media outlets they control, acknowledged the sinking. The US military did not acknowledge the sinking, nor did it respond to requests for comment. The Tutor came under attack about a week ago by a bomb-carrying Houthi drone boat in the Red Sea. John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said on Monday that the attack killed "a crew member who hailed from the Philippines". The Philippines has yet to acknowledge the death, but the man who had been aboard the Tutor has been missing for over a week in the Red Sea, which faces intense summertime heat. The use of a boat loaded with explosives raised the spectre of the attack in 2000 on the USS Cole, a sui-

cide assault by al-Qaida when the warship was at port in the Yemeni city of Aden, killing 17 on board. The Cole is now part of a US Navy operation in the Red Sea led by the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower to try and halt the Houthi attacks, though the rebels continue their assaults. The Houthis have launched more than 60 attacks targeting specific vessels and fired off other missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They've seized one vessel and sunk two since November. A US-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say. In March, the Belize-flagged Rubymar carried a load of fertilizer sank in the Red Sea after taking on water for days following a rebel attack. The Houthis have maintained their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the US or the UK.

However, many of the ships they've attacked have little or no connection to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. The war in Gaza has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians there, while hundreds of others have been killed in Israeli operations in the West Bank. It began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage. A recent report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency acknowledged container shipping through Red Sea has declined by 90 per cent since December over the attacks. As much as 15 per cent of the world's maritime traffic flows through that corridor. Meanwhile on Wednesday, the Houthis said US-led airstrikes targeted Raymah, a province in Yemen under rebel control. The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency described a local radio station's building as being "totally destroyed" in the strikes.

Climate protesters arrested in UK

London (AP): Two climate protesters were arrested Wednesday for spraying orange paint on the ancient Stonehenge monument in southern England, police said. The latest act by Just Stop Oil was quickly condemned by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as a "disgraceful act of vandalism." The incident came just a day before thousands are expected to gather at the 4,500-year-old stone circle to celebrate the summer solstice — the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. English Heritage, which manages the site, said it was "extremely upsetting" and said curators were investigating the damage. Just Stop Oil said on the social media platform X that the paint was made of cornstarch and would dissolve in the rain. Wiltshire Police said the pair were arrested on suspicion of damaging one of the world's most famous prehistoric monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stonehenge was built on the flat lands of Salisbury Plain in stages starting 5,000 years ago, with the unique stone circle erected in the late Neolithic period about 2,500 B.C.

Far-right leader backpedals on taking France out of NATO strategic military command

AP ■ VILLEPINTE



The far-right leader angling to become prime minister after France's upcoming parliamentary election backtracked Wednesday on his party's previous promise to pull out of NATO's strategic military command. National Rally president Jordan Bardella said at the Eurosatory arms trade show outside Paris in Villepinte that he "doesn't plan to question the commitments France has made on the international stage" if voters give his far-right party a majority that enables him to lead a new government, in what would be an awkward power-sharing arrangement with President Emmanuel Macron.

Referring to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Bardella said that "France mustn't leave NATO's military command while we are at war, because it would considerably weaken France's responsibility on the European scene and, obviously, its credibility with regard to

its allies." The comments pulled back from a campaign promise made by his party in its manifesto for the 2022 French presidential election. "The priority will be to leave the integrated NATO command," the 2022 manifesto read, a move that would have taken French military staff out of the NATO body that plans operations, and weakened France's role and influence within NATO. This latest about-face comes as the National Rally is toning down previously announced positions in an attempt to win voters outside of its tradition-

al base before the June 30 and July 7 two-round parliamentary election — the party's first real chance of forming a government. In spite of his comments regarding NATO, Bardella maintained that he's firmly against sending troops to Ukraine. "I am opposed, unlike the president of the republic, to sending troops and sending French soldiers to Ukraine, because I believe that first of all, a majority of French people is opposed to this decision," he said. Macron said in March that sending Western troops into Ukraine shouldn't be ruled out. Bardella said that he supported sending continued French supplies of weaponry, ammunition and other military equipment and support to Ukraine "to enable Ukraine to protect itself," but that he was also wary of the risk of any direct escalation with Russia, noting that it is nuclear-armed like France. "My position has

not changed. It is ... to hold the front and at the same time to avoid any risk of escalation with Russia, because Russia is a nuclear power," he said. Bardella's eurosceptic anti-immigration party, and particularly its former presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, is known for its close ties to Russia. Le Pen has expressed reservations about supplying Ukraine with additional arms. Earlier this month, Macron dissolved the lower house of France's parliament in a surprise announcement, sending voters back to the polls, after his party was handed a humiliating defeat by the far right in the European Parliament election. In France, legislative elections decide the makeup of the parliament, not the occupant of the presidential Elysee Palace. Macron has a presidential mandate until 2027, and says that he won't step down before the end of his term, although he might have to share power with a far-right-led government.

EU criticises France for excessive debt

Brussels (AP): The European Union's executive arm on Wednesday criticised France for running up excessive debt, a stinging rebuke at the height of an election campaign where President Emmanuel Macron is facing a strong challenge from the extreme right and the left.

The EU Commission recommended to seven nations, including France, that they start a so-called "excessive deficit procedure", the first step in a long process before any member state can be hemmed in and moved to take corrective action. "Deficit criteria is not fulfilled in seven of our member states," said EU Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis, pointing the finger at Belgium, France, Italy, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia and Poland, in addition to France. For decades, the EU has set out targets for member states to keep their annual deficit within 3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product and overall debt within 60 per cent of output. Those targets have been disregarded when it was conve-

nient, sometimes even by countries like Germany and France, the biggest economies in the bloc.

This time, however, Dombrovskis said that a decision "needs to be done based on, say, facts and whether the country respects the treaty, reference values for a deficit and debt and a not based on the size of the country". The French annual deficit stood at 5.5 per cent last year. Over the past years, exceptional circumstances like the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine allowed for leniency, but that has now come to an end. Still, Wednesday's announcement touched a nerve in France, after Macron called snap elections in the wake of his defeat to the hard right of Marine Le Pen in the EU parliamentary polls on June 9.

Le Pen's National Rally and a new united left front are polling ahead of Macron's party in the elections, and both challengers have put forward plans where deficit spending to get out of the economic rut is essential.

Sudan accuses UAE of fuelling war with weapons to paramilitary rivals

United Nation (AP): The Sudanese government has accused the United Arab Emirates of fuelling the 14-month war in the African country by providing weapons to a rival paramilitary force. The UAE dismissed the allegation as "ludicrous," calling "a shameful abuse by one of the warring parties".

The clash came during a UN Security Council meeting at which Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pooee warned that atrocities are being committed along ethnic lines in Sudan's western Darfur region. She urged an immediate ceasefire in the North Darfur capital, El Fasher, which is besieged by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, "to prevent further atrocities, protect critical infrastructure, and alleviate civilian suffering".

Sudanese Ambassador Al-Harith Mohamed accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces of "destructively launching" its war with the Sudanese military and attacking civilians, aided by weapons from the UAE.

