**OPINION 6** 

DEVELOPMENT AMID

TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION

**WORLD 8** 

SUSPECTED HOUTHI ATTACK

TARGETS VESSELS

**MONEY 10** 

MARKETS SETTLE MARGINALLY

HIGHER IN VOLATILE TRADE

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

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**INDIA SECURE OLYMPIC TEAM QUOTAS** IN ARCHERY

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# Modi chides Opp, urges responsibility Opp protest mars day 1 of LS

day after the Government Asaid it anticipated a cordial Special Session of Parliament during which the members will also take oath as MPs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave ammunitions to the Congress-led Opposition members by raking up the 'Emergency' chord on Monday. Modi took a swipe at the Congress over the imposition of Emergency in 1975, calling it a "black spot" on democracy when Constitution was "discarded'

paper leaks. While Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had appealed for a cordial Session, Congress had asked the Minister to 'walk the talk'

while the Opposition termed

the Modi regime as an

undeclared Emergency as

well as Education Emergency

given the series of exam

on Sunday Modi said people have given his Government mandate for a third consecutive term and have put a stamp of approval on its policies and intentions. He also said the 18th Lok Sabha begins on Monday with a resolve of building a 'Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the media in Parliament complex at the beginning of the first Session of the new Lok Sabha, the PM asserted that his Government will take everyone along in



Lok Sabha, in New Delhi, on Monday

BJP president and Union Minister Jagat Prakash

Nadda has been named Leader

of the House in the Rajya

Sabha. Nadda replaces Union

Minister Piyush Goyal, who

recently won the Lok Sabha

election and took oath on

Monday as a member of the

Earlier this month, Nadda

Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon his arrival at the Parliament House complex on the first day of the first Session of the 18th

fulfil its role and maintain democracy's decorum.

India needs a responsible Opposition and people want substance not slogans. They want debate, diligence not disturbance in Parliament, he said in a jibe at the Opposition.

The Prime Minister noted 65 crore voters participated in the just-held parliamentary elections and it was for the second time since Independence that Government was chosen for a third consecutive term. The occasion came after 60 years, he said

Amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, Opposition MPs said on the first day of the 18th Sabha that the Government will have to answer on the controversy in Parliament.

took over the office of the Union Health Ministry. He

was also assigned the

Chemicals and Fertilisers

Ministry. Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of the Opposition in

the Rajya Sabha. Âfter he took

an oath as Union Minister, it

was expected that he would

step down from the post of

Continued on Page 2

BJP's national president.

Continued on Page 2

BJP chief Nadda leader of Rajya Sabha They raised slogans such as "long live Constitution", "we will save Constitution", "save our democracy" Rahul Gandhi said they would not allow the Constitution to be "attacked" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

on "saving democracy"

leaders,

predecessor Sonia Gandhi,

party leader Rahul Gandhi,

Trinamool Congress' Sudip

Bandyopadhyay, DMK's TR

Akhilesh Yadav among others

assembled at the spot where

the Gandhi statue once stood

in the Parliament complex.

remark

Kharge,

Samajwadi Party's

"Emergency"

present issues.

Congress

Baalu,

Mallikarjun

"This attack is not acceptable to us and that is why we held the Constitution and took oath," he said. "Our message is reaching the

public and no power can touch the Constitution of India and we will protect it," Rahul



Congress MPs Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi at the Parliament House including complex on the first day of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, in New Delhi PT president

Congress general secretary and member of Ràjya Sabha KC Venugopal said the INDIA Bloc leaders entered the 18th Lok Sabha with Mahatma Gandhi's blessings. The Gandhi statue, which was

a popular protest site for MPs, was recently relocated along with 14 other statues that dotted the complex to a new spot named Prerna Sthal. Several Opposition parties have claimed that the mandate

of 2024 Lok Sabha elections was against the ruling BJP, even though it was able to form the government with support of other parties. The INDIA Bloc has also

claimed that the results show that the people have backed the opposition parties to "save the Constitution'

remarks, Congress said Modi had nothing new to offer in his remarks ahead of the start of the 18th Lok Sabha and "as usual resorted to diversion' and that he has forgotten that the last 10 years of "undeclared emergency" was ended by the

Mallikarjun Kharge said Modi made a longer than usual customary address "but clearly, even after the moral and political defeat, the arrogance remains". Kharge said the nation was hoping that Modi would say something on important issues.

Congress

Mahua Moitra of the TMC said the BJP fell short of a majority in the election because the people of the country have realised that it is

against the Constitution. Continued on Page 2

### **HC** verdict on Kejriwal todav

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court will on Tuesday pronounce its verdict on a plea by the Enforcement Directorate seeking a stay on the trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case stem-ming from the alleged excise

The order is scheduled to be pronounced at 2:30 pm. While Kejriwal did not get any relief from the money laundering case linked to liquor policy scam as the Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass an order on his plea challenging the Delhi High Court order which stayed the bail granted to him by lower court and also observed that stay orders are normally not reserved and pronounced the same day.

A vacation Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti decided to await the pronouncement of the Delhi High Court's stay order in the meantime and fixed June 26, the next date of hearing.

Continued on Page 2

## Terror attacks on Russia's synagogue, church kill 20

AP MOSCOW

Russia's southern region of Dagestan held the first of three days of mourning on Monday following a rampage by Islamic militants who ple, most of them police, and attacked houses of worship in apparently coordinated assaults in two cities. Sunday's violence

fulfilling the aspirations of

anniversary falls on June 25,

and described it as a "black

spot" on India's democracy

when Constitution was

Welcoming new MPs, he said the 18th Lok Sabha

commences with a dream of

building a developed India by

2047. People expect good

steps from the Opposition

but it has been disappointing

far, he said while

the people.

Emergency's

discarded.

also

Dagestan's regional capital of Makhachkala and nearby Derbent was the latest that officials blamed on Islamic extremists in predominantly Muslim region in the North Caucasus, as well as the deadliest in Russia since when gunmen March,

opened fire at a concert in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people. The affiliate of the Islamic attack on Ukraine, again State group in Afghanistan that claimed responsibility for March's raid quickly praised the attack in

Dagestan, saying it was conducted by "brothers in the Caucasus who showed that they are still strong."

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War argued that the Islamic State group's North Caucasus branch, Vilayat Kavkaz, likely was behind the attack,

describing it as "complex and coordinated." Dagestan Governor Sergei Melikov blamed members of Islamic "sleeper cells"



didn't give any other details. He said in a video statement that the assailants aimed at "sowing panic and fear," and attempted to link the attack to Moscow's military action in Ukraine — but also provided no evidence.

President Vladimir Putin had sought to blame the March without evidence and despite the claim of responsibility by the Islamic State affiliate. Kyiv has vehemently denied any involvement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin has received reports on Sunday's attacks and efforts to help the victims.

Investigative Committee, the country's top state criminal investigation agency, said all five attackers were killed. Of the 20 people killed, at least 15 were police. Medical authorities in Dagestan said at least 46 people were injured. Of directed from abroad, but those, at least 13 were police, hospitalised grave condition.

Among the dead was the Rev. Nikolai Kotelnikov, a 66year-old Russian Orthodox priest at a church in Derbent. before setting fire to the church, according to Shamil Khadulayev, deputy head of a local public oversight body. The attack came as the Orthodox faithful celebrated Pentecost, also known as

Trinity Sunday. The Kele-Numaz synagogue in Derbent also was set ablaze.

Shortly after the attacks in Derbent, militants fired at a police post in Makhachkala and attacked a Russian Orthodox Church and a synagogue there before being hunted down and killed by special forces.

Russian news reports said the attackers included the two sons and a nephew of Magomed Omarov, the head of the main Kremlin's party United Russia's regional branch in Dagestan. Omarov was detained by police for interrogation, and United Russia quickly dismissed him from its ranks.

In the early 2000s, Dagestan saw near-daily attacks on police and other authorities that was blamed on militant extremists. After the emergence of the Islamic State group, many residents of the region joined it in Syria and Iraq.

### **India deplores glorification** of militancy in Canada

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES** NEW

mid strained diplomatic And strained diplomatic countries, India has termed in Canada as itancy "deplorable," and emphasised that no Government in the world should overlook the threat of terrorism emanating from its territories for political gains.

Last week, India strongly objected to the Canadian Parliament observing a "oneminute silence" in memory of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar who was gunned down in British Columbia in June last year.

In a statement on the 39th anniversary of the 1985 Kanishka bombing, in which 329 persons, most of them Canadians of Indian descent, on board an Air India flight lost their lives, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa said that terrorism knows "no borders, nationality, or race". 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, including 86 children. The bombing was blamed on

Sikh militants in retaliation to 'Operation Bluestar' to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in 1984.



Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma pays homage to the victims of Air India flight 182 Kanishka in Ottawa, on Monday on the 39th anniversary of the terrorist bombing in which 329 innocent people including 86 children, lost their lives

Commission in Ottawa and the consulates of India in Toronto and Vancouver organised memorial services on Sunday and solemnly remembered the victims of the "dastardly act of terror" in

Addressing the gathering, High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma said, "No Government in the world should overlook the threat of terrorism emanating from its territories for political gains. "Human lives are much more important than the transitory political interests. terrorist activities should be met with exemplary legal and social actions before they start harming the larger humanity," he said.

"Governments, agencies, and international organisations must work in

Museum celebrates 164 years of audit heritage

security

concert to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their financing, and counter their twisted ideologies," he added. The memorial services were held at a time when relations between Canada and India are under severe strain following Canadian Prime

allegations in September last year of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as 'absurd" and "motivated".

Minister Justin Trudeau's

Earlier, in a statement, the Indian High Commission said it was "unfortunate" that such actions are allowed to be "routine" on many occasions here when it should be condemned by all peace-loving countries and Continued on Page 2



# **NEET accused** in four States

PNS NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over five cases pertaining to alleged malpractices in NEET-UG in Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

These cases allegations of malpractice, signalling a significant development investigation into the conduct of the national medical

entrance exam. In a related development, the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested a Zilla Parishad school teacher from Latur in Maharashtra and registered a case against four persons after

it emerged that a racket was being operated to help NEET students willing to pay money to crack the exam. The four persons against

whom a case was registered by the Nanded ATS unit include two teachers from Latur, a man from Nanded, and a resident of Delhi.

auditing in maintaining accountability in governance.

The Chadwick House,

constructed by a British national in the 1880s and

later purchased by Maharaja

Sardar Charanjit Singh of

Kapurthala in 1904 once

Continued on Page 2

### **Emergency victims seek succour**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The phenomenon of trade unions in Kerala has baffled industrialists, businessmen and even politicians. There is no section in society which has not been covered by trade unions. Even priests of temples in the State come under the ambit of the trade unions affiliated to the CPI (M) or the Congress. The latest to hog the limelight is a group of persons who claim themselves to be victims of police highhandedness during the Internal Emergency. The 'victims' who

claim that they were beaten of demonstrations anywhere up by the police when they staged demonstrations against the internal Emergency should be suitably compensated with medical expenses and pension. "This agitation should recognised as the second freedom struggle," said Rajasekhara Panickar, who is the spirit behind the movement.

It is known to most of the people that the black days of Emergency had fettered civil rights and freedom to protest. The police were under strict

orders not to allow any kind

in Kerala, a State known for its indiscipline and propensity to flash strikes causing a lot of inconvenience to the general The public. internal Emergency had a telling effect on the 1977 general election. While the rest of India voted for a change of Government at the Centre, the electorate of Kerala gave a thumping majority to the Congress-led

front in the State. The Congress-led United Front swept the polls to the Assembly by winning 111 out of the 140 seats.

Continued on Page 2 | Navigating Audit Heritage"

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI Marking a landmark moment in its 164-year

history, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, the top national auditor body can now proudly boasts its first-ever museum at the iconic Chadwick House in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. This historic venue, once a residence for Mahatma Gandhi during the pivotal Cabinet Mission of 1946, has been transformed into the

'Chadwick House



museum which was opened by CAG Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday. This museum represents a

remarkable convergence of history and modernity, preserving the past while educating future generations about the essential role of auditing in good governance, said Murmu. He also emphasised that the museum stands as a testament to the CAG's

commitment to heritage and

its importance in educating the public about the role of

hosted Mahatma Gandhi during the pivotal Cabinet Mission in 1946 which aimed to negotiate the transfer of power from British rule to Indian leadership. Murmu emphasised on transparency, underscoring

importance of Chadwick

Continued on Page 2

# Mamata threatens agitation if Bengal's water interests sold out

A ngry over being left out of talks with Bangladesh Government on the renewal of water sharing agreements Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said her party would build up a widespread movement if Bengal's water interests were sold out by the Centre. She later told mediapersons in

Kolkata that she had shot off a "strong letter" to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for keeping Bengal out of Indo-Bangladesh talks on water sharing. "I came to know that the Government of India is in the process of renewing the India-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty (1996)... for that they are holding deliberations. It is a treaty which delineates sharing of water between Bangladesh and India ...

"I have written a strong letter that such unilateral deliberations and discussions without consultation and the opinion of the state government is neither acceptable nor desir-

"The water sharing treaty is



essentially a tripartite affair where Bengal is an important stakeholder ... but they have left us out and gone ahead with it unanimously ... selling out the interest of our State ... we will not accept it ... they have refused to appreciate how the Farakka (Ganga) water sharing agreement is hurting us ... Bengal is losing acres of lands to erosion and flood ... and still Bengal remains uncompensated for suffering the loss due to this agreement," she said. The 1996 treaty is scheduled

to be renewed in 2026. On the alleged move by the

sell out the water of Teesta River but how can we do that because there is no water in Teesta ... particularly after the Sikkim Government constructed so many dams upstream ... there is no question of giving away water like this ... if they go ahead with their plans then we will resort to a widespread movement," Baneriee said. Referring to the River Atreyi
which flows through
Balurghat district of North

Bengal, Banerjee said, "the people of Balurghat have voted for BJP which is their right but my question is what the Centre is doing about the Atreyi River ... Bangladesh has got a dam constructed by China on the Atreyi ... we are not getting from this river now for which the people of Balurghat are suffering ... 1 have repeatedly written to the Centre to do take up this issue but nothing has been done and now they are selling out the interests of Bengal by deciding to sell out water of other rivers ... we will not let

### Graft sullying Bengal's image: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday candidly conceded that poor services and corruption perpetrated by the Trinamool Congress dispensation had resulted in the party's bad performance in the municipal elections this year. "We came to power promising good services to the people ... but where is that service ... I have been told how in many corporations and municipalities the people's representatives, and officials are busy minting money and acquiring big properties by allowing illegal encroachments, illegal construction business," Banerjee said adding, "now time has come when these corrupt people should have some shame because the Government and the State is getting bad name for the actions of some individuals." The Chief Ministerial reprimand came at a specially convened meeting of the bureaucrats, some ministers, MLAs and municipal chairmen and mayors.

Though the Trinamool Congress has done immensely well in the rural areas the Chief Minister is livid with the party's performance in the urban municipal areas. A micro-analysis of the recent-

ly concluded Lok Sabha election results show that though the Trinamool Congress trounced the Opposition winning 29 of Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats, Opposition BJP is ahead of the TMC in 67 out of 121 municipalities in the State. In Kolkata Corporation the BJP has taken a lead in 45 out of 144 wards.

'We have spent thousands of crores for the development of the urban areas but what is the result ... I have heard how appointments are being made locally and how illegal sanctions are being given in lieu of money ... I will ask the SDOs, DMs and ICs (Inspectors incharge) how much more you will earn ... you are stashing away money and giving the state a bad name ... now it is

time you should feel ashamed of yourself and start working ... I will not tolerate this, Banerjee said.

"People go to the civic bodies for services. Most panchayats and municipalities are not working for the people. Encroachments are being encouraged, illegal buildings allowed. No action is being taken ... we have released Rs. 51, 500 crore for urban development since 2011 but still people are not getting service... Garbage vats are overflowing, illegal parking is rampant, no proper roads in the added areas," she said adding however that in most of the cases the BJP men were spoiling their TMC counterparts by luring them into corrupt

**PSPCL** re-commissions biomass power plant to give boost to clean energy in Jalkheri village

PNS CHANDIGARH

Power Minister S Harbhajan Singh ETO today announced the suc-cessful recommissioning of the 10MW Biomass Power Plant at Village Jalkheri, District Fatehgarh Sahib, highlighting its significant highlighting its significant environmental and economic benefits for Punjab.

The plant in its new 'Avatar'to provide 10MW of eco-friendy, green power to state. PSPCL Biomass Plant was originally commissioned in June 1992. Now the renovated plant has been recommissioned on June 21, 2024 and officially commenced opera-

It utilizes advanced Denmark Technology boilers and is designed to generate electricity using 100 per cent paddy straw.

This state-of-the-art facility biomass plant will consume approximately 1 lakh tons of paddy straw annually which will help state government to curb the problem of stubble burning in nearly 50 thousand acres of area in Punjab.

### 6 debutant Delhi MPs take oath along with Manoj Tiwari

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj took her oath as Member of Parliament on Monday in Sanskrit, carrying forward the legacy of her mother, former Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj who also took her oath in one of the oldest Indian languages, after planting a tree in her memory. Today, before taking oath by participating in the first session of the Parliament, I remembered mother Sushma Swaraj and planted a tree in her name," Swaraj shared while planting the tree under the 'ek ped ma k naam' campaign launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After her oath was administered. resolve of a developed, prosperous and self-reliant India. She also wore her mother's saree for the occasion.