He said that Sudan has evidence of the UAE supplying weapons and that the government will submit a file on UAE actions to the International Criminal Court. The UAE's ambassador, Mohamed Abushahab, said those were "false allegations" and demanded to know why Sudan's government refuses to return to peace talks.

Turning to Sudan's ambassador seated beside him at the Security Council's horseshoe-shaped table, Abushahab said: "You should stop grandstanding in international fora such as this and instead take responsibility for ending the conflict you started." UN experts monitoring an arms embargo in Darfur reported "credible" evidence in January that the UAE sent weapons to the Rapid Support Forces several times a week from northern Chad. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield on Tuesday reiterated a U.S. appeal to all "external actors to stop fueling and prolonging this conflict, and enabling these atrocities, by sending weapons to Sudan."

Early blast of heat and humidity leaves millions sweltering across US

AP ■ TOLEDO



People and even zoo animals were forced to find ways to thwart the muggy weather. An organization that provides produce to areas with limited access to fresh food in Columbus, Ohio, prepared frozen towels and packed cold water for their workers. "Hydration is the key," said Monique McCoy, market manager for the Local Matters Veggie Van. In Toledo, Ohio, the city can-

celed a weekly fitness event and a neighboring suburb called off a street fair as temperatures reached the mid-90s (about 35 C). A food bank in upstate New York canceled deliveries for Wednesday out of concern for staff and volunteers. Schools in New York canceled field trips Tuesday to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, where workers turned on water misters for visitors and the animals.

Elephants and other animals were getting chunks of ice in their pools, said Ted Fox, the zoo's executive director. "Even the tigers love to lick the ice and put their heads on them when it's this warm," Fox said.

The blast of extreme temperatures came a little too early for many.

"This is hot for just moving in to summer, so I'm hoping that we're going to see the downward trend in the temperature here soon because this is a warm one," said Krista Voltolini, who was selling produce at a farmer's market in Columbus. A recent study found that climate change is making heat waves move more slowly and affect more people for a longer time. Last year, the U.S. saw the most heat waves — abnormally hot weather lasting more than two days — since 1936.

Kuwait to give \$15K compensation to kin of Mangaf fire victims: Report

PTI ■ DUBAI/ KUWAIT

The Kuwaiti government will give USD 15,000 each as compensation to the families of the victims of the devastating fire that killed 50 people, including 46 Indians, in the southern Ahmadi Governorate, according to a media report.

The massive fire which occurred at a seven-storey building in the city of Mangaf on July 12 was caused by an electrical short circuit in the guard's room on the structure's ground floor, according to Kuwaiti authorities. The building was home to 196 migrant workers, mostly Indians.

On the orders of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the victims' families will receive compensation amounting to USD 15,000

each (Rs 12.5 lakh), the Arab Times newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Citing government sources, the newspaper said the compensation payments will be processed and delivered to the victims' embassies.

Three other deceased were Filipinos, and the identity of one of the victims has not been established.

The concerned embassies will ensure that the funds are distributed to the families of those affected by the fire, expediting the process and ensuring that the assistance reaches the victims' families promptly and efficiently, the report said.

"This financial aid aims to support the bereaved families during this difficult time," the newspaper said.

The Indian government had announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the families

of Indian nationals who lost their lives in the massive fire.

The Kerala government last week said it will provide Rs 5 lakh financial assistance to the families of the people from the state who died in the fire tragedy.

The Indians who died in the tragedy included 24 Malayalis.

Kuwait's public prosecutor has launched an investigation into the incident. The probe aims to uncover the circumstances behind the incident, and what might have triggered the deadly fire, the public prosecutor said on X. A Kuwaiti citizen and several foreigners have been arrested in connection with charges of manslaughter and causing injuries due to negligence in security and safety measures following the fire incident.

Ramaphosa sworn in for second term as South Africa President

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second term as South Africa's President to head a coalition government on Wednesday, despite his failure to secure a majority in parliament for the African National Congress (ANC) in last month's election. Ramaphosa's ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years in last month's elections. However, the ANC and the Democratic Alliance struck a historic deal to form a coalition government by setting aside their rivalry. While the ANC got 40 per cent of the vote in the election, the Democratic Alliance (DA) came second with 22 per cent. "I swear I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa... I will obey, observe and uphold the constitution and all other laws of the republic," said Ramaphosa, 71, who was sworn in at the Union Buildings in Pretoria by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo. Ramaphosa said that South Africans should not be distracted by attempts to turn citizens against each other as the country enters a Government of National Unity.



"We must reject every attempt to divide or distract us, to sow doubt or cynicism, or to turn us against one another. Those who seek to stand in our way, those who seek to inflame tensions, will not succeed, because South Africans are resolute," Ramaphosa said at the seat of government, the Union Buildings, as thousands of guests, including heads of state and representatives from several countries looked on. The new government of national unity combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right DA and smaller parties. "Those who seek to undermine our institutions will fail because democracy lives in the hearts of

our people and will never be dislodged," he said, in what analysts believed was a clear reference, without naming them, to the Economic Freedom Fighters and Mkhonto weSizwe (MK), the new party formed by ousted former president Jacob Zuma. These two parties, which came third and fourth in the general elections last month, refused to join the Government of National Unity (GNU), because the African National Congress, which lost its majority since Nelson Mandela led it to victory in 1994, has teamed up with the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) for the GNU.

The DA was born out of former whites-only parties and is still led largely by whites, although they have committed to following the Constitution and its principles of non-racism. Zuma has also challenged the validity of the elections, alleging irregularities, although his party has not provided any public proof of these claims yet despite going to court on the matter. "Nothing will distract us from serving the people and advancing their interests. We declare for all to know that neither discord nor dissent shall cause us to cast aside that which calls for to build a united, free, just, equal and prosperous nation. "In our brilliant diversity, we gather to affirm our solemn conviction that this country belongs to all who live in it, as articulated in the Freedom Charter almost seventy years ago," Ramaphosa asserted. "We gather here, as people born of the same soil across our nine provinces that make up a unitary South Africa, determined that by our deeds we shall heal the divisions of our past, and overcome the ongoing inequalities and hardships of the present," he added.

Lanka needs to benefit from India's industrial success: Prez

Colombo (PTI): President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said Sri Lanka needs to connect with neighbouring India to reap the benefits of its massive industrial development. "Our neighbour India is going through a phase of massive industrial development. Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are experiencing it. We must also join in," said Wickremesinghe in his address at the Industry 2024 event here. The president said he was hopeful of discussing with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, who is due to arrive here on Thursday, about the follow-up on his interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to India. "Usage of solar and wind powers and to obtain liquid hydrogen are areas where we hope to work in collaboration with India," Wickremesinghe, also the finance minister, said, adding that Adani projects in Sri Lanka have pioneered these efforts. Sri Lanka in the second quarter of 2022 had declared bankruptcy announcing the island's first ever sovereign default. Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout began almost immediately and the first tranche of the USD 2.9 billion facility was released in March 2023. The cash-strapped country has introduced a set of hard reforms to address its economic woes. Despite the outstanding issue of debt restructuring, three tranches worth USD 1 billion of the USD 2.9 billion bail-out have been materialised subject to reforms. Wickremesinghe said that by ongoing debt restructuring negotiations, the government was hoping to get time until 2042 to repay. He said it was important for Sri Lanka to convert into becoming an export-oriented economy from the current import-oriented one. "Since we are an import-oriented economy, we have to find money to import. To become an export-oriented economy, we have to be competitive with our industries to become a production economy," the president said.

Pak for campaign to recover arms from terrorist groups

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has urged the United Nations for a "concerted campaign" to recover all weapons from dreaded terrorist groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Speaking at the UN's Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) on Tuesday, Ambassador Munir Akram expressed Pakistan's "grave concern over the acquisition and use of modern and sophisticated small arms by terrorist groups such as [the] TTP". According to a statement issued by the Pakistani mission to the UN, Akram highlighted the "need for a concerted campaign to recover all weapons from terrorist groups like the TTP" and also called for an investigation into how these groups acquired such sophisticated weapons. The TTP is a banned terrorist outfit which has been fighting to establish the rule of Sharia across Pakistan. The Pakistani envoy asserted that it was the responsibility of

the UN member states and that of the UN to take measures to prevent the illicit trade, transfer, and diversion of these arms, Dawn News reported. "Terrorists and criminals do not manufacture these arms. They acquire them from illicit arms markets or receive them from entities that want to destabilise a particular region or country," Akram said. The envoy highlighted how the "illicit proliferation, excessive accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons" was exacerbating conflicts, fuelling terrorism, threatening peace and security, and undermining sustainable development globally. Akram said the advent of new technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and drones was "deepening challenges in combating the proliferation of increasingly lethal small arms". Describing the UN PoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) as a structured framework to address the challenges pertaining to the illicit trade and trafficking of small

arms and light weapons, Akram reiterated Pakistan's commitment to both tools. "We have strengthened our legislative frameworks, enhanced transfer controls and implemented robust measures to prevent the diversion of SALW to unauthorised users," the envoy asserted. Pakistan has long held that the banned TTP uses safe havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly cross-border attacks. In March, Pakistan called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to urge the Taliban rulers in Afghanistan to terminate their relationship with the TTP. Last month, Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani stated that TTP attacks in the country increased by 60 per cent in two years, showing a significant rise since the Afghan Taliban seized Kabul in August 2021. Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in the past year, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan after the banned militant TTP ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

US soldier convicted of theft in Russia, sentenced to nearly 4 years in prison

AP ■ MOSCOW

A court in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok on Wednesday convicted a visiting American soldier of stealing and making threats of murder, and it sentenced him to three years and nine months in prison. Staff Sgt Gordon Black, 34, flew to the Pacific port city to see his girlfriend and was arrested last month after she accused him of stealing from her, according to US officials and Russian authorities. Russia's state news agencies Tass and RIA Novosti reported that the judge in Pervomaisky District Court

in Vladivostok also ordered Black to pay 10,000 rubles (USD 115) in damages. Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of four years and eight months in prison. Black's case occurs amid tensions over Russia's arrests of American journalists and other US nationals as the fighting in Ukraine continues. Russia has jailed a number of Americans, including corporate security executive Paul Whelan and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich. The US government has designated both men as wrongfully detained and has been trying to negotiate their release.

Others detained include Travis Leake, a musician who has been living in Russia for years and was arrested last year on drug-related charges; Marc Fogel, a teacher in Moscow who was sentenced to 14 years in prison, also on drug charges; and dual nationals Alsu Kurmasheva and Ksenia Khavana. The US State Department strongly advises American citizens not to go to Russia. Black was on leave and in the process of returning to his home base at Fort Cavazos, Texas, from South Korea, where he had been stationed at Camp Humphreys with the Eighth Army. Cynthia Smith, an Army spokesperson,

said Black signed out for his move back home and, "instead of returning to the continental United States, Black flew from Incheon, Republic of Korea, through China to Vladivostok, Russia, for personal reasons." Under Pentagon policy, service members must get clearance for any international travel from a security manager or commander. The US Army said last month that Black hadn't sought such travel clearance and it was not authorised by the Defence Department. Given the hostilities in Ukraine and threats to the US and its military, it is extremely unlikely he would have been granted approval.

Iran's Nobel Peace Prize laureate sentenced to another year in prison

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Narges Mohammadi, has been sentenced to another year in prison over her activism, her lawyer said on Wednesday. Mostafa Nili, Mohammadi's lawyer, told The Associated Press that his client was convicted on a charge of making propaganda against the system. Nili said the sentence came after Mohammadi urged voters to boycott Iran's recent parliamentary election, sent letters to lawmakers in Europe and made comments regarding torture and sexual assault suffered by another Iranian journalist and political activist. Mohammadi is being held at Iran's notorious Evin Prison, which houses political prisoners and those with Western ties. She already had been serving a 30-month sentence, to which 15 more months were added in January. Iran's government has not acknowledged her additional sentencing. The latest verdict reflects the Iranian theocracy's anger that she was awarded the Nobel prize last October for years of

activism despite a decadeslong government campaign targeting her. Mohammadi is the 19th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize and the second Iranian woman after human rights activist Shirin Ebadi in 2003. Mohammadi, 52, has kept up her activism despite numerous arrests by Iranian authorities and years behind bars. In November, Mohammadi went on a hunger strike over being blocked along with other inmates from getting medical care and to protest the country's mandatory headscarves for women. Mohammadi was a leading light for nationwide, women-led protests sparked by the death last year of a 22-year-old woman in police custody that have grown into one of the most intense challenges to Iran's theocratic government. That woman, Mahsa Amini, had been detained for allegedly not wearing her headscarf to the liking of authorities. For observant Muslim women, the head covering is a sign of piety before God and modesty in front of men outside their families.

US approves new \$360 mn arms sale to Taiwan for drones, related equipment

Washington (AP): The Biden administration on Tuesday approved a new USD 360 million weapons sale to Taiwan, sending the island hundreds of armed drones, missile equipment and related support material, the State Department said in a statement that is sure to draw condemnation from China. The announcement was not unexpected but it comes at a time of high tension between Washington and Beijing, which regards Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to consolidate by force if necessary. The sale includes 291 Altius-600M systems, which are unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, with warheads. It also includes 720 Switchblade drones known as "extended-range loitering munitions," the State Department said. It said the sale "serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability." It will "help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region," it said.