The seven Delhi BJP MPs took the oath as Members of Parliament on Monday, the first day of the 18th Lok Sabha's first session. It was a big day for the parliamentarians as most of them, except three times North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, took oath for the first

After taking the oath, Chandni Chowk MP Khandelwal expressed his gratitude to all the voters and said, "I have taken the oath as a Member of Parliament with great pride and humility. I am grateful to

she also shared that she is Prime Minister Narendra committed to fulfilling the Modi, the BJP leadership, and my constituency for giving me the opportunity to serve as a member of this largest temple of democracy.

South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir

River Teesta she said, "having

won the (parliamentary) seats

in North Bengal they are

thinking that they have

received the mandate to sell

out the interests of that region

... but we will not allow that

to happen ... they are plan-

ning to sell out the water of

Teesta River," adding, she

said she too loved the people

of Bangladesh but that did not

mean that she would sacrifice

the interests of the people on

'We too love them but when

it comes to the interest of our

own people we cannot sacri-

this side of the border.

Singh Bidhuri bowed his head before entering the Parliament premises on the first day of the first session of the Lok Sabha. "I entered the temple of democracy with my head bowed. I am very grateful to the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP National President JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah, along with the entire public of South Delhi, for bringing these unforgettable moments in my life!," he said. He wore a white kurta and vest for the ceremony.

### Neutral experts, Pakistani delegates inspect IWT power projects in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Ateam of neutral experts accompanied by a threemember Pakistani delegation Monday inspected the two under-construction power projects under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in the Kishtwar

The team of experts was airlifted to the Chenab valley region from where they were escorted to the project sites under tight security arrangements. According to official sources, on their arrival in Kishtwar, the delegation visited the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) headquarters. From there they left for the 85 MW Ratle hydro-



electric power project site at Drabshalla for dam inspection. The delegation was also scheduled to visit the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul hydroelectric project on river Marusudar, a tributary of river Chenab, and other power projects during their stay in Kishtwar.

This is the first visit by a Pakistani delegation to Jammu

and Kashmir in more than five years under the dispute settlement mechanism of the 1960

India and Pakistan signed the IWT after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of waters of several cross-border rivers.

A three-member Pakistan delegation inspected the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric power projects under the provisions of the IWT for the last time in January 2019, before the ties between the two countries froze following the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Kerala is now Keralam KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In one of the major policy initiatives by the CPI (M)-led government, the name of Kerala has been changed to Keralam. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is being targeted by the rank and file of the CPI (M) for the debacle in the recent Lok Sabha election, introduced a resolution in the Legislative Assembly on Monday urging the Centre to amend the Constitution to change the name of the State to Keralam. There is no change in the meaning as Keralam is the Malayalam word for Kerala. The resolution, moved by the Chief Minister, demanded that necessary amendment be made under Article 3 of the Constitution to officially change the name of the State as 'Keralam' in the First Schedule of the Constitution. This was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly. But the resolution has also demanded that Constitution be amended to include the changed name in all the languages under the 8th schedthat there was no need to tin- Kozhikode, ker with the Constitution to Kasaragod and Wayanad has include the changed name in seen unprecedented increase all the languages under the 8th making the community Schedule because a change in emerging as the deciding facthe First Schedule was suffi-



come under the said schedule. The demand to change the name to Keralam has been pending for decades and Monday's resolution is expected to speed up the renaming process. It is for the Centre to amend Article 3 of the Constitution which enables it to form new States, alter the areas, boundaries or names of existing States. The resolution comes at a time when there is a demand among a section of the people to bifurcate the State into Travancore and Malabar as the religious demography is undergoing major changes. The population of Muslims in north Kerala, especially in the dis-Malappuram, Kannur, tor in all elections.

### **Emergency victims seek...**

Then the CPI(M)-led front was decimated and could win just 29 seats. What is unique about this election was that the real EMS Namboodirippadu himself led the Opposition challenge. The CPI (M) leader just scraped through with a wafer thin majority of 2,000 votes. The Congress-led was the swan song of Namboodirippadu.

There were some isolated protests staged by the RSS and the CPI (ML) in the State during the initial days of the Emergency which was put down by the police. It is natural for the police to tackle the protesters with full might as they were under instructions from the then Chief Minister C Achutha Menon (CPI) and Home Minister K Karunakaran not to allow any kind of dissent. Many demonstrators were beaten up and arrested.

### India deplores....

"While thirty-nine years have passed since the cowardly act, terrorism has unfortunately assumed proportions of an existential threat to international peace and security today," the Indian High Commission's statement said.

Any act of glorifying terrorism, including the bombing of Al-182 in 1985, is deplorable and such actions are allowed to be routine on many occasions in Canada," it added. India also insisted on Friday that the Canadian authorities must take action against those

advocating violence and carrying out an anti-India campaign in Canada. India lodged a strong protest with Canada on Thursday over Khalistani extremists holding a so-called "citizens court" and burning an effigy of the Indian Prime Minister outside the

### HC verdict on Kejriwal...

"Perusal of the impugned order would reveal that parties were given opportunities to file short submissions by June 24, 2024. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju who appears for the Enforcement Directorate submits that the order on the stay application would be passed shortly and therefore it would be appropriate that this court adjourns the proceedings to a date so that it may have opportunity of going through the order. In the facts of the case, we deem it appropriate to direct that this matter, be put up day after tomorrow... in the meantime, if an order is passed by the High Court, copy of the same shall be brought on record," the bench ordered.

However, the judge pointed out that it was "unusual" for orders to be reserved in stay applications as conventionally they are pronounced soon after the Court concludes hearing arguments. 'Normally, in stay applications, orders are not reserved. They are passed on the spot. It is a bit unusual. Anyway, we will have it the day after tomorrow", Justice Misra observed

### Modi chides Opp, urges...

members who took oath in the Lok Sabha said the government is considering the hardship of students who are feeling stuck in limbo.

As Union Education Minister Pradhan Dharmendra proceeded to take his oath, members of the opposition raised "NEET, NEET" slogans, as the controversy over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including the medical entrance exam National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and the the University Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET)

Modi and members of his Council of Ministers, including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, took the oath as members of the 18th Lok Sabha.

continues to rage.

Modi took the oath in Hindi amid slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" raised by members of the treasury benches.

While he was taking the oath, opposition members rose to their feet, holding copies of the Constitution. When Shah came to take the oath, they again held up the copies of Constitution the

remained seated. Among the Council of Ministers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are members of the Rajya Sabha, while ministers of state George Kurian and Ravneet Singh are not members of either House.

Besides Rajnath Singh and Shah, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari also took the oath as members of the 18th Lok

Senior members Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste (both from the BIP), who will assist the protem speaker in administering the oath to the newly elected MPs, were sworn in as members of the new House. They will help pro-tem speaker B Mahtab run the House when the members take the oath on Monday and

Congress members K Suresh (Congress), T R Baalu (DMK) and Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC), who were called to take oath as they were also appointed as panel of chairpersons like Singh and Kulaste, did not

turn up. The Congress has taken objection to Mahtab's appointment, contending that the claim of eight-term member Suresh, a Dalit leader, was overlooked. The INDIA bloc has said opposition leaders Suresh, Baalu and Bandopadhyay would not join the panel of chairpersons as a mark of

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi and Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh also took the oath as members of the new Lok Sabha.

#### **CBI hunts for NEET...**

From Page 1 Barring the case from Bihar, the other four appear to be isolated incidents of impersonation and cheating by local officials, invigilators and candidates, the officials said. The CBI has already registered its own FIR in connection with the case on a reference from the Union education ministry to conduct a comprehensive probe, they said. After taking over these new cases, the ČBI is now probing a total of six cases pertaining to alleged irregularities in NEET-UG, the officials said. Amid protests and political slugfest, RJD MP Manoj Jha claimed on Monday that the "NEET corruption" is linked with elections and alleged proximity between those named for paper leaks and leaders of the JD(U) and BJP while more than two dozen students, some of them NSUI members, were detained while protesting against irregularities in NEET-UG and cancellation of UGC-NET exams at Jantar Mantar.

According to officials, the CBI has re-registered one case each from Gujarat and Bihar and three cases from Rajasthan as its own FIR.

The CBI is also likely to file multiple FIRs in connection with the matter to probe the destruction of evidence, and also register

disproportionate (DA) cases against some of those accused who are public servants.

The recent NEET-UG paper leak scam tentacles have reached Maharashtra, with the arrest of two coaching institute teachers and an ITI instructor from Latur after the state Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Latur Police investigations in the past two days, officials said here on Monday. Another person wanted in the case is

absconding. Amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, opposition MPs said on the first day of the 18th Lok Sabha that the government will have to answer on the controversy in Parliament.

#### Museum celebrates 164... Arthashastra,

From Page 1

He said post-Independence considered one of the in 1950, Chadwick House earliest documents training school for Indian Audit and Accounts Service probationers, thus marking long-standing association with the audit India. community, showcasing its achievements significant milestones over

the years.

Among the numerous exhibits, the museum features a depiction of Chanakya, the ancient Indian scholar, penning his

documents became the site of the first outlining the principles of accounting. This exhibit underscores the deep historical roots accounting practices in One of the museum's most

significant attractions is a 1907 table and chair used by Sir CV Raman, the Nobel laureate in Physics, who briefly served as an assistant accountant general at the CAG's Kolkata office.

### **Opp protest...**

From Page 1

"From 303, the BJP is down to 240, they are running a minority government. They kept saying '400-paar' but could not even get a simple majority.

"I was not born during the first Emergency, but they (BJP) had been running an undeclared emergency for the last 10 years and the people of the country

said it would not be allowed," the TMC leader added. While Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

Priyanka Chaturvedi said that

the Modi government should focus on the kind of Education Emergency the national is facing currently, her party

colleague in Lok Sabha Ani Desai said the Emergency period is long over and the government should focus on the present. Priyanka referred to the series of central

government conducted entrance exams being canceled in the last fortnight. RSP leader

Premchandran also said that talking about the 1975 Emergency is "insignificant" at this juncture.

"It happened in 1975, 50 years have lapsed, it is totally irrelevant. We are talking about things that are happening at present. It is insignificant talking about the 1975 Emergency at this juncture," he added. Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) MP Chandrashekhar said the prime minister should follow his own advice.

"It would have been good if what he was saying had reflected in his work. In this Parliament itself, over 140 MPs were suspended and laws were passed. Hope this government, which is not as popular, will respect the people's sentiments and not impose any law," he said.

### **BJP** chief Nadda leader of...

From Page 1

Nadda took over from the current Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, in 2020.

Besides Nadda, 11 other members of the Upper House of Parliament are in the Union Council of Ministers. Congratulating Nadda,

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh urged him to accommodate the views of the opposition in the House. 'Greetings to J P Nadda ji on his being nominated as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. As Venkaiah Naidu garu might have said -if the Leader of the House can accommodate, the Opposition can cooperate," he posted on

Meanwhile, the BJP on

nationwide programme on the 1975 Emergency to "expose" Congress' the Congress'
"authoritarianism" and its
disregard for the Constitution.
BJP president JP Nadda will

address the main event, titled "Dark Days of Democracy", at its headquarters on Tuesday, the party's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said in a statement. According to Article 352 of the Constitution, the president can

Monday said it will launch a proclaim an Emergency if there is a grave threat to the security of the country -whether by war or external aggression or armed rebellion. Baluni said, "The Emergency stands as an unforgettable dark chapter in India's robust democracy. The then-prime minister Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency on the nation on June 25, 1975, marking a severe curtailment of democratic freedoms." Over

the next 21 months, the then-Congress government held the country's democracy and the "captive, Constitution unleashing countless atrocities on the people, media and opposition leaders", he said. Baluni said BJP leaders, officebearers and karyakartas will participate in the

programmes across

country "to protest" against the

imposition of the Emergency

Constitution, deprived citizens of their rights, committed atrocities against opposition leaders for 21 months, suppressed the media, silenced truth-tellers, undermined India's democratic integrity and oppressed people under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and Defence of India Rules (DIR)," he added.

"They will expose how the Congress strangled the

# Trial court order on Kejriwal bail based on perverse findings: ED

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday told the Delhi High Court that the trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was based on "perverse" findings as it did not consider the material demonstrating his "neck - deep involvement" in the offence of money laundering linked to the alleged excise scam.

In a written note filed in relation to its plea seeking a stay on the trial court's decision, the ED contended the order suffers from a "jurisdictional defect" since it was not given a proper opportunity to argue its case. It also

record her satisfaction that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence" as per section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

On June 20, Special Judge Niyay Bindu, who sat as the vacation judge, granted bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case, saying the Enforcement Directorate (FD) failed to furnish direct (ED) failed to furnish direct evidence linking him to the proceeds of crime in the money laundering case. On July 21, high court's vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, however, put an interim stay on the trial court order as it reserved verdict on the issue of stay on a plea

"Considering the factual and legal perversities in the impugned order granting bail, which fails to consider a single relevant material placed before the learned Vacation Judge demonstrating the neck deep involvement of the accused Arvind Kejriwal in the offence of money laundering including the genera-tion of proceeds of crime and its subsequent utilization as well as his vicarious role as National Convener of AAP -- which was the ultimate beneficiary of the major part of proceeds of crime to the tune of at least Rs 45 crores, the impugned order deserves to be stayed and ultimately set aside," the note said.

The ED said the trial court



asked its counsel to "cut short" his arguments and its right to avail the legal remedies was also curtailed as the bail order was not uploaded until after

The trial court could not have deviated from the findings given by the high court in another case pertaining to

the AAP leader, it said. "The impugned order dated 20.06.2024 passed by the Ld. Special Judge (Vacation Judge), Rouse Avenue, has been passed in breach of both the mandatory twin conditions which any Court considering bail under the PMLA is bound to follow and therefore, the impugned order suffers from a jurisdictional defect," the note said.

"The Vacation Judge commits a fundamental jurisdictional error by holding that grant of bail to an accused under Section 45 of the PMLA is a matter of discretion of the matter of discretion of the court. On the contrary, several Supreme Court judgments hold that the twin conditions are mandatory and only upon the satisfaction of

reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of the offence of money laundering and that he will not commit such offence while on bail can he be released," it added. The note further said the trial

court completely disregarded Kejriwal's vicarious role as the head of the political party which is the "major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the Delhi Liquor Scam" and the "concession" given to him for holding a constitutional chair is also perverse.

"In para 26, the (trial) court records a completely perverse finding when it holds that ED is silent about the facts as to how the proceeds of crime

Assembly Elections at Goa by AAP. The entire end-to-end money trail was not only placed before the Court, both in the reply as well as the Prosecution Complaint with (evidence and material)...

However, despite placing all these materials and adverting to them during arguments, despite repeated attempt on the part of the Judge to "cut short", there is no such discussion on the above material," the ED said in the note. The note also objected to the trial court referring to a speech by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud at an event to justify hurrying up the proceedings, saying it was "wholly extraneous to the

## Firms paid for non-supply of medical items during COVID, says Vigilance

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

As part of Department of Vigilance, GNCTD inquiry into major discrepancies in the procurement of medical items such as sterilised gloves and N95 masks during the Covid pandemic, the details of the minutes of meeting revealed that payment was made to a private company for the non - supply of these items and when the issue was flagged, the officials were clueless. The meeting was convened by

the Department of Vigilance (DoV) to probe the discrepancies in the procurement of medical items such as sterilised gloves and N95 masks during the Covid pandemic and it was viewed that these items could possibly be transacted only on paper without actually receiving the goods but payment has been made to the supplier at the cost public exchequer and hapless patients. The DoV has sought a report from those concerned within three days on June 19.

According to the minutes of the meeting, neither the officers of health department nor the Director General of Health Services could provide an explanation to the reported mis-match in the supply chain between the manufacturer to the distributor and thereafter distributor to the store

incharge, DGHS S.K. Jain, Special Secretary, Health Department, GNCTD pointed out that it is a clear case of fraud done by the distributor and a case for lodging complaint against distributor if the mismatch is not properly

At the outset, the officers of Directorate of Health Services were confronted with the mismatch in supply and receipt of sterilized gloves during Covid pandemic. It was pointed out that the DHS has shown the goods as received though the items were not received as per the E-way bill and payment was made. In the meeting, the above documentary evidence was shown to the officers of DHS who could not provide sufficient answer and they sought time to seek necessary clarification from the distribu-

tor. "Interestingly, 75000 pairs of sterilized gloves were supplied by the manufacturer on 08/12/2021. But the distributor in Delhi supplied the quantity of 285000 to Store Incharge, S&P, and DGHS (HQ) which seems fictitious. The answers of DHS were confronted by the Vigilance Department official to clarify how the store has received 2,85,000 sterilized gloves when the supplier has supplied 75,000 and how the payment was made for this excess quantity. DHS officials could not explain the mismatch between quantity received from the manufacturer by the distributor and quantity received by store of DHS," reads the minutes of the

Again it was noticed that 100000 pairs of the sterilized gloves which were sent by the

meeting.

were never received in Delhi but in Rewari, Haryana. As per the E-way bill, these items were received at Rewari, Haryana at 09.59 PM (20.12.2021). But Directorate of Health Services had shown that this item was received on 20.12.2021. This is further cross verified with the E-way bill system of Trade & Taxes Department; GNCTD whereas the E-way bill no. 531318857588 states that the said consignment never reached Delhi and its last consignment is Rewari only.

According to DOV, payment was made to a private company without actual supply. DHS official could not explain as to how the distributor had deposited these supplies in the store when the quantity never reached Delhi as per the e- way bill. DHS official sought time to clarify the same from the dis-

During the meeting, it is fur-ther informed to the officers of H&FW Department and DGHS that discrepancies have also been noticed in the supply of N95 Mask. As per date in the E-way bill, the goods supplied in Delhi were on 02.12.2020 whereas as per Challan, the date of receipt of goods was on 26.11.2020. It is clear that this discrepancy needs to be explained by DGHS.

### AAP Ministers urge Modi to help end city water crisis

With the ongoing tussle over the water crisis in the national Capital not showing any sign of ending, Delhi Cabinet ministers wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to ensure required water supply. This comes close on the heels of the Delhi Water Minister Atishi writing to PM Modi last week, seeking his intervention in the water scarcity in the national Capital.

Delhi ministers including Gopal Rai, Saurabh Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain have written a letter to the Prime Minister on the water crisis during a meeting at the site of Atishi's hunger strike at Bhogal in Jangpura.

In the letter signed by Rai, Gahlot, Hussain and Bharadwaj, they have said that despite the heatwave conditions, Delhi was not getting its "rightful share" of water from Haryana.

"The total water supply in Delhi is 1,005 MGD. Out of this, a huge chunk of 613 MGD comes from Haryana. For the last many weeks, there has been a decline in water coming from Haryana," the

The Delhi ministers said that Delhi was getting 100 MGD less for many days now. "One MGD of water fulfils the needs of 28,500 people in Delhi in one day. This means that due to the decline of 100 MGD of water, 28 lakh people are not getting water. On one hand, we need additional water and on the other hand, 28 lakh people are not getting water," read the letter The ministers also cited Atishi's indefinite hunger strike to request the prime minister to find a solution to the water crisis on priority. At the press conference, Delhi Environment Minister Rai said, "Today, we are appealing to LG sir that anytime tomorrow, you should go to Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant along with all of us. You should come there along with your officers and see what the condition is," he said. On Sunday, a delegation of 10

AAP leaders had met the LG over the water crisis in the national capital. "Yesterday when our ministers, MPs and MLAs went to meet LG sir, he kept saying that Haryana is providing water. Whereas the truth is that the Yamuna river has dried up in Wazirabad,"

### 3 killed, 3 injured in fire in under construction house



Atotal of three people, including a woman and her two daughters, were charred to death and three others were injured in a fire that broke out at an underconstruction house here.

The blaze, reported at Defence Colony in the city's Teela Mor police station area on Sunday, was caused by a leakage in the LPG cylinder when the woman was cook-

Shalimar Garden Assistant Commissioner of Police Siddharth Gautam said, "Nathulal, the house owner, was getting five rooms constructed in the building with the help of one Mukesh who was residing with his family there.'

He added that when the fire

broke out, Nathulal along with some local people doused it and rushed the injured to the GTB hospital. Mukesh's wife Bhagwati and two teenage daughters, including 16 years old Priyanka and 17 years old Himani, suffered 80 to 90 percent burn injuries and were declared brought dead at the Mukesh, his son Ankit, and a

carpenter, Sonu, suffered 20 to 30 percent burns while trying to extinguish the fire and are undergoing treatment, he added. Chief Fire Officer Rahul Pal said Priyanka and Himani got burnt while trying to douse the flames and could not escape as the door had got locked. The police said a probe is on in the mat-ter and the bodies have been sent for postmortem.

## Atishi on hunger strike says no to medical aid

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI he Aam Aadmi Party

▲ (AAP) on Monday claimed that the Delhi Water Minister Atishi's health has deteriorated on the fourth day of her indefinite fast and doctors have advised her hospitalisation. According to AAP, Atishi, however, refused to be treated at a hospital, despite adverse health effects until Haryana releases Delhi's "rightful share of water". "My blood pressure and sugar levels are dropping and my weight has gone down. Ketone level is very high which can have harmful effects in the long run. No matter how much my body suffers, I will continue the fast till Haryana releases water," she said at the site of hunger strike at Jungpura's Bhogal. In a statement, AAP said that Atishi's weight and blood pressure is decreasing rapidly, which doctors from Lok Nayak (LNJP) Hospital said was "dan-gerous". "Water Minister Atishi's weight is also decreasing unexpectedly. Before sitting on hunger strike on 21st June, her weight was 65.8 kg which has come down to 63.6 kg on the fourth day of the hunger strike. That is, her weight has decreased by 2.2 kg in just four days," the statement said. "Her blood sugar level has

decreased by 28 units on the fourth day as compared to the first day of the hunger strike," the party claimed, adding that her blood pressure level has also decreased. "Doctors have described the speed at which Water Minister Atishi's blood sugar level, blood pressure and weight have decreased as dangerous. Along with this, Minister Atishi's urine ketone level of water is also increasing. Such an increase in the amount of ketone in her body will be dangerous for her health," it said. The AAP said doctors have advised Atishi to be



admitted to a hospital in view of her deteriorating health but she is fighting for Delhi's rightful share of water by "risking her life". A doctors' report said "patient has been counselled for admission and oral intake" but she refused.

Meanwhile, in a video message, Atishi said she would continue her indefinite hunger strike, which entered the fourth day on Monday, despite adverse health effects. "My blood pressure and sugar levels are dropping and my weight has gone

down. Ketone level is very high which can have harmful effects in the long run. No matter how much my body suffers. will continue the fast till Haryana releases water," she

She has claimed that Delhi was getting 100 MGD less for the last three weeks which has caused a shortage, affecting 28 lakh people in Delhi.Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP stated that if Atishis did her work honestly, she wouldn't have to stage a strategic dama.

#### AAP caught in its own trap: Sachdeva

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Monday alleged that the AAP has trapped itself in the web of its own indefinite Satyagraha, and the meeting of ministers at the air-conditioned site of State Water Minister Atishi's hunger strike clearly indicates that the party is looking for excuses to end it amid water shortage in the

national capital. Sachdeva attacked the Delhi Minister and senior AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj for 'telling a new story'. "On Monday, Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told a new story that 1050 MGD of water is only for 10 million people, while the population of Delhi is 30 million. The people of flow away," Sachdeva stated.

Delhi want to ask Saurabh Bharadwaj on what basis his government had been saying all this time that there is only a problem of 100 MGD in Delhi and only 2.8 million people are affected," the Delhi BJP chief claimed. He further said that water in

Delhi comes not directly from the Yamuna River but through canals, which supply regular water to the city and claimed that the river is filled with silt. "As far as the issue of water not stopping at the Yamuna in Wazirabad is concerned, the root cause is that the Yamuna is filled with silt. Even 95 per cent of the pond at the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant is filled with silt, which prevents water from staying and causes it to

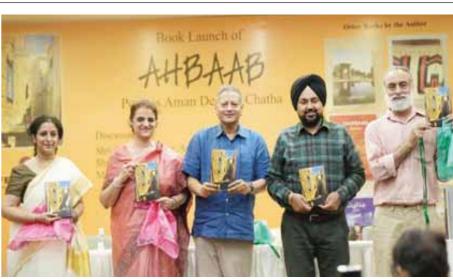
#### **LG** orders settlement of NDMC staff's cases in 15 days

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

part of the Prime A Minister Narendra Modi's 100 -day agenda plan, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), to resolve all the pending 9569 matters relating to the promotion and financial benefits of employees under the Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) within 15 days. The L-G has also issued strict orders for resolving the pending cases of pay fixation under 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) in the

As many as 3178 cases of MACP that would have ensured automatic promotion for employees serving for years together have been

The departments of NDMC, where these service matters are pending include the Secretary Establishment, Electrical Establishment, Health Establishment, A&H Establishment and the Personnel Establishment itself. Regarding the fixation of the other 5561 pending cases under the 7th CPC, the LG has instructed the NDMC to settle them at the earliest.



Aman Deep Sidhu Chatha, a 1992 batch Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) Officer, currently posted as Principal Accountant General, Delhi, released his seventh book titled 'Ahbaab' on Monday. The launch at IIC was attended by several luminaries in their respective fields. Ahbaab is the plural form of Habeeb and refers to friends, lovers and loved ones. In essence, Ahbaab defines our entire being. Aman Deep has so far published six books, Ahbaab being her seventh. The earlier books are Ehsaas-aur-Bandigi, Inayat, Zarf-e-Nazar, Zaafraan, Rehnuma and Ifsha

### NSUI activists among dozens held for protest over NEET/NET

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

More than two dozen students, including members of Congressaffiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI), were detained while protesting against irregularities in NEET-UG and cancellation of UGC-NET exams at Jantar Mantar on

The student union had planned a march to the Parliament on the day of the commencement of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha. The students, holding placards and NSUI flags, gathered in large numbers at Jantar Mantar for their 'Chhatra Sansad Gherav'.

The protestors raised slogans against the NTA while holding placards with 'Ban NTA', 'We demand RENEET' and 'No more corrupt NTA' written over it. Ahead of the protest, police barricaded the area to prevent students from taking out their march. Heavy deployment of Delhi police including paramilitary

forces was also made at the site. According to visuals of the protest shared with media, some students tried to go past the barricades, while a few others climbed on the structure. "They were detained by the Delhi police and taken to different police stations, since no permission was granted for the



march," an officer said. "Until the NEET candidates get justice, NSUI will continue to struggle from the streets to the corridors of the House. Our demand is that NEET students should be given justice by conducting a re-examination, and corrupt institu-tions like NTA should be banned. NSUI National President Varun Choudhary along with NEET students and their families has given this message to Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan from Jantar Mantar that NSUI's struggle will continue until the students get justice," the student body said in a tweet on X (formerly Twitter). Amid a demand for the cancellation of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for undergraduates (NEET-UG) exam held on May 5, the Union | PG DIPLOMA

Education Ministry has said that the incidents of malpractices were "localised" or "isolated" and it was not fair to jeopardise the careers of lakhs of candidates who cleared the exam right-

The CBI has filed an FIR in connection with the alleged irregularities under IPC

sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating), among others. The UGC-NET-2024 exam for the selection of junior research fellows, assistant professors and PhD scholars was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 18 in two shifts across

PROGRAMMES OFFERED:	Online Counselling Notice for Admission 2024-25  Schedule For First Year Admissions, Except Pharmacy Courses							
BTECH     BHMCT	Phase	Online registration & Counselling Fee	Choice Filling	Seat Allotment Date	Selecting (Freeze/ Float /Withdraw) option	Date of Reporting in Allotted Institution by the candidate		
• BALLB	. 1	26-06-24 TO 27-06-24	25-06-24 TO 28-06-24	03-07-24	03-07-24 TO 04-07-24	04-07-24 TO 08-07-24		
BBALLB	10	09-07-24 TO 10-07-24	09-07-24 TO 11-07-24	16-07-24	16-07-24 TO 17-07-24	17-07-24 TO 21-07-2		
• BBA	Schedule For Second Year Admissions (Lateral Entry) B.Tech & B.Pharma							
- BCA	1	26-06-24 TO 27-06-24	25-06-24 TO 28-06-24	03-07-24	03-07-24 TO 04-07-24	04-07-24 TO 08-07-2		
BPHARM MTECH MPHARM MBA LLB	Note:  1- Admission to 1st year of pharmacy courses will start soon.  2- Online Counseling will be based on Freeze/ Float/ Withdraw option. For more Information visit the University Website <a href="https://www.uktech.ac.in">www.uktech.ac.in</a> or Scan the QR  Please Scan for Registration							

# Ministers, MPs take oath on day 1 of 18th Lok Sabha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers, including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, took the oath as members of the 18th Lok Sabha as its first session began on Monday.

In the Council of Ministers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are members of the Rajya Sabha, while Ministers of State George Kurian and Ravneet Singh are not members of either House.

Besides Rajnath Singh and Shah, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari also took the oath as members of the 18th Lok

While Rajnath Singh was re-

in Uttar Pradesh, Shah returned from Gandhinagar in Gujarat and Gadkari from Nagpur in Maharashtra. All three took the oath in Hindi. Before them, senior members Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste (both from the BJP), who will assist the Pro-tem Speaker in administering the oath to the newly elected MPs, were sworn in as members of the new House. They will help Pro-tem Speaker B Mahtab run the House when the members take the oath on Monday and

Congress members K Suresh (Congress), TR Baalu (DMK) and Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC), who were called to take oath as they were also appointed as panel of chairpersons like Singh and Kulaste, did not turn up. The Congress has taken objec-

elected from the Lucknow seat tion to Mahtab's appointment,





Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan takes oath as a member of the House





contending that the claim of eight-term member Suresh, a Dalit leader, was overlooked. The INDIA bloc has said opposition leaders Suresh, Baalu and Bandopadhyay would not join the panel of chairpersons as a mark of protest.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan, Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi and Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh also took the oath as members of the new Lok Sabha. Manjhi and Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh belong to NDA partners Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and JD-U respectively.

Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy took the oath in Kannada, Education Minister Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Assamese, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu and Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy in Telugu and Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi in Kannada. Kumaraswamy is from the JD-S and Naidu is from the Telugu Desam Party. Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy Shripad Y Naik took the oath in Sanskrit.

Earlier in the day, B Mahtab took the oath as a member of the new Lok Sabha as well as that of its Pro-tem Speaker at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. After the oath of the members

of the Union Council of Ministers, newly-elected members from various states were sworn in, starting from Bishnu Pada Ray, who represents the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

# Rijiju looks forward to coordination in Parliament | India's linguistic diversity on display

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said he was positively looking forward to coordination to run Parliament, as the first session of the 18th Lok

Sabha gets underway. In a social media post, Rijiju said he shall always be available to assist the members of Parliament as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. "The First Session of the 18th

Lok Sabha begins today, the 24th June, 2024. I welcome all the newly elected Hon'ble members. I shall be always available to assist the members as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I'm positively looking forward to co-ordination to run the house," Rijiju said. The newly - elected members

of the Lok Sabha are set to take oath or make affirmation



over the next two days before Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab and the members of the panel of chairpersons. The new Lok Sabha will elect its Speaker on

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to address the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha Thursday, setting out the Pro-tem Speaker of the 18th

agenda of the NDA government for the next five years. Both the Houses will take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, which will be replied by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on July 2-3. Meanwhile, Rijiju on Monday called on BJP leader B Mahtab and the Rajya Sabha on ahead of his swearing in as

Lok Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu. Rijiju was accompanied by his deputies Arjun Ram Meghwal and L Murugan.

"Had the privilege of meet-ing Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji before his swearing-in ceremony as the Pro - tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha..." Rijiju said in a social media "His wisdom and experience

are invaluable as he embarks on this journey. Looking forward to working together. Best wishes to him," he said. Mahtab is tasked with presiding over the proceedings of the Lok Sabha on June 24 and 25 when new members take oath as members Parliament.

He will be assisted by a panel of chairpersons. On Wednesday, Mahtab -seven-time member of Lok Sabha -- will oversee the election of the new Speaker.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Lok Sabha witnessed a display of linguistic diversity on Monday, with the newly-elected MPs taking their newly-elected MPs taking their oaths in English and Indian languages, including Sanskrit, Hindi, Dogri, Bengali, Assamese and Odia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took his oath in Hindi

amid slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" from the treasury benches.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Urban Development Minister ML Khattar were among those who took oath in

Education Dharmendra Pradhan, the MP from Odisha's Sambalpur, took



bers of the Opposition chanted "NEET, NÊÊT", referring to the controversy over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including the medical entrance exam National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG). Suresh Gopi, the first BJP MP to be elected from Kerala, also took oath as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha. Before taking his oath in Malayalam, the actor-politician invoked the gods, saying "Krishna,

Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism and Petroleum. He represents Kerala's Thrissur constituency.

Shripad Yesso Naik, the MoS for Power and Renewable Energy, took his oath in Sanskrit. Naik won a sixth term from the North Goa constituency. MoS for Education and Development of North Eastern Region Sukanta Majumdar took his oath in Bengali.

Pune MP Muralidhar Mohol, the MoS for Aviation, took his Minister Jitender Singh, the MP from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, took his oath in Dogri. Union Minister of Port and

Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal and Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu took their oaths in Assamese and Telugu, respectively.
Sonowal is the MP from

Assam's Dibrugarh while Naidu is a three-time MP from Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam constituency. He is also the youngest minister in the third Modi Government.

Steel and Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi took their oaths in Kannada while Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy took his oath in Telugu. Earlier in the day, Bhartruhari Mahtab took oath as a member of the new Lower House as well as Pro-tem Speaker at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### **Bonhomie, bickering** as LS Session begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Opposition INDIA Bloc members, in a show of strength, waved copies of the Constitution in Parliament as Prime Minister Narendra of the 18th Lok Sabha on

Home Minister Amit Shah was also greeted in a similar manner. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan took oath as Lok Sabha member amid chants of NEET-NET by the Opposition members even as a controversy is raging on the entrance examinations that has put the government in the dock.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee, and Samajwadi Party leaders Akhilesh Yadav and Awadhesh Prasad were seated in the first row on the Opposition bench-

Congress member Kodikunnil Suresh, DMK's T R Baalu and Trinamool Congress member Sudip Bandyopadhyay walked out of the House when the oath-taking began as a mark of protest over the appointment of Mahtab as Pro-tem Speaker. The three Opposition mem-

of chairpersons to assist the Pro-tem Speaker. The panel of chairpersons was administered oath immediately after Prime Minister Modi who is the leader of the 18th Lok Sabha. remain absent, the other two members named on the panel

- BJP's Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste were administered oath after the Prime Minister. Opposition members were heard raising the slogan "violation of Constitution" when the panel was sworn in.

Hugs and greetings marked the beginning of the 18th Lok Sabha as members walked into the cavernous chamber of the Lower House, with some touching the threshold reverentially as they embarked on the journey as public representatives.

First term lawmaker Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of BJP stalwart late Sushma Swaraj, was among the early entrants to the Lok Sabha chamber. She mingled with the fellow members, exchanging greetings and clicking photographs.