China, Malaysia to ink economic pacts as visiting Li meets Anwar

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Chinese Premier Li Qiang is set to talk Wednesday with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, with their countries due to ink cooperation pacts on digital economy and green development as they celebrate a half-century of diplomatic relations. Li, the first Chinese premier to visit Malaysia since 2015, flew in late Tuesday from Australia to a red carpet welcome. Upon his arrival, Li said the two nations' 50-year anniversary was a new starting point to deepen links and increase exchanges. "China is advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts through high-quality development. Malaysia, on its part, is promoting national development under the vision of Malaysia MADANI. China is ready to work with Malaysia," Li said in a statement published by the national Bernama news agency. Li, China's No. 2 leader after President Xi Jinping, last week also became the first Chinese premier to visit New Zealand and then Australia in seven years. Li was given an official welcoming ceremony at Malaysia's government capital of Putrajaya before private talks

with Anwar. While trade is expected to dominate, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hassan has said the prickly issue of territorial claims in South China Sea was also likely to be raised. Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan all dispute Beijing's claims to almost the entire South China Sea. But unlike the publicized clashes between the Philippines and China, Malaysia's government prefers the diplomatic channel and rarely criticizes Beijing even though Chinese coast guard ships have sailed near Malaysia's waters. This is partly to protect economic ties, as China is Malaysia's top trading partner. "That is why we need to further build on this good cooperation we have established since 1974. The good ties we have enjoyed since will allow us to manage and resolve any issue amicably," Mohamad Hassan was quoted as saying by The Star newspaper ahead of Li's visit. Li and Anwar will also witness the signing of a new five-year deal for economic and trade cooperation. Trade Minister Zafrul Aziz has said it would strengthen links between industries in priority sectors like high-level manufacturing and digital economy. Zafrul said

government-to-government pacts were expected to be signed including investment cooperation in the digital economy and green development. Trade with China — Malaysia's No. 1 trading partner since 2009 — made up 17% of Malaysia's global trade, valued at \$98.8 billion last year, Zafrul was quoted as saying by Bernama last week. Anwar, who visited China twice last year, has sought to move closer to Beijing even while engaging the U.S. as a key ally. While speaking at a forum in Tokyo in May, Anwar stressed that Beijing is too close, too important and too strategic to ignore. Ahead of Li's visit, Anwar told Chinese media that Malaysia planned to join the BRICS bloc of developing economies but didn't give details. The plan was confirmed by Zafrul and Mohamad Hassan on Monday. The bloc's core members are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, who to seek a fairer world order currently dominated by Western nations. It expanded with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates invited to become members this year. Some 40 countries have also expressed interest.

Hundreds die during Haj pilgrimage in S Arabia amid intense heat

AP ■ MECCA

Hundreds of people died during this year's Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said on Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies. Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died. However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in Al-Muaiseem neighbourhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members.

One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Haj. A medic who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss information not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility. The list offered no cause of death. Each year, the Haj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Haj health care," an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health said. Communicable

illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom saved their entire lives for their trips and can be elderly with preexisting health conditions, the paper added. However, the number of dead this year suggests something caused the number of deaths to swell. Already, several countries have said some of their pilgrims died because of the heat that swept across the holy sites at Mecca, including Jordan and Tunisia. Temperatures on Tuesday reached 47 degrees Celsius (117 degrees Fahrenheit) in Mecca and the sacred sites in and around the city, according to the Saudi National Center for Meteorology. Onlookers saw some people faint while trying

to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil. Others, including many Egyptians, lost track of their loved ones in the heat and the crowds. More than 1.83 million Muslims performed the Haj in 2024, including more than 1.6 million pilgrims from 22 countries, and around 222,000 Saudi citizens and residents, according to the Saudi Haj authorities. On Wednesday at the medical complex in Mecca, an Egyptian man collapsed to the ground when he heard the name of mother among the dead. He cried for some time before grabbing his cellphone and calling a travel agent, shouting: "He left her to die!" The crowd tried to calm the man. Security appeared tight at the complex,

with an official reading out names of the dead and the nationalities, which included people from Algeria, Egypt and India. Those who said they were kin of the dead were allowed inside to identify the deceased. The AP could not independently confirm the cause of death at the complex. Saudi officials did not respond to questions seeking more information. The kingdom's ruling Al Saud family maintains a major influence in the Muslim world through its oil wealth and management of Islam's holiest sites. Like Saudi monarchs before him, King Salman has taken the title of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, referring to the Grand Mosque in Mecca home

to the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray towards five times a day, and the Prophet's Mosque in the nearby city of Medina. Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars on crowd control and safety measures for those attending the annual five-day pilgrimage, but the sheer number of participants makes ensuring their safety difficult. Climate change could make the risk even greater. A 2019 study by experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that even if the world succeeds in mitigating the worst effects of climate change, the Haj would be held in temperatures exceeding an "extreme danger threshold" from 2047 to 2052, and from 2079 to 2086.

Atiqur Rahman alias Tipu Gul Marwat was wanted in several cases of bomb blasts in Bannu, DI Khan and local police, and attacks on police and security forces. On April 27, TTP Malakand chapter commander Talha Swati was killed in the Asadabad area of Afghanistan's Kunar province, the paper reported, citing sources. According to reports, the slain terrorist was reporting on Jammatul Ahra's activities to the South District Taliban, Islamic State Khorasan Province and his close aide Noor Wali Mehsud. There were conflicting reports surrounding the commander's death. Some reports suggested he was killed by ISKP, while others stated he was killed by a rival faction due to some internal rifts. The TTP, also known as the Pakistan Taliban, was set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.1
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e-TCN No.CE/HWD/ACCTS-01/24/195,
dtd.12.06.2024.

Name of the Work: "Upgradation of existing Plot (siding Plot RRS-5) inside Harbour area of PPA". Put to tender value: Rs.1,48,11,908.80 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 04.07.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

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Harbour Works Division No.-1
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/18-2024-25 dtd.18.06.2024

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Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for "1000 mm ACW inlet pipe (Raw Water) hot tapping (Line Stoppage) along with spares and consumables without disturbing flow to other units" for 3x60 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 25th June 2024.

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AMRITSAR

Tender Notice Reference No. GNDU/GEN/52/2024

The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Imaging of Part-C & Part-D of OMR front cover. Scanning of OMR front cover having part-C and Part-D with Scan no. and processing of Data in the form of marks list.	10 Lac for Two Semester (5 Lacs per Semester)

Closing Date & Time: **10-07-2024 at 5:00 p.m.**
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University,
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NA/12/23486/2023/34714 Dated CHD :- 6/19/2024

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• Aseptic Packaging		16 Lac
• Different Milk Products		1 crore
ii. Bulk Milk Cooler		Annual/
i. 500 Ltr		10 No's
ii. 1000 Ltr		80 No's
iii. 2000 Ltr		50 No's
iv. 3000 Ltr		10 No's
v. 5000 Ltr		10 No's
iii. AMCU's		Annual/ 669 No's
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1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. www.eproc.punjab.gov.in .		
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NA/12/23489/2023/34719 Dated CHD :- 6/18/2024		Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Kohli expected to shine on big stage as India ponder over Kuldeep question

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Virat Kohli will be expected to hit his straps after a lean run while left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav will anxiously wait for his chance when title-favourites India face a sprightly Afghanistan in their opening Super 8 fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday. The big talking point ahead of the game is the Indian team combination.

Will India go in with the same line-up that worked for them in the group league stage or bring in their best spinner over the last 12 months, Kuldeep, at the expense of a specialist pacer now?

At the start of the tournament, skipper Rohit Sharma had expressed his keenness to include all four all-rounders -- Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, and Ravindra Jadeja -- in the playing eleven. That strategy suited the Indian team in the bowler-friendly conditions in New York and the captain is expected to retain the winning combination that stretches their batting till number 8. The only way to fit Kuldeep into the team is to either drop Mohammed Siraj or Arshdeep Singh for the wily spinner. If that does happen, Siraj is most likely to be benched.