Members of the TDP, a kev ally of the BJP, sported yellow scarves while the Samajwadi

bers were named on the panel Party members walked in the of chairpersons to assist the Lok Sabha chamber wearing red caps and pale-red coloured 'gamchas'. They waved copies of the Hindi version of the Constitution.

TDP's K Ram Mohan Naidu, With Suresh, Baalu and the youngest member of the inet, hugged fellow minister Chirag Paswan of the LJP (RV) and warmly greeted Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

Actor-politician Ravi Kishan of the BJP came to the House dressed in a dhoti-kurta, while Anita Chouhan, the first-term BJP member from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, donned traditional attire.

BJP member from Meerut, Arun Govil, who played the role of Lord Ram in television serial Ramayan, was seen going around and greeting fellow members as he began his political innings.

Another actor-politician Kangana Ranaut, who won for the first time on a BJP ticket from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, entered the Lok Sabha chamber wearing a white saree. Both Ranaut and Govil were seen seated in the eighth and the ninth rows respectively. Former Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was seated in the

### Nadda questions Congress silence on TN hooch deaths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $B^{\text{JP chief JP Nadda on}}_{\text{Monday wrote to Congress}}$ president Mallikarjun Kharge, questioning the "stoic silence" of his party on the recent eral people dead in Tamil

Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy was entirely a "man-made disaster", Nadda said in his letter to Kharge, adding "perhaps if the deep nexus between the ruling DMK-INDI alliance dispensation and illicit liquor mafia did not exist today, 56 lives could have been saved". Nadda said the ghastly images of burning funeral pyres from Karunapuram village in Kallakurichi in the aftermath of Tamil Nadu's "worst ever" spurious liquor consumption tragedy, that has left 56 dead until now and almost 159 persons hospitalized. It has shaken the conscience of the entire nation". "Kharge ji, as you know, Karunapuram is largely populated by the Scheduled Castes, who face several challenges due to poverty and discrimination in Tamil Nadu. In light of this, I was shocked that when such a huge disaster has taken place, the Congress party



led by you, has maintained a stoic silence on this," the BJP president said. "Certain issues require us to rise above and beyond party lines and the welfare and safety of the SC, ST community is one such issue,"

Nadda asked Kharge to press upon the "DMK-INDI Alliance" Government in Tamil Nadu to go for a CBI probe and ensure the "immediate removal" of State Prohibition and Excise Minister S Muthusamy from his post.

He also demanded that the amount of compensation to the victims' families be enhanced to a "reasonable level".

"Kharge ji, today it is time to truly walk the talk on 'nyay' and not reduce it to a catchy campaign slogan, deployed for the launch of a failed political dynast. Today, the people of

Tamil Nadu and the entire SC community are witnessing the double speak of the Congress party and particularly of Rahul Gandhi and leaders of the INDI Alliance," the BJP chief

Suddenly, all the "sanctimo-Gandhi about the Constitution and ensuring the welfare and rights of SC/OBC community have stopped, he charged. "It is time to act Kharge ji.

Empty words, peddling fake narratives and hollow promises will not undo the 'anyay (injustice)' heaped upon the SC victims and their families by the DMK-INDI ALLIANCÉ government," he added.

The BJP chief also urged Kharge to pursue Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to either pay a visit to the victims' families or at least muster the courage to raise their voice on this issue rather than maintaining a "deafening selective, hypocritical silence

He further underlined that there seems to be "a penchant" for illegal liquor busi-ness and "sharab ghotala" (liquor scam) amongst various constituents of the Opposition's INDIA bloc, saying such "proclivities" damage the nation and society.

### Vaishnaw reviews progress of advanced ATP Kavach 4.0

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Facing flak over the failure of Kavach Train Protection system, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress of the advanced Protection System (ATP) Kavach 4.0 at the Rail Bhawan during the weekend.

Kavach 3.2 version is being installed on approved highdensity routes, the railway officials said, adding that upgrading and installation of the latest version on new routes will go on simultaneously to cover a wider railway network in a shorter period. "The three manufacturers of

Kavach who are in the advanced stage of testing version 4.0 presented its progress report to the minister," a senior railway official said about the review progress of Kavach 4.0 on Saturday. After reviewing it, the minister

directed that Kavach installation be taken up in a planned manner in mission mode as soon as it is ready, he added. The railway ministry maintains that the development of Kavach is a significant milestone in railway safety. In the past, Vaishnaw stated on



several occasions during interaction with the media that while most major railway systems in the world moved to ATP in the 1980s, the Indian Railways started this journey with the approval of the first version of the Train Collision Avoidance System in 2016.

In 2019, after rigorous trials and testing, this safety system received SIL4 certification, the highest level of safety certification in the world.

It was approved as a national ATP system in 2020 and despite the outbreak of COVID-19, testing and development continued, according to the Railways.

In 2021, version 3.2 of the system was certified and adopted and in the last quarter of 2022, work was started to install this version on high-density network routes of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah.

## India, UAE to expand cooperation into new areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI** 

 $E_{s.\ Jaishankar\ and\ his}^{\rm xternal\ Affairs\ Minister}$ United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan reviewed the multi-faceted India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the former's visit to UAE on Sunday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday.

Giving details, it said both the leaders expressed happiness at the substantive progress in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation including commercial and economic collaboration, fintech, education, culture, and people-topeople connect.

Jaishankar's visit follows the recent meeting between



also discussed new areas with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed untapped potential for further Al Nahyan on the margins of enhancing collaboration. the G7 Summit in Apulia, They also exchanged views on Italy, MEA said. regional and global issues.

During the visit, Jaishankar participated in the celebrations of the 10th International Day of Yoga in Abu Dhabi at Louvre Museum in Abu The event, which was organ-

ised by the Embassy in partnership with Louvre Abu Dhabi, witnessed the presence of multiple nationalities. Jaishankar also visited the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu

Dhabi, which was inaugurated by Modi in February this The External Affairs Minister expressed appreciation that the Mandir has become an iconic cultural destination in

the UAE with a large number of daily visitors. In less than 4 months, the Mandir has received one million visitors.

Jaishankar's visit to the UAE,

appointment, signifies the importance India attaches to its relations with the country. The visit marks the continuation of high-level contact between the two countries. Since July 2023, Prime Minister Modi has visited the

within two weeks of his re-

UAE thrice and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed has visited India twice. Last year, important milestones were achieved in bilat-

eral relations like the implementation of a local currency trade settlement agree-ment, the launch of UAE's domestic credit/debit card based on India's RuPay card stack, the setting up of a campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi, fintech collaboration, Anil Kumar Dip. and commencement of work on IMEEC, among others.

### India, Mauritius joint training on maritime security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

INS Sunayna concluded its visit to Port Louis, Mauritius, on June 22, Indian Navy said here on Monday. The two - day visit witnessed participation of Indian Navy and Mauritius National Coast Guard personnel during the 'Joint Yoga Session' on the occasion of the

International Day of Yoga. During the ship's visit, Commanding Officer of INS Sunayna Commander Prabhat Ranjan Mishra called on the Indian High Commissioner Nandini Singla, and the Commissioner of Police, MPF

The interaction highlighted operational engagement and



on various aspects of maritime security The ship crew took part in a

friendly volleyball match with Mauritius National Coast Guard (MNCG) personnel. In an outreach programme held at Gayasingh Ashram at Port Louis, medical screening of elderly and distribution of proing a helping hand to the community. The ship, which was open to visitors, saw more than 200 guests onboard. Post departure from Port Louis,

INS Sunayna proceeded on next phase of joint EEZ surveillance of Mauritius. Sea riders from MNCG embarked onboard ship for training exchanges.

# **Kuki-Zo hold rallies seeking** solution in violence-hit Manipur

Thousands of people from the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur's Churachandpur, Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal districts on Monday organised rallies to press for a Monday solution in the violence-hit state and a separate administration for them.

They also protested against cancellation of the Free Movement Regime with neighbouring Myanmar.

The Central government in February decided to fence the over 1,600 km stretch of the Indo-Myanmar border falling in the North East, and scrapped the Free Movement Regime. Four northeastern states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland - share a border with Myanmar.
Following the rally,

memorandum seeking political solution for the Kuki-Zo community was submitted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah via Churachandpur Commissioner



Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), the participants chanted slogans such as "no political solution, no peace" as they marched from the Public Ground to the Peace Ground, a distance of about 3 km, in Churachandpur district. BJP MLA Paolienlal Haokip from Saikot emphasised that for lasting peace, the government must engage directly in resolving issues. "We have persistently sought peace through various central channels, yet it remains Simultaneously, in Kangpokpi

district, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) organised a rally at Thomas Ground, where participants from across the district displayed banners advocating for a "political solution" for the Kuki-Zo people.

Security measures were tightened in both districts as Central and state forces were deployed at key points to prevent any untoward incidents during the rally. Additionally, a similar rally was conducted in Tengnoupal district by the Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal.

## Revanna remanded in CID custody till July 1



**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Acourt here on Monday remanded JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, who has been arrested in connection with a case of alleged sexual abuse of a man, in the custody of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) till July one. Suraj Revanna, brother of former MP Prajwal Revanna who is facing allegations of sexually abusing several women, was arrested by police in Hassan on Sunday. The case was then handed over to the CID by the state Government. After shifting him to Bengaluru from Hassan, the CID had on Sunday night produced the 37-year-old before the 42nd Additional

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (ACMM) judge, who remanded him in judicial custody for 14 days

The police have filed an FIR against him under IPC (unnatural offences), 342 (wrongful confinement), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common following intention) complaint filed by the 27-yearold, a JD(S) worker, who alleged that he was sexually assaulted on June 16 by the MLC at his farmhouse in Ghannikada. . After getting the case file, the CID approached the court on Monday seeking his custody. The judge remanded him to their custody

Suraj Revanna. Who is the eldest son of Holenarasipura MLA H D Revanna and grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, has categorically denied the charge. He had also alleged that the JD(S) worker had filed a "false complaint" in a bid to extent Re five cross from him extort Rs five crore from him. On Friday, the police registered a case of extortion against the man on a complaint by Suraj Revanna's close Shivakumar.

Shivakumar had alleged that the party worker was trying to extort money from Suraj Revanna by threatening to lodge a false case of sexual abuse against him.

It has been alleged that while the man demanded Rs five crore from Suraj Revanna, later it was reduced to Rs two crore. Suraj's father was arrested allegedly recently for kidnapping a sexual abuse victim of Prajwal Revanna to prevent her from testifying against the former MP, and is out on bail. His mother Bhavani Revanna has secured anticipatory bail in the same

### Khandu expresses dismay over slow pace of highway construction

**PTI** ■ ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday expressed dismay over the slow progress in constructing a stretch of National Highway-415 between Papu Nallah near Naharlagun to Nirjuli in Itanagar Capital Region. Chairing a review meeting to assess the damage caused to the stretch, as well as other areas in the state capital due to a cloudburst on Sunday, Khandu strongly criticised the 'dismally construction of the four-lane highway, which has been causing significant inconvenience to commuters. Instructing highway officials department expedite the work without compromising on quality, Khandu said, "The delay is

issue. "Ensuring timely completion and maintenance of our infrastructure projects is crucial for the benefit of our

causing immense harassment

to the public, and swift action

is required to address the

citizens and development," minister said. Expressing concern over the damage caused by the cloudburst in the state capital and adjoining areas, Khandu

directed

and prevent disruption to people's routines. Advisor to PWD Minister Phurpa Tsering, principal secretary Kaling Tayeng, and top PWD officials attended

departments to immediately

undertake repair work

especially on the highway, to ensure smooth traffic flow

the meeting. A cloudburst on Sunday morning triggered several landslides and a flood-like situation in Itanagar. Several portions of the road on NH-415 and houses near Energy Park were damaged in the

### OBC activist Hake takes swipe at Jarange

Making demands on the basis of mob strength is unconstitution aldictatorial and will disturb peace in Maharashtra, OBC activist Laxman Hake said on Monday in a swipe at Maratha quota spearhead Manoj Jarange.Hake, who was on a hunger strike since June 13 to protect the interests of the Other Backward Classes, ended his stir a couple of days ago in Jalna after a state government delegation met him. Hake and his supporters have been opposing Jarange's demand for issuance of Kunbi certificates to the Maratha community to avail quota benefits and have asserted

Mumbai, Jun 24 (PTI) Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anil Parab on Monday demanded

that 50 per cent homes in new residential

projects in Mumbai be reserved for Marathi-

speaking people, whose number he claimed, is

Addressing a press conference here, Parab, a

multiple-time MLC who is now contesting the

June 26 Legislative Council elections from the

Mumbai graduates constituency, said Marathi-

speaking people are being denied homes in the

financial capital, forcing them to shift out of

the city. The former state minister claimed the

population of Marathi speakers in Mumbai

was declining. "There should be a 50 per cent

reservation for them in new residential

projects," he said and pushed for enactment of

a law in this regard. Marathi speakers should

get affordable houses in Mumbai, Parab

asserted. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said last

vear he had submitted a non-official bill in the

Legislative Council as an opposition member,

seeking a 50 per cent reservation for them in

new residential projects. The bill is likely to

come up for discussion in the Upper House of

the legislature in the monsoon session starting

declining in the metropolis.



must not take any decision Jalna, Hake that affects OBCs. Speaking to demands (of Jarange) are

projects in Mumbai for Marathi

on June 27, he said.

afford to buy them.

**Telangana Deputy CM promises Govt help** 

to tribal woman tortured by four persons

Parab maintained that besides large houses

speakers: Sena (UBT) leader

Reserve 50% homes in new

reporters from a hospital in dictatorial and will disturb

Making demands on the basis strength mob unconstitutional and dictatorial. There is a judgement that says considering Marathas and Kunbis as one is foolishness.' "Elected representatives should read such court judgements. If people making the law are unaware of these facts then it is dangerous, Hake added. On Jarange's claim that NCP leader and

Hake said the quota activist can say anything, adding that such statements were meant to boost the morale of supporters and need not be

Bhujbal wants to disturb

minister Chhagan

/we, Rajeev Saluja Son of Shri Tilak Raj Saluja and Smt. Anita Saluja wife of Shri Rajeev Saluia both Resident of 378, Wes Guru Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, Do hereby inform that I/we hereby De-bar/Disown our son Khushal Saluia Resident of 378, West Guru Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 from all our Movable and Immovable Properties with mmediate effect, due to his had habbits right or claim in any of our Moveable and

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

we. DEEPAK KUMAR BHARDWAJ Sor f Late Shri J.N. Bhardwaj and Sarita Bhardwaj wife of Shri Deepak Kuma Bhardwai both resident of 9/766. Firs Floor, Lodhi Colony, Lodhi Road Central Delhi, Delhi-110003 do hereby inform tha I/we do hereby Disown/Debar our sor Anirudh Bhardwaj and Daughter in Law Shefali wife of Anirudh Bhardwaj from all our Moveble and Immoveable Properties with immediate effect due to their bad habbits and misbehavior. I/we inform that we shall not be responsible for any act done by them. That Anirudh Bhardwaj and Daughter in Law Shefali wife of Anirudh Bhardwaj shall not be entitled for any of our Moveable and Immoveable Deepak Kumar Bhardwaj

PUBLIC NOTICE smaller apartments measuring up to 500 square feet should be constructed as well by sitEATER NOIDA GAUTAM BUDHNAGAR U.P. hat the following Original documents of the aforesal roperty are have been lost/misplaced-1) Letter (allothent issued by M/S STELLAR CONSTELLATO ROLICETS PYT. LID. In favor Off MR. MANOJ KUMAHated 19.11.2012. 2) Offer of Possession issued by M/STELLAR CONSTELLATION ROLICETS PYT. LID. The State of MR. MANOJ KUMAHATED AND STELLAR CONSTELLATION ROLICETS PYT. LID. The Constitution of the MR. MANOJ KUMAR, dated 04.06.2015. 3) Demian loice dated 04.06.2015. 4) Two Receipts Date 1.05.2012. One Receipt dated 20.10.2012. On Except dated 20.10.2012. One Receipt dated 29.05.2013, On Receipt dated 04.08.2013, One Receipt dated 7.09.2013. One Receipt dated 05.00.2013, I'm Receipt dated 07.08.2013. Two Receipts dated 7.09.2013. On Receipt dated 05.00.2013, Two Receipts dated 10.12.2013 & Two Receipts dated 20.06.2013. The Rece realtors so that Marathi-speaking people can eceipts dated 10.12.2013 & Two Receipts dated to 20.05.2015. 5) Tripartite Sub-Lease Deed executed by NIDA and Mis STELLAR CONSTELLATION PROJECTS /T.LTD. in favor of MR. MANOJ KUMAR, July registered SADAR: GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, Vide Doc. No. 8776. ok no.1, volume no. 20129, pages 35 to 78, dated Cal. 2016. If anybody/person/entity misuses the oresaid property documents then my clients will hold first exclusive right. The said property will not be capted against the mortgage (except. my clients aim) in any such cases. And no claim shall be accepted the basis of the aforesaid documents.

\*\*Avmeet Tripartin, Advocate Office At-SC-53, Jalpuriya Sunrise Plaza dirapuram, Ghaziabad, UP, Mob. 9689066717

#### and Nirdosh Tripathi which maybe mended accordingly.

Be it known to all that my client **Sh. Dhir Singh Behnwal** (Aadhar no. 5335 0399 1198) S/o Sh. Nanak Chand Behnwal, R/o RZI - 136, old plot Nanak Chand Behmwal, Kyo Kz - 13b, olo piof 134, Mahavir enclave, Palam village, Delhi -110045 have Disowned and debarred his son namely Yashwant Singh Beniwal @yash @yashu (Aadhar card 6579 6239 3590) from all moveable and immoveable properties because his behavior is not appropriate and has caused mental harassment to my client & my client has severed all relations with him. Anyone dealing with him may do so at his/her own risk, costs and consequences. My client shall not be responsible for any act or omission done by them. MOHIT SHARMA, Advocate En. No. D/2857/2014

# THE PIONEER (

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajeev Kumar Agarwal S/o Late Shri Surinder Prakash Agarwal R/o: J-265 Papel Nagar I Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201001 Have Changed My Name From Rajeev Agarwal To Rajeev Kumar Agarwal For All Future Purposes.

PD(544)A

#### PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Savit

Devi has acquired Upper Ground Floor without roo ights area 108 sq. yds., Khasra No. 30/1/1, Gali Ni 2. situated at Village Jharadda Majra Burau. Bhawai Park, Delhi vide GPA dt. 24.03.2014 executed by Mi Tarn Sharma along with ATS & Regd. Will execute by Mrs. Harsha Sharma. Now Mrs. Savitri Devi is th indisputed owner of above said property.

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, licens gift, possession, legal heirs, partners encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is here required to intimate in writing to the undersigns within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with al supporting documents at below mentioned addres After expiration of notice period, the claims if any, such person shall be treated null and void and als treated as waived and not binding our client. Ajay Kumar Giri, Advocate, H.No. 26/161, Basemer Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi-110024

महाप्रबंधक (सं./नि.)

मध्यप्रदेश लघ उद्योग निगम मर्यादित कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक (संपदा/निर्माण), संभाग-भोपाल पंचानन भवन द्वितीय तल, मालवीय नगर, भोपाल (म.प्र.) **व्यक्ति** दूरभाष : 0755-2673195, E-mail- laghubpl2@gmail.com क्र.: लउनि/निर्माण/संभाग/भोपाल/2024-25/02 भोपाल, दिनांक: 24.06.2024

#### निविदा आमंत्रण सुचना

निम्न कार्य की निविदा ई-टेण्डरिंग पद्धति से वेबसाइट https://www. mptenders.gov.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :- कार्य का नाम- पंचानन भवन मालवीय नगर. भोपाल के छठवें तल पर इंटीरियर, फर्नीशिंग, रिनोवेशन, आंतरिक विद्यतीकरण, सिविल एवं अन्य कार्य, अनमानित लागत राशि रु 249.99 लाख। निविदा बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.07.2024 सायं 05.30 बजे तक। निविदा की समस्त जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट पर दी जावेगी। निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है, तो वह उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है। बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत अथवा निरस्त करने का अधिकार निगम के पास सुरक्षित है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/115023/2024

#### 3 more Deputy CMs in Karnataka Some of the Ministers in the Deputy Chief Minister in the cabsaid to be of the opinion that state-Siddaramaiah-led cabinet have been pitching for deputy chief "Party will decide.....I don't know minister posts to be given to leadabout all those things, ers from Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Shivakumar told reporters in SC/ST and minority communiresponse to a question on three

Congress Ministers again push for

With demand for three more Deputy Chief Ministers in Karnataka once again coming to the fore, the State Congress chief D K Shivakumar on Monday said the party's central leadership will

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Brij

Tiwari R/o flat number 301, Tower-1

Lotus boulevard, Sector-100, Noida,

Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. (201301)

declare that name of mine and my wife

has been wrongly written as Brij Chandra

and Nirdosh in my PPO NO.

S/CORR/108796/98. The actual name of

mine and my wife is Brij Chandra Tripathi

Currently, Shivakumar from the

Vokkaliga community is only the

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that

110017, namely (i) DDA Paper Demand

cum Allotment letter, and (ii) Possession

Letter has been lost or misplaced.

Lodged FIR No. 1776009/2024 dated

30.05.2024 by existing Owners of the Flat

Ms. Rashmi Taneia, if found please

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्लाट संख्या - 01, सैक्टर - नॉलेज पार्क- 4

सार्वजनिक सूचना

तकम में UP- apartment act&-2010,

amendment 2016 in section-4 sub

ection-B के अंतर्गत परियोजना के आवंटियों सं

आपत्ति / सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाने का प्रावधान है

स सम्बन्ध में विकास करता द्वारा प्रस्तुत स्वीकृ

मानचित्र एवं Declaration as per UF apartment act-2010 परिक्षण किसी र्भ

हार्यदिवस में सबह 9.30 से 6 बजे के मध्य नियोज**-**

विभाग तथा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट पर किया ज

सकता है। अतः परियोजना के आवंटियों द्वा

Senction Map एवं Declaration as per UF

apartment act-2010 के सम्बन्ध में सुच-प्रकाशित करने के 30 दिनों के अंदर आपत्तियां

सुझाव आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त के निहिता

अपनी आपत्तियां लिखित रूप में अपने आवंटन पत्र

नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नंबर के साथ कार्यालय समय

कार्यदिवस ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रसाशनिव

कार्यालय भूखण्ड संख्या -1, नॉलेज पार्क- 4, ग्रेटर

सम्बोधित करते हुए सुचना प्रकाशित होने के 30

महाप्रबंधक (नियो० / वास्तु०)

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

नौएडा स्थित महाप्रबंधक (नियोजन/वास्तुo)

contact at Mobile No. 9720121081

more Deputy CMs and changing the party state President. A section within the Congress is

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Shiv Bhagat Dhurnendra, S/o

ment by the Ministers was part of a plan by Siddaramaiah's camp to keep Shivakumar in check, amid talks he might seek the CM post after two-and-half years of this government's tenure and to counter his influence both in the government and party.

#### ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS pertaining to DDAMIG Flat No. 40, Ground Floor, RPS

Shiv Bhagat Madhuri, R/o House No. 106, Paparavat, South West Delhi, due to personal reasons, sever all relations with my father Shiv Bhagat Madhuri, mother Parmila Devi, brother Amar Kumar Sharma and Shiv Bhagat Somnath. will be held accountable for any actions I take in the future

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mohalla, Dera Village, Dera, South Delhi, ग्रेटर नोएडा सिटी, जिला गौतम बुद्ध नगर, (उО प्रO) 110074 disowned her son Sonu has severed all her relations with her son Sonu due to his bad habits and disrespectful behavior towards my client and rest of the family. My client has M/s Diligent Builders Pvt. Ltd. পুর্ত্তা संख्या GH -15D, Sector 1, Greater Noida moveable and immovable property. Anybody को दिनांक 27.07.2011 को मानचित्र की स्वीकृति deal with him at their own risk and cost. My Client shall not be responsible for any act ed or dealing done by Sonu. मानचित्र स्वीकृति हेतु दिनांक 20.05.2024 को आवेदन किया गया है, जिसका आवेदन संख्या 34435 Anis Mohammad (Advocate) (D-962/09)

K-23-A, Basement, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110014

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Kaur Sharma intends to purchase Entire First Floor without roof rights of builtup Property No. WZ-246, measuring 200 Sq.Yards, Plot No. F-46, Khasra No. 693-700 & 798, 801, at Shiv Nagar, Village Tihar, New Delhi from Mrs. Preeti Kaur & Ms. Jaspreet Kaur (present owner) who had lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed Document No. 13453, dated 19.05.2012 in favour of Mr. Ravinder Singh Grover and my client is mortgaging the same to LIC HFL, If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear. Karnail Singh, Advocate,

K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363. E-Tender Notice No. 66/W-2/APDJ

Dated: 19-06-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 30length extension of Minor Bridge No. 78,79,96,130 and repairs to tilted wing wall of Bridge no. 57 in BG-1 section. Tender Value: ₹1,24,41,789.61 Earnest Money: ₹2,12,200/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 13.00 hrs. of 11-07-2024 & opening at 15.00 hrs of 11-07-2024 The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in

DRM (W), Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

### CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg. 25 of 2024; dated: 12-06-2024. E enders are invited by the undersigned or the following work: Tender No.1 Brief Description of Work: Protection work of Major & Minor bridges under the jurisdiction of ADEN/I/Katihar (Total = 36 Nos.). Tender Value: ₹4,44,15,690.29, Bid Security: ₹3,72,100,00, Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work: At Purnia Jn.: Construction of Transi Accommodation for ADEN/Purnia Jn. a Purnia Station. Tender Value ₹23,68,493.88, Bid Security ₹47,400.00. E-tenders will be closed a 15:00 hrs. on 15-07-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 15-07-2024. The omplete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 15-07-2024 website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

DRM (Works), Katiha

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM** 

**PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT** OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP) ARR&TI COMPLEX FATASIL AMBARI GUWAHATI-25.Email: cea.apwd@nic.in

RFB No.: CE/APART/37/2023/9

#### **REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the APART Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below

SL. No.	Package no.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security (INR)	Tender Processing fees (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	APART/NOCP/ ROADS/HOJ- 05	Construction of Road from Darjisit to Jamunasit via South Laskar Pathar (Extension) under World Bank Funded APART in Hojai District	246.79	4,93,580	5000	6

The bidding documents are available online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in from 27/06/2024 to 29/07/2024. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before 14:00 Hours on 29/07/2024. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in by selecting "Pay Online" option.

Janasanyog/CF/373/24/25-June-2024

Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

#### PTI ■ HYDERABAD ¬elangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday called on the Chenchu tribal woman who was allegedly tortured for a week by four persons in Nagarkurnool district and assured that the government would take care of medical treatment, besides extending other help. Vikramarka met the woman

at the state-run Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) here. The woman, who was initially

treated at a state-run hospital in Nagarkurnool district, was shifted to the NIMS for better treatment Expressing anguish over the

attack on the 27-year-old

woman, Vikramarka said the

government would take care

of her treatment till she

recovers fully. The government would provide a house to her under the Indiramma poor people's housing if she does not own a house, education for her children in a state-run social welfare school and also land

for cultivation, he said. Observing that the accused have already been sent to jail on remand, the deputy chief minister said the government would take tough measures obtaining information on the incident. Vikramarka was accompanied by state Excise

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who had met her earlier at the Nagarkurnool hospital. Four persons were arrested for allegedly torturing the Chenchu tribal woman after

she did not turn up for work in a agricultural land, police said on June 22. The woman was assaulted by the four accused, including her sister and brother-in-law

in Molachintalapally village of Nagarkurnool district. She was rescued after some villagers took up the matter with the police.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Hajj tragedy

The tragic loss of pilgrims' lives demands better preparation from pilgrims and a more effective response from the Saudi Govt

■his year marks one of the most tragic incidents for Hajj pilgrims, with 98 Indians confirmed dead. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has verified that these deaths occurred due to an unprecedented heatwave in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. This calamity unfolded amidst one of the most severe heat conditions in recent years, which saw temperatures rising above 45 degrees Celsius, leading to the deaths of over 1,000 pilgrims from various countries. High temperatures combined with intense humidity resulted in a multitude of heat-related illnesses among pilgrims, particularly affecting the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. Medical facilities were overwhelmed with cases of heatstroke and dehydration, leading to a staggering number of fatalities. The victims included significant numbers from Egypt, Indonesia, and Jordan, underscoring the global reach of the tragedy and the dire need for improved safety measures during the pilgrimage. The Hajj pilgrimage annually



draws millions of Muslims to Mecca. Despite Saudi Arabia's extensive efforts to safeguard pilgrims, there have been many tragic incidents. Health issues have also been a major factor in pilgrim fatalities, with heatrelated illnesses being particularly common. The extreme heat and physical exertion can cause dehydration, heatstroke, and other complications. In 2018, dozens of pilgrims succumbed to heat exhaustion due to the severe temperatures typical of Saudi Arabia during the summer.

The devastating impact of this heatwave can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the effects of climate change are increasingly evident, with rising global

temperatures leading to more frequent and intense heat waves. This has particularly exacerbated the harsh climatic conditions in the Middle East, making such events more severe and life-threatening. Secondly, despite significant investments in infrastructure to accommodate the vast number of pilgrims, the extreme weather overwhelmed the existing facilities, hampering efforts to provide adequate medical care and cooling solutions. Lastly, there was a general lack of preparedness among many pilgrims for the severe heat conditions. Many were not adequately informed or equipped to handle such extreme weather, lacking sufficient hydration and protective measures, which significantly contributed to the high mortality rate. To prevent such tragedies in the future, several measures need to be implemented. Enhanced weather monitoring and real-time heat alerts could significantly improve preparedness among both pilgrims and authorities. By introducing a robust system for heatwave warnings and disseminating crucial information about necessary precautions, future risks can be mitigated. Additionally, improving the infrastructure to provide more shaded areas, cooling centres, and hydration stations along the pilgrimage routes is essential to prevent heat-related health issues.



nbers of the Tibetan community and others during the arrival of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, in New York

# Development amid tolerance for corruption



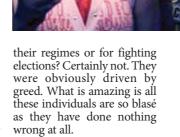
Despite global scrutiny, the systemic corruption persists, raising questions about the future of India's democracy and its socio-political landscape

few days ago, an old American acquaintance American acquaintainer happened to be passing through Delhi en route to Calcutta. He was all praise for the noticeable progress India has made in the last ten years, which was admirable by any standards, he admitted. But he was nonplussed at how the same Indians tolerate so much corruption, so widely advertised and widespread. He had learnt that some chief ministers were currently in jail. What amazes people in the US, he told me, is how good Indian folks are willing to tolerate this scale of misconduct that draws much negative publicity the world over.

Some years ago, Japan had a prime minister who had to go to jail. But the Japanese were highly embarrassed and there has been no repetition of it, as far as we know. What my American acquaintance was laying stress upon is that there appears to be no shame or embarrassment due to the continual coverage of this phenomenon.

It isn't as if there is no corruption elsewhere in the world. Former US President and again the challenger for the Presidency in 2024, Donald Trump has been convicted of felony by a New York court. This is a crime more serious than misdemeanour. A couple of days ago, Hunter Biden, son of the incumbent President Joe Biden has been found guilty of concealing facts about his use of drugs. India's record in not only tolerating, but also rewarding tainted chief ministers and politicians is highly 'illustrious'.

Lalu Prasad Yadav, former chief minister of Bihar, was convicted and jailed for defalcation of Rs.600 crores from the state budget meant for cattle fodder, in a country whose people worship the cow. The late Jayalalitha, former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, once a shining star of the silver screen, too had to go to jail owing to corruption. Lately, chief ministers like Shibu Soren of Jharkhand and Arvind Kejriwal of Deini are bening bars for their involvement in corruption scams running into thousands of crores of rupees. Did they need the



I have, over the years, had the opportunity to meet punished thieves and criminals. Some protested to me that they had been 'over-punished', but did not in the least look embarrassed, nor said they wished they hadn't done what they did. Such people also boldly contest elections again and again, campaign enthusiastically, and often win with thumping majority. The message is that they voters did not disapprove in the least.

What do sociologists have to say about this phenomenon? Most voters are people who are likely to be honest, or at least expect honesty from others in their own lives, but happily tolerate their leaders pocketing public money on a large scale. Doesn't it occur to them that some of that money is their own hard-earned wealth?

The late Indira Gandhi had justified corruption by deciar ing it to be a "global phenomenon" and asking, "Which country is free of corruption? money for their survival, running Many a politician of her time



FOR THE LAST TEN

YEARS, INDIA HAS BEEN FORTUNATE TO BE RULED BY A PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS BEEN UNRELENTING AND UNCOMPROMISING IN HIS CRUSADE **AGAINST** CORRUPTION, MOST **ARTICULATELY** 

**DEFINED BY HIS** OWN MAXIM, 'NA KHAOONGA NA KHANE DOONGA'

took this to be a signal of approval for gorging on public money unhindered. Her elder son, when he was Prime Minister, was involved in a major corruption scandal over the purchase of Bofors artillery gun. Dr. Manmohan's Singh's regime was littered with mega scams of corruption throughout its ten years in office. Corruption and endless appeasement of a particular religious minority.

If any of his ministers were convicted or had to go to jail, Singh's defence was that they were coalition partners and not of his party. What could he therefore do?

That apart, he had no qualms in publicly declaring that Muslims must have first claim on the country's resources and that 15 per cent of resources would be allotted to them by default. While this may not fall in the category of corruption, it does amount to moral turpitude.

What does this portend for the future of democracy, especially in India? For the last ten years, India has been fortunate to de ruied dy a Prime Milnistei who has been unrelenting and uncompromising in his crusade against corruption, most articulately defined by his own

THE EDITOR

maxim, "Na Khaoonga Na Khane Doonga" (I won't steal nor allow others to).

His measures and steps, beginning from demonetization, exposing and extinguishing fake shell companies, nonexistent NGOs, streamlining of the country's tax system through GST, harshness against corrupt politicians and officials including sending them to jail have made him an admired global leader.

It is no coincidence that India has become the world's fifth largest economy and is poised to become the third largest; this is directly related to Modi's unrelenting and uncompromising war on corruption. But it is also true that a segment of the people, used to the entrenched, corrupt ways of earlier regimes, making money without effort, and enjoying office or power without any accountability or fear of punishment, and suddenly forced to confront a world they don't like, might have suffered and felt aggrieved. The BJP losing seats in this election is a reflection of that as well.