If the two practice sessions of the Indian team are an indication, the pitch could offer plenty to the spinners making Kuldeep's case stronger. With the gentle



breeze blowing across the Kensington Oval, the pacers should get the ball to swing in the powerplay. As is often the case, all eyes will be on Kohli, who is yet to log a double digit score in the tournament. His strategy to go for his strokes did not yield the desired results in New York but he is expected to be at his imperious best on the better wickets in the Caribbean. The 35-year-old is always operating at 100 per cent and the intensity he showed during the training sessions was a testament to his exemplary work ethic. Shivam Dube, who was brought into the side to hammer sixes in the middle and death overs, has sent the ball out of the park only once

in this competition. The pitches in USA did not allow him to go after the spinners. He would be expected to change that in the Super 8s and beyond. India's premier T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav too was back among runs against USA, albeit not in his usual swashbuckling style. But the effort was enough to boost his confidence. Besides Kohli, runs are pending from the bat of Hardik Pandya, who has been exceptional with the ball. On the bowling front, Arshdeep Singh has grown in confidence with each passing game, playing perfect wingman to Jasprit Bumrah in both the powerplay and death overs.

With the surface likely to aid the slower bowlers, Axar and Jadeja would be backing themselves to make a decisive impact in the game. Afghanistan, on the other hand, head into the Super 8 fixtures after a humbling loss to the West Indies in St Lucia. Their bowling attack, which allowed them to boss their first three games, was put to sword by the hard-hitting West Indies batters. Captain Rashid Khan saw the defeat as a blip in an otherwise impressive campaign, insisting that his team remains a worthy contender for a semifinal berth. "As a bowler, you need to come up with plans to keep the scoring to under 10. The morale is still pretty high and

this loss does not affect us. We have achieved our first goal of reaching the Super 8s and now it is about taking the next step," Rashid had said. He will be heavily banking on left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who provided them with wickets in the powerplay and is currently the leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 12 scalps. If he can the swing the ball back in like he has thus far, Rohit and Kohli will need to be on high alert. Rashid himself will be looking for wickets at a frugal economy rate in the middle overs. On the batting front, in-form openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran would be once again be crucial to the team's chances.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj. **Afghanistan:** Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicketkeeper), Ibrahim Zadran, Gulbadin Naib, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Karim Janat, Rashid Khan (c), Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Hazratullah Zazai, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Mohammad Ishaq, Nangeyalia Kharote.



Kettleborough, Illingworth to officiate blockbuster India, Australia Super 8 match

PTI ■ DUBAI

English duo of Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth will officiate the blockbuster Group 1 Super Eight clash between India and Australia in the ongoing T20 World Cup in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on June 24. India's opening Super Eight match against Afghanistan on Thursday will be officiated by the Australian pair of Rodney Tucker and Paul Reiffel, while David Boon will be the match referee. England's Michael Gough and South African Adrian Holdstock will officiate India's match against Bangladesh in Antigua on June 22. In other matches, Chris Gaffaney and Kettleborough, both members of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires, will be the on-field umpires for USA's historic first-ever knockout match at the T20 World Cup, against South

Africa on Wednesday. The co-hosts qualified in second place from Group A, in part thanks to a magnificent Super Over victory against Pakistan and will now take on the Proteas as well as England and fellow co-hosts West Indies in Group 2 of the Super 8s. Joel Wilson will be the TV Umpire for USA versus South Africa match, while he will also stand as on-field umpire alongside Gaffaney when the American team takes on England in Barbados on June 23. Allahudien Paleker, who is making his senior men's tournament debut in this competition, will be the fourth umpire. Illingworth and Michael Gough will oversee Australia's Super 8s opener against Bangladesh, while Nitin Menon and Ahsan Raza are the on-field umpires for England's meeting with the West Indies.

Hosts West Indies primed for Super 8 clash against defending champions England

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)

An in-form West Indies will be keen to carry the winning momentum but won't underestimate familiar foes England in their opening Super Eight clash of the T20 World Cup which promises to be a run fest here. Both England and West Indies are each competing for an unprecedented third T20 World Cup title. While the hosts are undefeated in the tournament so far, England had a rather anxious group stage and needed arch-rivals Australia's help to keep alive their title defence. Having played catch up after a loss against Australia in the league stage, Jos Buttler and his men now have the opportunity to start afresh. On the other hand, West Indies, who head to the fixture on the back of an eight-match winning streak, put up a sensational display against Afghanistan, notching a huge 104-run win at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium. They once again head to the stadium that holds the name of their head coach and two-time T20 World Cup-winning captain in search of a similar result. "It's not necessarily to send them (England) a message (the huge win against Afghanistan). It's just to show them that as much as they are playing good cricket, we're playing good cricket - so come Wednesday night it should be a very good game," skipper Rovman Powell said at the pre-match press conference.

West Indies are performing as a cohesive unit. Their batters have taken responsibility and stood up every time the team needed someone -- be it Shane Rutherford or Nicholas Pooran. Their bowlers too have done their job. The flat pitches and relatively short square boundaries here are a paradise for batters with all matches played here so far being a high-scoring affairs. But the batters will have to be carefully negotiate the cross winds that sends some balls flying unexpectedly for six and others swirling. Pooran targeted them ruthlessly against Afghanistan. West Indies will bank on their left-arm spin duo of Akeal Hosein and Gudakesh Moti against England's predominant right-handed batting lineup. While the pitch favours batters, the extra bounce still offers incentive for the quicks and left-arm medium pacer Obed McCoy's role will also become important. England pacers Jofra Archer and Mark Wood would also be keen to make most of the conditions. The two teams have clashed rather regularly in the past and are well aware of each other's strength and weakness. "When we play the English guys so often, we play them actually every year, so they know a lot about us, we know a lot about them," Powell said. "It's just that when you're playing the game on the day, whoever gets on top has to stay on top for as long as possible."

Marsh not just a captain but a leader: Stoinis

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Mitchell Marsh is not just a captain but a true leader, Marcus Stoinis said eulogising his teammate but added that the current Australia group is easy to lead with everyone aware of their roles in specific situations. Marsh has been tasked with leading Australia to their second T20 World Cup title. "Mitchie is not a captain but a leader. The way he gets the groups together inspires it," fellow all-rounder Stoinis said on the 'Unplayable' podcast. "He's been a leader for a long-time in this group. He has captained in the past at a younger age as well." It is not just Stoinis that has lavished praise on the all-rounder, the rest of the team also speaks highly of the 'Bison'. Marsh has had a love hate relationship with the fans, who

booed him when his performance dropped leading the all-rounder to claim "most of Australia hates me". But Marsh witnessed a resurgence last year and has now become a fan favourite. He made his way back into the Test team and starred in Australia's stunning World Cup win in India. He also performed well in T20s. He was awarded with the prestigious Allan Border medal earlier this year. But Marsh was perhaps destined for big things given his father, Geoff Marsh was a former Australian ODI captain and World Cup winning coach. Growing up, he was surrounded by the likes of legendary captains Allan Border, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh and that seems to have rubbed off on him. The 32-year-old had captained the Australian Under-19 team to the World Cup trophy, back in

2010. He also led Perth Scorchers in 31 matches in the Big Bash League and was captain of the 2017-18 Marsh Cup-winning Western Australian team before graduating to become Australian T20 captain. Under his captaincy, Australia have entered the Super Eight stage at the ongoing T20 World Cup on the back of an unbeaten run in the group stage. Stoinis feels Marsh has it easy with the group in the West Indies with everyone knowing their roles and functioning like clockwork but the all-rounder is more than capable of being "creative" when required. "Not taking anything away (from Marsh), I think this group particularly is quite an easy group to lead. We have four best quicks, best spinner in the world and all-rounders. It's pretty much like clock work, most of us know when to bowl, where to field," Stoinis said.