( The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed

### The impact of competitive exam paper leaks on students



The paper leaks have profound emotional effects on students. To mitigate the ill effects of such incidents, it is crucial for the Govt to act swiftly and transparently

ne Nation One Examination is a novel venture initiated to provide equal opportunities to all students nationwide. This eliminates discrepancies in the difficulty and content of regional or state-level exams, providing a level playing field for all students. Such standardization can help in objectively identifying academic strengths and weaknesses, fostering a more meritocratic education system. With a single set of scores, universities and colleges can more easily compare applicants from different regions. This can reduce the complexity and confusion associated with multiple entrance exams, making the process more transparent and straightforward for students and institutions alike. The integrity of competitive exams is fundamental to ensuring a meritocratic education system. When a competitive exam is cancelled due to question paper leakage, it undermines the trust and hard work of students, creating a cascade of irreparable negative impacts. These

repercussions are immedi-

ate, practical, deeply psycho-



logical, and long-lasting. At the core of any competitive exam lies the promise of fairness and equal opportunity. When a question paper is leaked, this promise is shattered. Students who have spent months or even years preparing for the exam feel betrayed by the system that was supposed to impartially evaluate their hard work. This breach of trust can lead

to a pervasive sense of cyni-

cism and disillusionment

among students. The emotional and psychological impact of such cancellations is profound. Students invest significant emotional energy in preparing for these exams. The cancellation, especially under such scandalous circumstances, can lead to intense feelings of frustration, anger, and helplessness. The resulting anxiety and stress can have severe mental health

experiencing symptoms of depression and burnout. The sudden cancellation of these exams can throw students' academic timelines into disarray. Admissions processes get delayed, and students are left in limbo, unsure about the next steps. This is particularly challenging for students at critical transition points, such as those finishing high school or undergraduate studies or people waiting to get college jobs. The uncertainty about rescheduled exams or alternative assessment methods adds another

layer of stress, The financial impact of such cancellations is significant. Students often have to travel long distances to the examination centres. The cancellation of exams can severely dent students' motivation and morale. The idea that unethical behaviour can disrupt and devalue their honest efforts is deeply demoralizing. This can lead to a decline in academic engagement and enthusiasm. Students may question the value of hard work and integrity when such incidents occur, potentially leading to a loss of interest in implications, with students their studies or future exams.

The tendency to move to foreign countries for education may even increase because of

The cancellation of competitive exams due to question paper leakage has far-reaching and profound effects on students. The immediate breach of trust and fairness and emotional, academic, and financial repercussions create a challenging landscape for affected students. Providing mental health support to affected students and offering financial assistance to those incurring additional expenses can help alleviate some of the burdens. Implementing more robust security measures using AI technologies and providing severe punishment to those who are involved in malpractices can bring back the confidence of society in the 'One Nation One Exam' system. By learning from these incidents and making necessary reforms, the education system can emerge stronger and more resilient.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; views are personal)

#### **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN BENGAL**

Madam Editor— Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent discussions with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscore both nations' commitment to strengthening their bilateral ties. This marks the first state visit by a foreign leader since the new BJP-led NDA government took office. The agreements signed between New Delhi and Dhaka cover a broad range of areas including maritime cooperation, blue economy, railway connectivity, space sector, digital partnerships, healthcare, and defense production. Hasina acknowledged the support of India and the Congress-led government, under former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in Bangladesh's liberation in 1971. Last November, under pressure from both the Bangladeshi opposition and the US, Prime Minister Modi's participation in the virtual inauguration of three infrastructure projects gave a significant boost to Hasina's election campaign.

A key outcome from their recent interaction is India's decision to send a technical team to Bangladesh for a major project to conserve the Teesta River, a project that China has shown interest in. As Hasina prepares for her upcoming visit to China, her rapport with India will be tested. Meanwhile, India, asserting its independent foreign policy, continues to strengthen ties with Dhaka despite US criticisms of the Awami League government's human rights record and electoral conduct.

#### Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai **PARLIAMENTARY DISRUPTIONS**

Madam Editor — Regarding 'LS Session to See Fireworks' (June 24), the opposition is poised to create a tumultuous parliamentary session with a plethora of issues, including the BJP's lack of a majority, the Bengal railway accident, irregularities in the NEET examination, disputes over the Speaker's election, fire

accidents, penal laws, inflation, and

### **Liquor tragedy calls for stern action**



he recent Kallakurichi liquor tragedy, which resulted in the deaths of many people, is being used more as a political weapon to seek revenge against the ruling

tion to the pervasive social evil of illicit liquor trade, facilitated by predatory elements in society. The BJP's vociferous criticism overlooks its own silence during a similar incident in Gujarat in 2022, where 27 people died. It's clear that such illegal activities cannot thrive without the complicity of political figures across party lines and the overt support of officials who have been compromised. Therefore, politicians found involved in such activities should face a 15-year ban from contesting any elections. Officials implicated in supporting these operations should be dismissed from their positions. Compensation for victims should be funded by assets seized from these political leaders and officials, not from public funds

party than as an impetus to find a lasting solu-

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

unemployment. The opposition's increased numbers in the current Lok Sabha will likely lead to significant obstruction of the ruling party's agen-

The NDA must acknowledge this reality and accommodate the opposition's demands to ensure smooth and effective parliamentary proceedings. If the pattern of frequent disruptions continues, leading to repeated adjournments, it might be more prudent to adjourn the session sine die to conserve public funds and maintain the country's reputation. O. Prasada Rao | Hyderabad

#### **IMPACT OF TRAIN CANCELLATIONS**

Madam Editor— For the past year, numerous key trains have been canceled in the Waltair Railway Division under the East Coast Railway, impacting thousands of regular travelers. The Railway Department has focused on operating Vande Bharat trains, which generate significant revenue, while frequently canceling popular passenger trains on the pretext of ongoing development work

and safety inspections in the Vijayawada division of the South Central Railway Trains like the Ratnachal, Simhadri, Janmabhoomi Express, Uday Express, and others have been repeatedly canceled. Recently, another Vande Bharat Express was launched on the Secunderabad route and to Bhubaneswar, leading to further cancellations of regular trains.

From June 24th to August 10th, eight pairs of daily trains from Visakhapatnam to Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Secunderabad have been canceled by the Waltair Division. Under the guise of modernising the railways, the department is increasing the number of high-revenue Vande Bharat trains while reducing the number of passenger trains relied upon by common travelers. The Govtmust intervene to ensure that train services for regular passengers are maintained and expanded to meet their needs.

Gonapa Appanna | Visakhapatnam

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com the pioneer



## **FIRST COLUMN**

### THE POWER OF **SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

These practices provide a pathway to inner strength and a connection with the Divine



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e wonder or should if we can experience the effects of spiritual activities, if we do them. There are many such activities. I have chosen ten most prominent ones to detail what they do for us. Additionally, I will try to indicate what they do in totality even if we choose only some of them, depending upon their suitability to us. Our natures are determining factors in both choosing them and our ability to do them over a long period of time. After all, their effect is not gross like eating a sweet and enjoying its taste. All spiritual activities leave subtle effect on us, but can be experienced. The only condition is to be openminded. A negative or critical attitude will prevent realizing their effects. Beginning with praying, this is most natural to do; even children pray when troubled or are in need of something. Does God respond? He surely does but not necessarily in ways we desire, because we must deserve

Our effort will not go to waste. The next is remembering; we all do. It is so natural; God is very much part of our lives at least for us Indians the blessed lot. Why? Because spirituality is never far from us from childhood itself; it is in our blood. Reward will be similar to praying. The third is having 'darshan' (seeing) of a Deity in a temple. A good percentage of us have a pooja ghar in our homes, where we can have darshan easily. Rest of us, at least most of us, have calendars with photos of God's 'avatars' (incarnations). The immediate benefit is that we feel good and hopeful. Seeing God is that wonderful.

The fourth most common spiritual activity is to chant God's names or just Ohm. This has such an effect that once started, one will continue repeating names like Rama. We, Indians, almost always do 'naman' (namaskar), especially, when we are in front of a Deity. What does it do? The most wonderful thing, which it does is to inculcate humility in us, thus keeping our egos in check. Many of us thank God if something good happens in our lives. What it does is to make us deserving of more good times, and they surely come. Reading scriptures is not that common, but is not that rare also. Hanuman Chalisa is very popular; I started my spiritual journey in this life by memorizing Hanuman Chalisa.



Another popular spiritual activity is hearing (sermons) in temples or other places. They make us wiser. The last one is doing 'dhyan' (meditation). Its benefits are widely known and do not require repetition.

Now turning to overall benefits of doing spiritual activities. When we do them, we gain the company of God. Aren't we connecting with Him? Spiritual energy will flow into us. This is very special, because it increases our 'atmabala' (inner strength).

Additionally, God takes notice of us, just as a principal notices a bright or a talented student. We remain in His watch, if we are sincere in progressing on this path. Lord begins to promote us, as He did in my case. The concept of big picture was taking root.

Faith in God began increasing, as did faith in the 'Karmaphala Principle'. I began to understand what fate was, i.e. accumulated karmaphala over past lives, which had yet to come to fruition. I also realized that God does not interfere in their coming, but can help us to successfully deal with them. Maya's influence began to lessen, and the 'dhundha' (ignorance) was not so overpowering. I became encouraged to seek guidance from God about what I should be doing, rather than whimsically deciding my actions. Dharma began to come naturally to me, as did praying earnestly for help. I knew in my heart that I was very small, helpless, ignorant and unsafe. Only God can help, and He began taking care of me. Not only that, He began using me as His 'nimitta' (instrument). I was encouraged to write spiritual texts, about which my Lord began to guide

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# Beauty-wellness sector is propelling employability

By strategically nurturing this sector, India can leverage its demographic advantage to create a robust workforce ready to excel both domestically and globally



et us not get too carried away with everything we do. It's important to regularly reflect on our strategies and thoroughly evaluate the results. An unbiased assessment makes things much simpler for us. In the realm of skill development, taking action, maintaining consistency, and adhering to a routine are crucial. Leveraging the demographic advantage requires serious planning rather than being just a game. It involves building capacity, creating infrastructure, and grooming manpower to impart skills to our young population, making them capable of finding employment both domestically and internationally. The India Skills Report indicates a 52.8% increase in employability for women and 47.2% for men. Women have surpassed men in terms of employability, particularly in areas such as nursing, beauty and wellness, and other soft skills, which have shown the highest employabilit among women in the post-COVID era. The beauty and wellness sector not only holds vast potential for women but also for men in both domestic and global markets. The sector's unprecedented growth has resulted in a significant demand for semi-skilled and skilled professionals in the country. Currently, the beauty and wellness sec-

tor employs approximately 12.3 million people, with 66% of them being women and a considerable portion not only from lower socio-economic backgrounds but a lot of aspirants urging from decent educated families. It is projected that by 2027, the Indian Beauty and Wellness sector  $\ will \ of fer \ employment \ opportunities \ to \\$ around 20.3 million people.

Interestingly, about 44% of the workforce in the beauty and wellness sector possess educational qualifications equivalent to or less than secondary education with limited access to technical training. There are opportunities for greater adoption of vocational education, particular-



THE BEAUTY AND WELLNESS INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY IS **EXPERIENCING EXPONENTIAL** GROWTH, AT A PACE TWICE AS FAST AS THE MARKETS IN THE **UNITED STATES** AND EUROPE ly in segments such as salon services, beauty, fitness, nutrition, and yoga, which are showing increased acceptance of vocational education. Furthermore, the growing demand for services like nutrition consulting, fitness coaching, and nutraceuticals has resulted in new and diverse career opportunities that can be pursued by young individuals, who require skill enhancement and vocational education in Beauty and

The Beauty and Wellness industry in the country is experiencing exponential growth, at a pace twice as fast as the markets in the United States and Europe. Heightened consumer awareness and aspirations regarding the industry have led to increased spending on beauty and wellness products and services. According to the Indian Beauty & Hygiene Association (IBHA), per capita spending on beauty and personal care has risen from around Rs 450 per annum in 2017 to Rs 684 in 2022 and Rs 772 in 2025.

While the global beauty and wellness sector grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.60% between 2018 and 2023, the Indian sector experienced an even higher growth rate of 18.40% during the same period, driven by a growing affluent and middleclass population and increased organized retail presence in the country. The sector is expected to reach around Rs 2,77,000 crores by 2025, showcasing a 23% growth from Rs 92,000 crores in

Female Promote Entrepreneurship:

entrepreneurship in India, as the expertise in new-age technologies

current level is very low, with hardly one in every five entrepreneurs being female. The beauty and wellness sector presents unmatched opportunities for employment and entrepreneur-ship for women. Therefore, there is an urgent need to actively foster entrepreneurship and selfemployment for females in this sector through specially designed entrepreneurship education, training initiatives, and fiscal support, enabling them to elevate their businesses.

To support female entrepreneurs, it is imperative to create a special fund in collaboration with the NSDC, industries, and angel investors for developing innovative start-up activities in the sector. Additionally, the establishment of regional incubation centres is crucial to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit of promising women in the sector.

Under this initiative, young female entrepreneurs in the beauty and wellness industry must be equipped with new and improved business management skills to successfully run their enterprises. This focused effort should enable female entrepreneurs to develop concrete business ideas, create a bankable and investable business plan, and formulate a robust business growth strategy.

Traditional Skills to be Equipped with New-age Technologies:

The beauty and wellness sector is experiencing digital disruption as technology-led startups and 5G network access in rural areas become more prevalent. As a result, traditional skills in this sec-It is essential to promote female tor need to be updated with

such as app setup, virtual try-on services, and data analytics. In addition, providing better customer engagement offerings will be essential.

Furthermore, Artificial intelligence (AI) is also making significant strides in the beauty and wellness industry. AI applications are rapidly changing the sec-tor with innovations like aug-mented reality. For instance, skin consult AI has been developed to analyze skin ageing, detect major signs of ageing, and provide per-sonalized skincare recommenda-tions. This technology combines thousands of images with dermatological expertise spanning 15-20 years.

Personalized Services: Personalized services have become increasingly vital due to shifts in customer preferences, lifestyles, body types, and even genetics. The one-size-fits-all approach is outdated, with customers now seeking unique and tailored experiences

The demand for on-demand-athome services has surged, particularly among busy professionals. This has underscored the necessity for transferable skills among workers in the sector. Furthermore, new ideas and processes are galvanizing young students to pursue technical and technological careers, aiming to shape a better future.

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC), Network Member, of India International Skill Centres, an initiative of GoI. Views expressed are

# Empowering India's electronic vehicle sector

#### To reach a target of 30 per cent electric vehicle penetration by 2030, radical and coordinated action is needed among all stakeholders

The uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) is still in its infancy in India. According to research from S&P Global Ratings, the EV penetration rate in India in calendar year 2022 was only 1.1 per cent, as compared to the Asian average of 17.3 per cent. Governments play an essential role in supporting the mainstreaming of EV technology in the motor vehicle sector. The competitiveness of newer technologies in comparison to incumbent ones grows over time due to established supply chains, scale economies of production, consumer preference, and improved performance and maturity. However, relying only on market forces to achieve the transition to EVs from an entrenched internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle market is unrealistic. The



EV ecosystem will require additional support in its nascency, and the government has a significant role to play. The case for accelerating EV adoption is strong – transport emissions in Indian cities are growing rapidly, with road transport contributing about 87% of the total. In combination with the aggressive movement towards renewable power generation, EVs can significantly cut down the share and developing low-cost solu-

of transport and pollution emissions at the local and national levels. Further, transportation is the third-largest energy consumer and the largest consumer of oil fuels, responsible for 70% of diesel and 99.6% of petrol consump-

With India importing about 80% of its oil demand, and the price of crude oil being highly vulnerable due to global geopolitics, transport decarbonization reduces the risk to the country's energy security. Simultaneously, electrification presents India an opportunity to strengthen its role and move upstream in the global automotive value chain. Through a two-pronged strategy of localizing production for domestic EV consumption tions in niche areas for outsourcing, the country can capitalize on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity through strategic industrial development of the EV sector.

The government of India has backed an extensive program for transport electrification through the implementation of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) schemes (I and II), the reduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on EVs to 5 per cent, and an income tax exemption of up to INR 150,000 on interest payments for EV loans. Additionally, government has announced a new scheme called Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024, with an outlay of Rs 500 crore, pro-

viding subsidies for the adoption and manufacturing of e-2-wheelers and e-3-wheelers. Furthermore, a range of other guidelines and notifications on EV charging standards, deli-censing of EV charging ser-vices, capping of EV tariff for charging infrastructure, model Development Control Regulations (DCR) and building codes for EV charging, and green license plates for EVs further support the ecosystem. However, the early success of e-mobility in India can largely be attributed to a supportive policy landscape at the national and state level. Of the 36 states and Union Territories in the country, 26 have released EV policies over the last 5 years, with 16 of them being released between 2020 and 2022. Here are 7 policy recom-

mendations and subsidies needed in the EV MSME sec-

1. Reduced Taxation & Duties: To make EV manufacturing more competitive it's important to implement tax breaks or reduced import duties on raw materials, components, and EV-specific parts import-

ed by MSMEs 2-Infrastructure Development Support: Provide subsidies or tax incentives to MSMEs involved in setting up EV charging infrastructure. This could encourage more players to invest in charging stations, particularly in remote or underserved areas.

3. Production- Linked Incentives: For EV MSMEs we should introduce productionlinked incentives (PLI). These incentives could be based on achieving certain production milestones, thereby encouraging scale and efficiency.

4-Promote Research and Development: Encourage MSMEs in the EV sector to engage in research and development by providing grants, subsidies, or tax incentives for innovative projects and technologies aimed at improving EV components, systems, and manufacturing processes. 5-Facilitate Access to Finance: Establish dedicated funds or financial institutions to provide low-interest loans, venture capital, or grants specifically tailored for EV MSMEs to invest in infrastructure, technology adoption, and capaci-

ty expansion. 6-Export Promotion: Offer incentives and support programs to enable EV MSMEs to

tap into international markets, including assistance with export promotion, market research, participation in trade fairs, and overcoming trade

7-Collaborative Initiatives with OEMs: Encourage partnerships and collaborations between EV MSMEs and established Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). Provide incentives for OEMs to source components from MSMEs. Decisive and urgent action

will be needed to achieve the target of 30 per cent electric vehicles by 2030 in India. At the end of the day, the formulation and notification of an EV policy is only one piece of a large puzzle.