Bhopal Municipal Corporation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)
11nd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus,
Ambedkar Marg, Near Chatak Bridge, Bhopal (MP)

Ref No.: 261

Bhopal Date 18.06.2024


Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in in under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Tender form cost rs.	EMD Cost Rs.
1	2024_UAD_340501_2	APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC HAZARDOUS WASTE AT BMC (2nd Call)	12,500/-	1,00,00/-
2	2024_UAD_340468_2	APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC SANITARY WASTE AS PER BIO-MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT RULE AT BMC (2nd Call)	12,500/-	1,00,000/-

Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers & correction if any, would be Published on website only.

Executive Engineer (SBM)
Municipal Corporation Bhopal

T.N.57/024/025



इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
(भारत सरकार का एकमात्र A Govt. of India Undertaking)
www.ioab.in

Raisen Road Branch (Br. Code :1573)
Kartar Arcade, Raisen Road, Near Capital Petrol Pump,
Bhopal – 462023. Ph: 0755-2683017
E-mail : ioab1573@ioab.in

DEMAND NOTICE

Demand Notice Date : 29.05.2024

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules)
1. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below.
2. The said Notices have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors." Hence the Bank by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors as per the said Act. Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned and the said Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors, may, if they so desire, collect the said copies from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.
3. Against the above background, Notice is hereby given, once again, to said Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors to pay to Indian Overseas Bank, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated/payable as given below under the loan & other documents. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Indian Overseas Bank by the respective parties as below.

Name & Address of Borrower & Mortgager	Rate of interest (Including overdue interest) & rests	Total dues as on 28.05.2024	Description of Secured Assets
Borrower : M/s Apex Trading (Prop. Mr. Himanshu Bhardwaj) Address : 1) House No 64/A, Vijay Nagar Colony, Ward no 4, Halalpura, Bhopal 2)Plot no-50, Gehu Kheda, Kolar Road, Bhopal, M.P.-462042 3) House No.-3, Kayastha Gali,Tallaiya, Nai Wali, Hathhi khana, Bhopal M.P.- 462001 Guarantor & Mortgager: Mrs. Neelam Bhardwaj House No 64/A, Vijay Nagar Colony, Ward no 4, Halalpura, Bhopal	RLLR 9.35%+ 2.95%+ 2% penal interest i.e. at present 14.30% Nature of Facility Amount of Limit Cash Credit ₹ 25.00 Lacs	₹ 17,04,482.18	1.Hypothecation: Stock of M/s Apex Trading 2.Hypothecation: Book Debts of M/s Apex Trading 3. Mortgage: Equitable Mortgage followed by Registered Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deeds in favour of Indian overseas bank situated at Residential Duplex No. 27-A/2, A-Sector,(construct build on Plot No.-27), "Kushi Parishar" (inside Main Road),Vijay Nagar Colony, Ward no 1,Village-Halalpura,Tehsil- Huzur Bhopal comprising of Area 1200 Sq.Ft. in the name of Mrs. Nilam Bhardwaj. Boundaries : East: 10 Feet Wide Service Lane, West: 30 Feet Wide Road, North: Plot No. 27- B, later on Plot No. 23, South: Plot No 26

*payable with further interest at contractual rates/rests as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment.
4. If the said borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors fail to make payment to Indian Overseas Bank as aforesaid, then Indian Overseas Bank shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and Rules entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the said borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors.
5. Further, the attention of borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.
6. The said Borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors are prohibited under the SARFAESI Act from transferring the secured assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Indian Overseas Bank. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules shall be liable for imprisonment and/ or fine as given under Section 29 of the Act.

Sd/-
Place : Bhopal
Publication Date : 20-06-2024
Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Vidisha Branch : 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha-464001, MP
Sehore Branch : Office No. 5, First Floor, Tamrakar Mall, Commercial Plot no. 15, Sharda Nagar, Sehore - 466001, (Madhya Pradesh)

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1.	(Loan Code No. 07600000565/ Vidisha Branch) Chandra Sekhar Mishra (Borrower), Meena Mishra (Co-borrower) Vijay Kumar Sahu (Guarantor)	12-10-2022 & ₹ 8,78,347/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, K H No 291 1 2 Ward No. 21 Ashutosh Nagar Village Rajonda, Near Idgah Masjid, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, 464221. Boundaries : East - House of Rakesh Maharaj, West - House of Maharaj Singh, North - Land of Manjhi, South - Road	Rs. 9,06,960/-	Rs. 90,696/-	Physical
2.	(Loan Code No. 14200000013/ Sehore Branch) Sandeep Verma (Borrower), Shobha Bai Verma (Co-borrower) Shubham Yadav (Guarantor)	11-07-2023 & ₹ 5,90,365/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, K H No 85 1 1 KHA Plot No 20 21 Ward No 11 Bhawanikunj Colony Ichawar Near Jena Convent School , Sehore , Madhya Pradesh , 466115. Boundaries : East - Other's Property, West - Purchaser Land, North - Plot No. 22, South - Road	Rs. 4,60,800/-	Rs. 46,080/-	Physical
3.	(Loan Code No. 07600000016/ Vidisha Branch) Shila Chauhan (Borrower), Roshan Singh Chouhan (Co-borrower)	08-09-2022 & ₹ 9,33,007/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No 287 P H No 24 Ward No 06 Bijasan Mata Mandir Near Sbi Bank Ward No 5, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, 464221 Boundaries : East - 10' Galli, West - 4' Naali, North - Hosue of Santosh Sahu, South - House of Sunil Jain	Rs. 14,38,080/-	Rs. 1,43,808/-	Physical

- Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is **19-07-2024 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankeauctions.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
 - Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **20-07-2024 on https://bankeauctions.com at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM** .
 - AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis".
 - The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.
 - Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
 - The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankeauctions.com/registration/ signup>, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>
 - For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, **Lokendra Rathore, (Contact : 9977783890)** OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, **Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: in@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124 /25/26** As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and /or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.
 - For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com.
 - The Bid incremental amount for auction is **Rs.1000/-**.
- Place : Madhya Pradesh
Date : 20.06.2024
- (Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited



Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank Across India.
CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

Asset Recovery Management Branch : 2nd Floor 'E'- Block, The Metropolitan, Plot No. C-26 & C-27, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400051.