(The Writer is, CEO, Lohia, views are personal)

## **Netanyahu says he won't agree** to deal that ends war in Gaza

The viability of a US-backed proposal to wind down the 8-month-long war in Gaza was cast into doubt on Monday after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would only be willing to agree to a "partial" cease-fire deal that would not end the war, comments that sparked an uproar from families of hostages held by Hamas. In an interview broadcast late Sunday on Israeli Channel 14, a conservative, pro-Netanyahu station, the Israeli leader said he was "prepared to make a partial deal this is no secret - that will return to us some of the people," referring to the roughly 120 hostages still held in the Gaza Strip. "But we are committed to continuing the war after a pause, in order to complete the goal of eliminating Hamas. I'm not willing to give up on that.'

Netanyahu's comments did not deviate dramatically from what he has said previously about his terms for a deal. But they come at a sensitive time as Israel and Hamas appear to be moving further apart over the latest cease-fire proposal, and they could represent another setback for mediators trying to end the

Netanyahu's comments stood in sharp contrast to the outlines of the deal detailed late last month by US President Joe Biden, who framed the plan as an Israeli one and which some in Israel refer to as

"Netanyahu's deal". His remarks could further strain Israel's ties to the US, its top ally, which launched a major diplomatic push for the latest cease-fire proposal.

The three-phased plan would bring about the release of the remainig hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But disputes and mistrust persist between Israel and Hamas over how the deal plays out. Hamas has insisted it will not release the remain'Israel offensive into Lebanon risks an Iranian military response'

Espargos (Cape Verde) (AP): itary said it had "approved and validated" plans for an offensaid Sunday that an Israeli sive in Lebanon, even as the military offensive into Lebanon will risk an Iranian months of cross-border response in defense of Hezbollah, triggering a broader war that could put U.S. forces in the region in danger. Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iran "would be more inclined to support Hezbollah." He added Tehran supports Hamas, but would give greater backing to Hezbollah "particularly if they felt that Hezbollah was being

significantly threatened." Brown spoke to reporters as he traveled to Botswana for a meeting of African defense ministers. Israeli officials have threatened a military offensive in Lebanon if there is no negotiated end to push Hezbollah away from the border. Just days ago, Israel's mil-

ing hostages unless there's a permanent cease-fire and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. When Biden announced the latest proposal last month, he said it included

But Netanyahu says Israel is still committed to destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities, and ensuring it can never again carry out an Oct 7style assault. A full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, where Hamas' top leadership and much of its forces are still intact, would almost certainly leave the group in control of the territory and able to rearm. In the interview, Netanyahu said that the current phase of fighting is ending, but that didn't mean the war was over.

During the initial six-week phase, the sides are supposed to U.S. works to prevent the attacks from spiraling into a full-blown war. U.S. officials have tried to bro-

ker a diplomatic solution to the conflict. The issue is expected to come up this week as Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant visits Washington for meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other senior U.S. officials.

U.S. President Joe Biden's senior adviser Amos Hochstein met with officials in Lebanon and Israel last week in an effort to deescalate tensions. Hochstein told reporters in Beirut on Tuesday that it was a "very serious situation" and that a diplomatic solution to prevent a larger war was urgent.

negotiate an agreement on the second phase, which Biden said would include the release of all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers, and Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza. The temporary cease-fire would become permanent.

Hamas appears concerned that Israel will resume the war once its most vulnerable hostages are returned. And even if it doesn't, Israel could make demands in that stage of negotiations that were not part of the initial deal and are unacceptable to Hamas — and then resume the war when Hamas refuses them.

Netanyahu's remarks reinforced that concern. After they were aired, Hamas said they represented "unmistakable confirmation of his rejection" of the US-supported deal,

which also received the backing of the United Nations' Security Council. In a statement late Sunday after Netanyahu's lengthy TV interview, the Palestinian militant group said his position was "in contrast" to what the US administration said that Israel had approved. The group said that its insistence that any deal should include a permanent cease-fire and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces out of the entire Gaza Strip "was an inevitable necessity to block Netanyahu's attempts of evasion, deception, and perpetuation of aggression and the war of extermination against our

people".

Netanyahu shot back and in a statement from his office said Hamas opposed a deal. He said Israel would not withdraw from Gaza until all 120 hostages are returned. Hamas welcomed the

broad outline of the US plan but proposed what it said were "amendments". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during a visit to the region earlier this month, said some of Hamas demands were "workable" and some were not, without elaborating.Netanyahu and Hamas both have incentives to keep the devastating war going despite the catastrophic toll it has had on civilians in Gaza and the mounting anger in Israel that after so many months Israel has not reached its aims of returning the hostages and defeating Hamas. The families of hostages have grown increasingly impatient with Netanyahu, seeing his apparent reluctance to move ahead on a deal as tainted by political considerations. A group representing the families condemned Netanyahu's remarks, which it viewed as an Israeli rejection of the latest

cease-fire proposal. 'This is an abandonment of the 120 hostages and a violation of the state's moral duty toward its citizens," it said, noting that it held Netanyahu responsible for returning all the

### Suspected Houthi attack targets vessels

A possible attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Monday targeted a ship further away from nearly all of the previous assaults they've launched in the Gulf of Aden, officials said, potentially part of a widening escalation by the group. The attack comes as the US has sent the USS Dwight D Eisenhower back home after an eightmonth deployment in which it led the American response to the Houthi assaults. Those attacks have reduced shipping drastically through the route crucial to Asian, Middle East and European markets in a campaign the Houthis say will continue as long as the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip

The attack happened Monday morning in the Gulf of Aden some 450 km (280 miles) southeast of Nishtun, a town in the far reaches of Yemen that's

close to the border with Oman, according to the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre. That region for long has been held by forces allied to Yemen's exiled government, which has battled the Houthis since the rebels took the capital, Sanaa, back in 2014.

The attack was just off to the northeast of Yemen's Socotra Island, also held by allies of the exiled government. The master of a merchant ves-

sel reports an explosion in close proximity to the vessel," the UKMTO said. "The crew are reported safe and the vessel is proceeding to its next port of call." It offered no other immediate information about the attack.

Suspicion immediately fell on the Houthis, who did not immediately claim the assault. It can take the rebels hours or even days to acknowledge their attacks. Somali pirates have been known to operate in the

region as well, though they typically seize vessels for ransom rather than launch attacks against them.

However, the attack happened near the outer reaches of the Gulf of Aden where it becomes the Arabian Sea and then ultimately the Indian Ocean. Of the more than 60 attacks launched by the Houthis since November that specifically targeted vessels, this would be one

of the furthest.

In May, a Portuguese-flagged container ship came under attack by a drone in the far reaches of the Arabian Sea in an attack claimed by the Houthis. However, the distance at which it was struck led experts to question whether Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, could have launched the attack. The Houthis have claimed attacks later assessed to have been conducted by Iran, including the 2019 attack on Saudi Arabia's oil fields that temporarily halved the

kingdom's energy production. The Houthis have made a series of claims without evidence they've targeted vessels at even greater distances, even though there's been no independent confirmation of any of those attacks actually taking

The rebels have fired off other missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They have seized one vessel and sunk two since November. A US-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes on May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels

The Houthis have maintained that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States or Britain. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the Israel-Hamas war including those bound for

### Prosecutors to urge judge to bar Trump from inflammatory comments about FBI

AP FORT PIERCE

The tederal juage presiding classified documents prosecution of The federal judge presiding over the Donald Trump is hearing arguments Monday on whether to bar the former president from public comments that prosecutors say could endanger the lives of FBI agents working on the case. Special counsel Jack Smith's team says the restrictions are necessary in light of Trump's false comments that the FBI agents who searched his Mar-a-Lago estate in August 2022 for classified documents were out to kill him and his fam-

Trump's lawyers say any gag order would improperly silence Trump in the heat of a presidential campaign in which he is the presumptive Republican nominee. It was not immediately clear when US District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee whose handling of the case has been closely scrutinised, might rule.

Before turning her attention to the limited gag order sought by prosecutors, she is scheduled to hear additional arguments Monday morning related to the Justice Department's appointment and funding of Smith, whose team brought the charges. The arguments are part of a three-day hearing that began Friday to

deal with several of the many unresolved legal issues that have piled up in a case that had been set for trial last month but has been snarled by delays and a plodding pace. Cannon indefinitely postponed the trial, and it's all but guaranteed that it will not take place before the November presidential election. Trump faces dozens of felony charges accusing him of illegally hoarding top-secret records at Mar-a-Lago and obstructing the FBI's efforts to get them back.

Given the breadth of evidence that prosecutors have put forward, many legal experts have regarded the case as the most straightforward of the four prosecutions against Trump, who has pleaded not guilty. But Cannon has been slow to rule on numerous motions and has proved willing to entertain defence requests that prosecutors say are meritless. Smith's team objected last month after

Trump claimed that the FBI was prepared to kill him while executing a court-authorized search warrant of Mar-a-Lago on August 8, 2022. He was referencing boilerplate language from FBI policy that prohibits the use of deadly force except when the officer conducting the search has a reasonable belief that the "subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to another person." Trump falsely claimed in a fundraising email that the FBI was "locked & loaded ready to take me out & put my family in danger. Prosecutors say such comments pose a

significant foreseeable risk to law enforcement, citing as examples an attempted attack on an FBI office in Ohio three days after the Mar-a-Lago search and the more recent arrest of a Trump supporter accused of threatening an FBI agent who investigated President Joe Biden's son, Hunter. "Deploying such knowingly false and

inflammatory language in the combustible atmosphere that Trump has created poses an imminent danger to law enforcement that must be addressed before more violence occurs," prosecutors wrote in a court filing on Friday. Trump's lawyers say they've failed to show

that his comments have directly endangered any FBI official who participated in the Mar-a-Lago search. "Fundamentally, the motion is based on

the fact that President Trump criticized the Mar-a-Lago raid based on evidence from publicly filed motions in this case, as part of his constitutionally protected campaign speech, in a manner that someone in the government disagreed with and does not like," they said

### 'Apple breached rules with App Store restrictions'

London (AP): European Union regulators on Monday levelled their first charges under the bloc's new digital competition venting app makers from pointing users to cheaper options on other venues.

The European Commission said that according to the preliminary findings of its investigation, the restrictions that the iPhone maker imposes on developers using its mobile App Store had breached the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act.

The rulebook, also known as the DMA, is a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties. The commission opened an initial round of investigations after it took effect in March, including a separate ongoing probe into whether Apple is doing enough to allow iPhone users to easily change web browsers, and other cases involving Google and Meta. Under the DMA's provisions, app developers must be allowed to inform customers of cheaper purchasing options and direct them to those offers.

utive arm, said Apple's App Store rules "prevent app developers from freely steering consumers to alternative channels for offers and

Apple now has a chance to respond to the findings. The commission must make a final decision on Apple's compliance by March 2025. The company could face fines worth up to 10% of its global revenue, which could amount to billions of euros, or daily penalties.

The commission kept up the pressure on Apple, simultaneously opening a new investigation into contractual terms that it's offering app developers. Regulators zeroed in on a "core technology fee" of 50 euro cents (54 cents) that Apple is now charging developers for each time their apps are downloaded and installed from outside Apple's

### Fire at lithium battery factory in South Korea kills 22

Afire likely sparked by exploding lithium batteries swept through a manufacturing factory near South Korea's capmostly Chinese migrant workers and injuring eight, officials

The fire began after batteries exploded while workers were examining and packaging them at the second floor of the factory in Hwaseong city, just south of Seoul, at around 10:30 am, fire officials said, citing a witness. They said they would investigate the cause of the

The dead included 18 Chinese, two South Koreans and one Laotian, local fire official Kim Jin-young told a televised briefing. He said the nationality of one of the dead couldn't be immediately verified. In the past few decades, many people from China, including ethnic Koreans, have migrated to South Korea to seek jobs. Like other foreign migrants from Southeast Asian nations, they



often end up in factories or in physically demanding and lowpaying jobs shunned by more affluent South Koreans.

Kim also one factory worker remained out of contact and rescuers continued to search the site. He said that two of the eight injured were in serious conditions.

The fire started at one of the factory buildings owned by a company named Aricell. Kim said the victims likely failed to escape via stairs to the ground. He said that authorities will

Pre-dawn op saves 77 migrants from

yacht near Greek Aegean islands

investigate whether there were fire extinguishing systems at the site and if they worked. Kim said a total of 102 people were working at the factory

before the fire occurred.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the country's No. 2 official, and Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min visited the site later

Han asked officials to provide government assistance for funeral services and support programmes for victims' relatives, according to Han's office.

### Britain's Princess Anne admitted in hospital

London (PTI): Britain's Princess Anne, the sister of King Charles III, is in hospital after sustaining minor injuries and concussion after an incident in Bristol, Buckingham Palace said on Monday.

tained the injuries at the Gatcombe Park estate on Sunday evening and remains in Bristol's Southmead Hospital as a "precautionary measure". It is believed there were horses on the estate and the senior royal is likely to have sustained minor head wounds in an incident involving one of the hors-

"The Princess Royal has sustained minor injuries and concussion following an incident on the Gatcombe Park estate yesterday evening," the palace statement said.

'Her Royal Highness remains in Southmead Hospital, Bristol, as a precautionary measure for observation and is expected to make a full and swift recovery. The King has been kept closely informed and joins the whole royal family in sending his fondest love and well-



wishes to the princess for a speedy recovery," the statement said.

Γhe palace stressed that Princess Anne, one of the senior-most working royals as the monarch's sister, is "recovering well" and is in a comfortable condition.

'On doctors' advice, Her Royal Highness's engagements for the week ahead will be postponed. Her Royal Highness sends her apologies to any who may be inconvenienced or disappointed as a result," it said, which implies a trip to Canada scheduled for the end of this week is now off.

#### Indian man shot dead during robbery in US

Houston(PTI): In a tragic incident, a 32-year-old Indian man, who came to the US less than a year ago, was fatally shot during a robbery at a convenience store

Dasari Gopikrishna sustained critical injuries during a robbery incident at a gas station convenience store in Pleasant Grove, Dallas, on June 21. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Saturday while undergoing treatment. He hailed from the Yajali village of the Bapatla district in Andhra Pradesh and came to the US only eight months ago. India's Consul General in Houston, D C Manjunath, who was in Dallas for a Yoga Day event on Sunday, confirmed to PTI that the incident was unrelated to a shooting in Arkansas, as previously

Expressing condolences to Gopikrishnas family, Manjunath said, "We are deeply saddened to learn about the tragic demise of Indian national Gopi Krishna Dasari in a robbery shooting incident at Pleasant Grove, Dallas, TX, and are in touch with

reported by various sources.

port from Indian associations, is providing all possible assistance to facilitate the repatriation of Gopikrishna's body to India fol-lowing local formalities, including autopsy and death certificates. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday promised to help bring back Gopikrishna's body. Expressing condolences to the victim's family, the chief minister promised every possible help from the state government to the family based in the Bapatla district. "Deeply saddened to learn that a young Dasari Gopikrishna from Bapatla has succumbed to injuries sustained in a shooting incident in Texas, USA. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and assure them...every

local family members." The Consulate, along with sup-

### Dali cargo ship departs Baltimore for Virginia, post-bridge collapse delay

Baltimore (AP): The cargo ship Dali headed out of Baltimore for Virginia on Monday, nearly three months after it lost power and crashed into one of the Francis Scott Key bridge's supporting columns and caused the bridge to collapse. The 984-foot Dali started moving shortly before 8:30 am with four tugboats. It is headed to Norfolk, Virginia, for the removal of the remaining the removal of the remaining containers on the vessel and additional repairs.

The trip to Norfolk is expected to take between 16 and 20 hours. Shortly after leaving the Port of Baltimore early on March 26, the ship with 21 crew members on board lost power and propulsion and crashed into one of the bridge's supporting columns, killing six construction workers. Notably, 20 of the crew members were

On May 20, the Dali was refloated and guided back to port. The vessel had been stuck amid the wreckage for almost two months, with a massive steel truss draped across its damaged

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation found the ship experienced two power outages in the hours before it left the Port of Baltimore. In the moments before the bridge collapsed, it lost power again and veered off course. The agency is still investigating what caused the electrical failures. The FBI also launched a crim-

inal investigation.Last week, under an agreement confirmed by a federal judge, members of the Dali's crew were allowed to head home. None of the crew members had been able to leave the US since the crash.

A group of 77 migrants were rescued off a crippled sailing yacht after a large overnight operation in the southern Aegean Sea, Greek authorities said on Monday. Nobody was reported missing

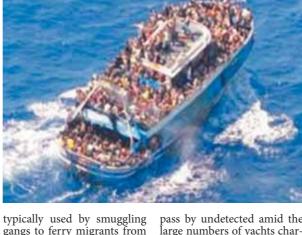
**AP** ■ ATHENS

or injured following the rescue between the islands of Amorgos and Astypalaia, Greece's coast guard said. Three coast guard vessels, four

merchant ships in the area and two smaller private boats took part in the rescue after passengers on the yacht phoned emergency services for assis-The nationalities of the

migrants were not immediately known. All were taken to group, where they were given temporary shelter.