E-AUCTION PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE

Landline : 022-35008017/35128482/35082558
E-mail : mumbaiarm@ktkbank.com, Website : www.karnatakabank.com

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ON 25.07.2024
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property/ies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details of possession is mentioned below), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **25.07.2024** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the Karnataka Bank Ltd. The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under and the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **24.07.2024 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account (details of which are mentioned below).

SI No.	Branch Name	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors	Balance O/S in Rs.	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Date & Time of Auction Incremental Value of the Bid	Details for Remitting EMD Account No. / IFSC Code
1	Bhopal-Branch	1) Mr. Arvind Patidar S/o Mr. Raghunath Patidar; 2) Mr. Manoj Patidar S/o Mr. Raghunath Patidar; 3) Mrs. Archana Patidar W/o Mr. Manoj Patidar; 4) Mrs. Neha Patidar W/o Mr. Arvind Patidar; All are addressed at: E-7/565, Arera Colony, Huzur District, Bhopal-462011.	Rs.1,60,76,048.45 (Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Forty Eight and Paise Forty Five Only) under TL A/c No. 1277001600026701 along with future interest from 19.01.2024 plus costs	All that part and parcel of Residential Property No. E-1/63-A (Eastern portion of Plot No.E-1/63), Arera Colony, Ward No.45 (New), Tehsil, Huzur District, Bhopal, belonging to Mr. Arvind Patidar. Boundaries of Property: East by: House No.E-1/62, West by: House No.E-1/63-B, North by: Open Land, South by: 60 Ft wide road.	Rs.4,68,94,000/- (Rs. Four Crore Sixty Eight Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Only) Rs.46,89,400/- (Rs. Forty Six Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only)	25.07.2024 from 1.00 PM to 1.20 PM Rs. 25,000/-	RTGS Account Number: 1273500200004101 Karnataka Bank Bhopal-Branch IFSC Code: KARB000127

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset)
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. <https://karnatakabank.com/auction-notice> under the head "Auction Notices".
The E-auction will be conducted through portal <https://bankauctions.in/> on 25.07.2024 at the above mentioned timings with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending Bidder is required to register their name at <https://bankauctions.in/> and get the user id and password free of cost and get training i.e online training on e-auction (tentatively on 24.07.2024) from M/s Closures, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500038. Contact Person: Mr. Arijit, 040-23736405, Mobile 8142000725, E-mail: arijit@bankauctions.in.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 18.06.2024

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer,
Karnataka Bank Ltd.

This world record was five years in the making for Regan Smith. What an up-and-down journey it's been.

Bouncing back from a close-but-no-Olympics call in her first race, Smith set a world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke at the US swimming trials on Tuesday

The 22-year-old Minnesota native touched in 57.13 seconds, easily beating the mark of 57.33 set a year ago by Australia's Kaylee McKeown.

Smith was just 17 when she first set a world record in the 100 at the 2019 World Championships. But, she struggled to deal with the sudden, newfound fame, ceding dominance in the event

to McKeown.
"A long time coming," Smith
said. "It's about time."
There was never any doubt
about Smith's talent, but a lack
of confidence was almost crip-

pling at times.
She's been working with a sports psychologist since October, which helped turn things around mentally.
Her coach, Bob Bowman, best

known for his work with 23-time gold medalist Michael Phelps, took care of the physical side with a gruelling training regimen.

"This is incredibly rewarding,"

Smith said. "When I was a teenager, I had not done much. There was no pressure on me. I was always the youngest. No one expected much from me. I could go into it fearless."

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division)
797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)

Case No.: OAEX 96/2011 in O.A. No.152/2009

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Vs SHRI GOPAL SHARMA

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website <https://www.bankeauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 13,69,955.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Five Only)** payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in **O.A.No. 152/2009** issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at **9.25% p.a.** with simple Interest from **20-10-2010** and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction: 22-07-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours.

Plot No.106, Phase-1 or shell city bearing Khasra No.236/27, area admeasuring 2500 Sq.ft., Situated at Village-Gokanya, Tehsil-Mhow, District-Indore (M.P), Property Jointly in the name of **Gopal Sharma S/o Radhakishan Sharma and Sudha Sharma W/o Gopal Sharma.**

Upset Price : Rs. 10,00,000.00 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only)

Conditions of Sale: (1) **tending bidders must bid a valid digital signature certificate.** For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt.Ltd. website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcpg@c1india.com, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com (2) **Intending bidders are advised to go through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids.** (3) Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. (4) 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price **Rs.1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh only)** must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of **Account No. 31067074055** in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with **State Bank of India, Ridge Road Branch, Jabalpur (IFSC Code: SBIN0007208)** and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. (5) **Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 19-07-2024 online.** (6) A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-11, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. (7) Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be **Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)**. In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. (8) The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. (9) In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his / her favour through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. **31067074055** mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. (10) The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. **31067074055** mentioned at SL. No. 04 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. (11) Property will be sold "**As is Where is and No Complaint basis**". (12) The properties can be inspected on **11-07-2024 between 12.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.** (13) Properties will not be sold below the upset price. (14) Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone / cancel the sale without assigning any reason. (15) Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the **Shri Hariom Trivedi, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9405719723** and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. (16) Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcpg@c1india.com, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com (17) Further property details if any required shall be obtained from **Shri Hariom Trivedi, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9405719723** (18) The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT / Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place: Jabalpur
Date: 10-06-2024

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division)
797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)

Case No.: OAEX/22/2011 in O.A. No.154/2009

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Vs. SHRI RAMSWAROOP SHARMA

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of **Rs.13,12,404.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Four Only)** payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in **O.A.No. 154/2009** issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at **9.25% p.a.** with simple interest from **14-10-2009** and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction: 22-07-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours.

Plot No.136, Phase-1 of shell city bearing Khasra No.236/27, area admeasuring 2500 Sq.ft., Situated at Village-Gokanya, Tehsil-Mhow, District-Indore (M.P), Property Jointly in the name of **Ramswaroop Sharma S/o Gopal Sharma and Vidhya Sharma W/o Ramswaroop Sharma.**

Upset Price : Rs. 10,00,000.00 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only)

conditions of Sale: (1) Intending bidders must have had a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt.Ltd. website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7808084466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1india.com, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com (2) Intending bidders are advised to go through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids. (3) Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. (4) 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price **Rs.1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh only)** must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of **Account No. C131067074055** in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with **State Bank of India, Ridge Road Branch, Jabalpur (IFSC Code: SBIN0007208)** and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. (5) **Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 19-07-2024 online.** (6) A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. (7) Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be **Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)**. In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. (8) The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. (9) In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his / her favour through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. **C131067074055** mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. (10) The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. **C131067074055** mentioned at SL. No. 04 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. (11) Property will be sold **"As is Where is and No Complaint basis"**. (12) The properties can be inspected on **11-07-2024 between 12.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.** (13) Properties will not be sold below the upset price. (14) Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone / cancel the sale without assigning any reason. (15) Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the **Shri Hariom Trivedi, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9405719723** and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. (16) Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7808084466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1indian.com, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com (17) Further property details if any required shall be obtained from **Shri Hariom Trivedi, Chief Manager, Mob No. 9405719723** (18) The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT / Bank / Services Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash/ down, Power failure etc.

Place: Jabalpur
Date: 10-06-2024

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015
HOUSING FINANCE Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010

Appendix IV : Symbolic Reversion NOTICE (for Immoveable property)

and being the Authorized Office of United Housing Finance Limited ("UHFL") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS

Borrower(s)/Guarantor's are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer **Mobile No. -Vaibhav Shrivastav - 987969803, Rajesh Chakotiya - 84355 71111, Sitaram Prajapati - 95845 67867, Ankita Patil - 77230 55195, Govind Chouhan - 8962816436, Rahul Solanki - 90989 87379**

Place : Indore, Date : 20/06/2024

Authorised Officer, Hinduja Housing Finance Limited



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

दसवां अंतरराष्ट्रीय योग दिवस-2024

‘स्वयं एवं समाज के लिए योग’
‘Yoga for Self and Society’

संपूर्ण प्रदेश में जिला, विकासखंड एवं पंचायत स्तर पर

सामूहिक योग अभ्यास कार्यक्रम

एवं

श्रीअन्न संवर्धन अभियान का शुभारंभ

प्रधानमंत्री

नरेन्द्र मोदी

द्वारा उद्बोधन

(वर्चुअल माध्यम से)

मुख्य अतिथि

डॉ. मोहन यादव

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

21 जून, 2024 | प्रातः 6 बजे

लाल परेड ग्राउंड, भोपाल

योग - विश्व को भारत का उपहार

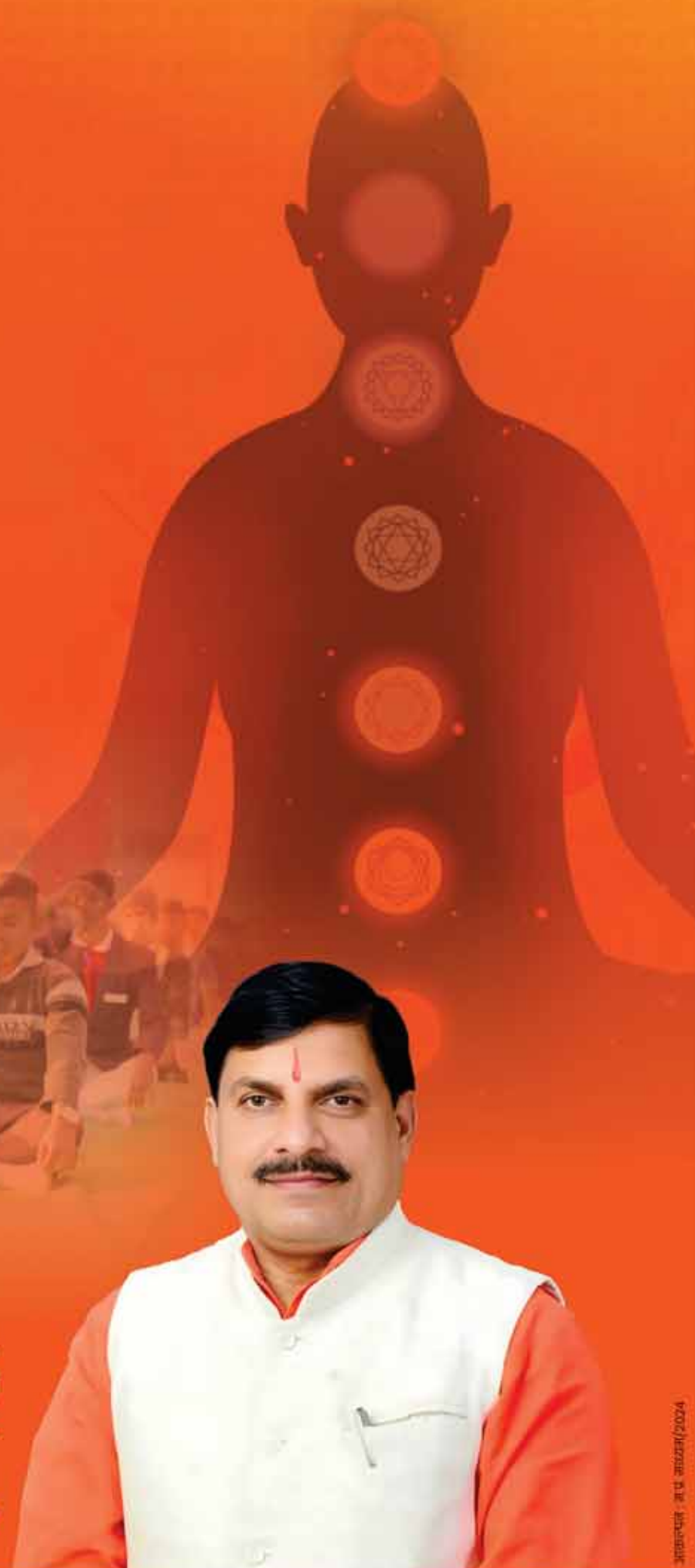
- भारत योग विद्या की जन्मभूमि है, शारीरिक और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य एवं जीवन के समग्र विकास में योग के प्रमाणित प्रभावों के दृष्टिगत हमारे प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा वर्ष 2014 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र में योग को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अपनाने का आह्वान किया गया।
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा इसे मान्य किया गया और तब से प्रत्येक वर्ष विश्वभर में 21 जून का दिन अंतरराष्ट्रीय योग दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है।
- योग सभी के लिए संभव है और सभी की मदद करता है।
- योग जीवन और मन को व्यवस्थित करने का आध्यात्मिक तरीका है।

श्रीअन्न (मिलेट्स) उत्पादन में अग्रणी मध्यप्रदेश

- रानी दुर्गावती श्रीअन्न प्रोत्साहन योजना में किसानों को कोदो-कुटकी उत्पादन पर प्रति क्विंटल रु. 1000 की प्रोत्साहन राशि।
- मिलेट्स उत्पादन का क्षेत्रफल 67 हजार हेक्टेयर से बढ़कर हुआ 1 लाख हेक्टेयर से अधिक।
- प्रदेश के बालाघाट, छिंदवाड़ा, जबलपुर, कटनी, मंडला, डिंडोरी, नरसिंहपुर और सिवनी जिले मिलेट्स उत्पादन में आगे।

“ योग सही जीवन जीने का विज्ञान है। यह जीवन से जुड़े भौतिक, मानसिक, भावनात्मक, आत्मिक और आध्यात्मिक सभी पहलुओं पर कार्य करता है। आइये, आध्यात्मिक उन्नयन, शारीरिक व मानसिक सशक्तिकरण एवं 'ऊर्जावान व स्वस्थ भारत' के निर्माण हेतु योग को अपने जीवन में अपनाएं, इसके प्रति अन्य लोगों को भी जागरूक करने हेतु संकल्पित हों। ”

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री



सीधा प्रसारण

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मध्यप्रदेश शासन