Naxos in the Cyclades island It was unclear where the migrants had departed from. They were rescued on a route



gangs to ferry migrants from Furkey to Italy, avoiding tightular Greek islands. ly patrolled waters around Greece's eastern Aegean islands. Such trips are more common in the summer when the weather is milder and when the

smugglers' yachts are likelier to

large numbers of yachts chartered by tourists visiting pop-Greece is a key entry point for

thousands of people from the Middle East, Africa and Asia seeking a better life in the affluent European Union.

### UK schoolboy gets world-first epilepsy device fitted in skull

London (PTI) A schoolboy from south-west England has made medical history as the first in the world with severe epilepsy to trial a new device fitted in his skull to control seizures.

The neurostimulator, which sends electrical signals deep into his brain, has reduced Oran Knowlson's daytime seizures by 80 per cent. The surgery was carried out in October as part of a trial at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London when Oran, who is now 13, was 12. The surgery was part of a trial in partnership with University College London, King's College hospi-tal and the University of Oxford. His mother, Justine, told the BBC he was happier and had a "much better quality of life". 'We've seen a big improve-

ment, seizures have reduced and

are less severe. He's a lot more

chatty, he's more engaged. He's turned 13 and I definitely now have a teenager - he's happy to tell me no.

But that adds to his quality of life, when he can express him-self better," she said. Oran is part of the CADET (Children's adaptive deep brain stimulation for epilepsy trial) project, external a series of trials assessing the safety and effectiveness of deep brain stimulation for severe epilepsy. The Picostim neurotransmitter is made by UK company Amber Therapeutics. It sits under the skull and sends electrical signals deep into the brain, reducing his daytime seizures

part in a full trial.

possible support to help bring him home," Naidu said in a post on social media platform X. A video of the incident has gone viral in which a masked man wearing shorts and a cap is seen shooting multiple times at

The CADET pilot will now recruit three additional patients with Lennox-Gastaut syn-Gopikrishna and then stealing drome, with a view to 22 some items and cash from the patients being recruited to take retail outlet where the victim worked.

# 'Ukraine won't seek discount on entry commitments'

Ukraine's top official for Europe says the war-torn country is on an "irreversible" course of Western integration after the European Union agreed to formally start entry negotiations this week.

The decision to launch accession talks this week is a "big day" for her country, Olga Stefanishyna, the deputy prime minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, said. "This is the utmost will of the Ukrainian people. And this is the irreversibility. And you've seen Ukrainians stand up for their choice," Stefanishyna said,

speaking in Kyiv Sunday. It was her first interview since being appointed chief negotiator for EU accession.

EU leaders agreed Friday to start the entry talks with Ukraine and Moldova – overcoming vocal opposition led by Hungary which takes over the EU's rotating presidency on

Stefanishyna will head the opening of the accession talks in Luxembourg Tuesday, joined by several top government officials. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is expected to give a speech at the launch ceremony,

Stefanishyna did not elaborate whether he would do so in person or online.

Zelenskyy described Friday's decision as a "historic step," adding in an online post: "Generations of our people are realising their European dream. Ukraine is returning to Europe. A survey of opinion polling by the European Parliament earlier this year suggested that EU citizens broadly back Ukraine's membership bid but are less supportive of fast-tracking the

process. Ukraine, Stefanishyna said, was not seeking special treatment. "Ukraine is moving fast," she said, "without skipping any elements of the process (and) without asking (for) any dis-

Russia has used economic pressure and ultimately military force to try and reverse the aspirations of its former Soviet neighbour to join Western alliances it regards as hostile. Deadly protests a decade ago to demand that the government stick to a pledge to forge closer ties with the EU put the country on a collision course with Russia. "It's a big day for everybody," said Stefanishyna, who frequently showed emotion while describing the inte-gration process. "It has been

EU targets Russia's LNG ghost fleet in new round of sanctions

evade sanctions and keep up

The European Union on The European Union on Monday slapped new sanctions on Russia over its war on Ukraine, targeting Moscow's shadow fleet of tankers moving liquefied natural gas through Europe as well as several companies.

In a statement issued at a meeting of EU foreign ministers, the bloc said that it will "forbid reloading services of Russian LNG in EU territory for the purpose of transshipment operations to third

countries."
The EU estimates that about
4-to-6 billion cubic metres of Russian LNG was shipped to third countries via EU ports last year. Russia is suspected

around two years since Ukraine

applied for membership. The

war is still raging on, but the

accession is starting right now."

Stefanishyna, a 38-year-old

lawyer who has worked in civil

service and government posi-

the flow of energy earnings so that it can finance the war. The measures will target shipto-ship and ship-to-shore transfers as well as reloading operations. It also involves a crackdown on the re-export of LNG to third countries via the EU, plus a ban on new investments to help Russia complete LNG projects it is working on.

often companies, banks, agencies and other organisations—were added to the EU's list, including a number of them in China, Turkiye and the United Arab Emirates. Many are accused of circumventing the bloc's sanctions or provid-

tions since her early twenties, will lead Ukraine's 35-member delegation for negotiations with

In 2019, Ukraine changed its constitution to include those aspirations and formally

of running a "ghost fleet" to ing sensitive equipment to

Around 50 more officials are also being targeted with asset freezes, as well as travel bans. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, as well as scores of lawmakers and several oligarchs are among more than 1,700 people already listed by the EU.

The more than 400 entities previously hit include companies working in the military, aviation, shipbuilding and machine sectors, the Wagner mercenary group, political parties and banks. Around 210 billion euros (USD 225 billion) worth of Russian Central Bank assets are blocked in the EU.

applied to join the EU on February 28, 2022 – five days after Russia launched its fullscale invasion.

Bordering EU members Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, Ukraine would overtake France to become the largest member of the bloc if it joined, shifting its centre of gravity further eastward. Together with Moldova, it's in

a long line with other candidates – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey - some with membership aspi rations spanning decades.

Ukraine is hoping to join by

2030. While praised for making progress since its application, Ukraine must carry out dozens of institutional and legal reforms required for membership. The daunting list is led by steps to combat corruption, and includes broad reforms to public administra-tion, the judiciary, and market rules. More than 1,000 people in Ukraine are already involved in the accession process which will proceed without a summer

'The next half a year will be crucial for our key negotiators," she said, adding that Ukraine needs to come up with a clear reform roadmap. "The acces-sion process and Ukraine's membership is the top priority of our president," she said. "Ukraine is a bit crazy and obsessed with the EU accession

### China, EU open to talks on plans to hike tariffs on Chinese EVs

China and the European Union are open to holding talks on the EU's recent decision to sion to sharply raise tariffs on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles, officials from both sides say.

China's Commerce Ministry and Germany's economy minister said over the weekend that each side was willing to hold talks on the issue. Meanwhile Chinese state media said Monday that Beijing is pushing for the EU to give up plans to sharply raise tariffs on imports of Chinese-made electric vehi-cles by July 4. Escalating a trade dispute over Beijing's subsidies that Brussels worries are hurting European automakers, the EU plans to impose provisional tariffs of 17.4% to 38.1% on EVs from China for four months starting on July 4. That's on top of the 10% dutues for all imported EVs. They would apply to vehicles exported to Europe by both Chinese and foreign brands, including The European Commission, the EU's execu-

tive arm, said preliminary results from an investigation into Chinese EV subsidies showed the country's battery electric vehicle "value chain' benefits from "unfair subsidiza tion" that hurts EU rivals. Commerce Minister Wang Wentao held a video conference with European Commission Executive Vice President and Trade President and Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a notice Saturday on its website. The two sides agreed to launch consultations on the EU's anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese electric vehicles," it said. "The doors are open for discussions. And I hope that this message was heard," Germany's economy and vice chancellor, Robert Habeck, said Sunday while on a visit to China, China's Commerce Ministry on Thursday accused the EU of making unreasonable demands in its investigation into imports of Chinese electric vehicles before it announced it was raising tariffs by as much



# and cops in Dagestan

Moscow (AP): Armed militants attacked two Orthodox tants attacked two Orthodox churches, a synagogue and a traffic police post in Russia's southern republic of Dagestan, killing a priest, a church security guard and at least six police officers, Russian state news agency Tass said on Sunday. Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement that a Russian Orthodox priest and police officers were killed in the "terrorist" attacks.

Dagestan's Ministry of Internal Affairs said a group of armed men fired at a synagogue and a church in the city of Derbent, located on the Caspian Sea. The attackers fled and a search for them was underway, the statement from the ministry said Tass reported that the church and synagogue were set on fire in the attack

Almost simultaneously, reports appeared about an attack on a traffic police post in the capital of the largely Muslim region, Makhachkala. According to RIA Novosti, six policemen were killed and 12 more were

Shamil Khadulaev, deputy chairman of the public moni-toring commission of Dagestan, cited by RIA Novosti, said a priest in Derbent and a church security guard in Makhachkala were killed. Nine people were reported killed in the attacks, including seven policemen, while 25 were injured, according to the Muftiate of Dagestan, a state-supported spiritual administrative body. Four militants were "eliminated" in Makhachkala, Dagestan's Ministry of Internal Affairs said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but some officials in Dagestan blamed Ukraine and NATO. "There is no doubt that these terrorist attacks are in one way or another connected with the intelligence services of Ukraine and NATO countries," Dagestan lawmaker Abdulkhakim Gadzhiyev wrote on Telegram.

### Armed militants kill priest Russia summons American envoy over deadly attack

hold the Kremlin's army at bay,

**AP** ■ MOSCOW

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the American ambassador on Monday to protest what it says was the use of US-made advanced missiles in a Ukrainian attack on Russian-annexed Crimea that reportedly killed four people and wounded more than 150.

Washington "has effectively become a party" to the war on Ukraine's side, the ministry said in a statement, adding, "Retaliatory measures will certainly follow." It did not elaborate. There was no immediate comment from US or Ukrainian officials. The Associated Press could not independently verify Russia's claims about the missiles used. Kyiv's forces have relied heavily on Western-supplied weaponry since Russia's invasion more than three years ago. The military aid has been crucial in allowing Ukraine to

with few major changes along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line in eastern and southern Ukraine for many months. Some Western countries have hesitated over providing more and more sophisticated help for Kyiv's army because of concerns about potentially provoking the Kremlin. But as Ukraine has at times

struggled to hold the line against Russia's bigger and better-equipped military, Western leaders have gradually relented and granted more support. In the latest key development,

the Pentagon said last week that Ukraine's military is being allowed to use longer-range missiles provided by the US to strike targets inside Russia if it is acting in self-defense. Since the outset of the war, the US had maintained a policy of not allowing Ukraine to use the weapons it provided to hit targets on Russian soil for fear of further escalating the conflict. Crimea, which Russian annexed from Ukraine in 2014 in a move that most of the world rejected as unlawful, long had been declared a fair target for Ukraine by its Western allies. Russian authorities said that the

dead in Sunday's attack includ-

ed two children who were hit by

falling debris from Ukrainian missiles that were shot down over a coastal area in Sevastopol, a port city in Crimea. It said cluster munitions, which critics say harm more civilians than combatants, were also used. Russia said the missiles were

US-made ATACMS, a longrange, guided missile. It summoned US Ambassador Lynne Tracy to the Foreign Ministry. The targeting and "mission input" for such missile attacks is carried out by US military experts, the ministry statement alleged, saying the United States bears "equal responsibility for this outrage" with the Ukrainian

## **Chinese hackers step up attacks on Taiwanese orgs**

**AP** ■ HONG KONG

suspected Chinese state-Asponsored hacking group has stepped up its targeting of Taiwanese organisations, particularly those in sectors such as government, education, technology and diplomacy, according to cybersecurity intelligence company

Recorded Future. In recent years, relations between China and Taiwan, a self-governed island across the Taiwan Strait that Beijing claims as its territory, have deteriorated.

The cyberattacks by the group known as RedJulliett were observed between November 2023 and April 2024, during the lead up to Taiwan's presidential elections in January and the subsequent change in administration.

RedJuliett has targeted Taiwanese organisations in the past, but this is the first time that activity was seen at

such a scale, a Recorded Future analyst said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of safety concerns.

The report said RedJuliett attacked 24 organisations, including government agencies in places like Laos, Kenya and Rwanda, as well as Taiwan. It also hacked into websites of religious organisations in Hong Kong and South Korea, US university and a Djiboutian university. The report did not identify the organisations.

Recorded Future said RedJuliett accessed the servers of those places via a vulnerability in their SoftEther enterprise virtual private network (VPN) software, an opensource VPN that allows remote connections to an organisation's networks.

RedJuliett has been observed attempting to break into systems of more than 70 Taiwanese organisations including three universities, an

optoelectronics company and a facial recognition company that has contracts with the government.

It was unclear if RedJuliett managed to break into those organisations: Recorded Future only said it observed the attempts to identify vulnerabilities in their networks. RedJuliett's hacking patterns match those of Chinese statesponsored groups, according to Recorded Future.

It said that based on the geolocations of IP addresses, RedJulliett is likely based out of the city of Fuzhou, in China's southern Fujian province, whose coast faces Taiwan.

"Given the close geographical proximity between Fuzhou and Taiwan, Chinese intelligence services operating in Fuzhou are likely tasked with intelligence collection against Taiwanese targets," the report said. "RedJuliett is likely targeting Taiwan to collect intelligence and support Beijing's policy-making on cross-strait relations," the Recorded Future report said.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not immediately comment. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson dismissed the allegations.

"I don't know the specifics of what you mentioned, but I can tell you that it's not the first time the company you mentioned has fabricated disinformation on so-called Chinese hacking operations. There is absolutely no professionalism or credibility to speak of in what the company does," the spokesperson, Mao Ning, said. Microsoft reported in August last year that RedJuliett, which Microsoft tracks under the name Flax Typhoon, was targeting Taiwanese organisa-

China has in recent years stepped up military drills around Taiwan and imposed economic and diplomatic

pressure on the island. Relations between Taiwan and Beijing worsened further after the election in January of Taiwan's new president Lai Ching-te, who China has deemed a "separatist," after he said in his inauguration speech that Taiwan and China were not subordinate to each other. Like his predecessor Tsai Ingwen, Lai has said that there is no need to declare Taiwanese independence because it is already an independent sovereign state.

Like many other countries including the US, China has been known to engage in cyberespionage. Earlier this year, the US and Britain accused China of a sweeping cyberespionage campaign that allegedly hit millions of people. Beijing has consistently denied engaging in any form of state-sponsored hacking, instead saying that China itself is a major target of cyberattacks.

### 3 Columbia Univ admins put on leave over alleged text exchange at antisemitism panel

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

olumbia University said it Chas placed three administrators on leave while it investigates allegations that they exchanged unprofessional text messages while attending a panel discussion about antisemitism on campus.

The university said the administrators work for its undergraduate Columbia College, which hosted the panel discussion "Jewish Life on Campus: Past, Present and Future" during an alumni reunion on May 31.

The university said the college's dean, Josef Sorett, informed his team on Thursday that the three administrators were being put on leave

"Columbia College is attending to this situation with the utmost seriousness," a college

spokesperson said. "We are committed to confronting antisemitism, discrimination and hate, and taking concrete action to ensure that our is a community of respect and healthy dialogue where everyone feels valued and safe.

Columbia did not identify the administrators by name and declined to discuss the matter further while the investigation is pending.

The Washington Free Beacon, a conservative news outlet, published images on June 12 and 21 of what it said were the administrators' text messages. One included a suggestion that a panelist could have used the campus protests for fundraising and another that appeared critical of a campus rabbi's essay about anti-

semitism. The panel about

antisemitism was held a

month after university leaders

called in police to clear pro-Palestinian protesters out of an occupied administration building and dismantle a tent encampment that had threatened to disrupt graduation ceremonies.

The police action came amid deep divisions on campus as to whether some of the protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza have been antisemitic. Some text messages allegedly sent by Scorett were among those published by the news outlet, but he was not among those put on leave. He will continue to serve as dean and is cooperating with the investigation, the university said. "I deeply regret my role in these text exchanges and the impact they have had on our community," Sorett said in a message Friday to the Columbia College Board of

### 'PTI committed suicide when it decided to merge with SIC'

 $P^{akistan's\ top\ judge\ on}_{Monday\ said\ he\ was\ puzzled}$ why jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf committed political "suicide" when it decided to merge with the Sunni Ittehad Council ahead of the February 8 general elections. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CIP) Oazi Faez Isa made the remarks as the Supreme Court resumed hearing on a petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), an ally of Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Ínsaf (PTI) party, challenging the Peshawar High Court's verdict denying reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assem-

blies, Geo News reported. "Why did the independent candidates leave PTI when it is a

commit suicide by joining another party which goes against your arguments?" the chief justice, who headed a 13member bench, asked. He said that had the indepen-

dent candidates staved with the PTI, there would have been no problem today. Khan's party joined hands with the SIC ahead of the February 8 general elections to contest the polls after the Election Commission stripped the PTI of its electoral symbol, a decision upheld by the top court. In a 4-1 verdict in the Election Commission ruled that SIC could not claim reserved seats due to significant legal flaws and failure to submit a mandatory party list for such seats. The party had then approached the

political party? Why did you body's decision. In April, SIC moved the apex court seeking to set aside the PHC verdict and the allocation of 67 women and 11 minority seats in the assemblies. On May 6, a three-member SC bench suspended the PHC verdict and referred the matter to the judges' committee for the formation of a larger bench since the matter required constitutional interpretation. On Saturday, the election commission told the apex court that the SIC does not qualify for reserved seats as the political party doesn't allow non-Muslims to be a part of it.

The ECP also informed the top court that the reserved seats cannot be allotted to the SIC as the party failed to submit a timely priority list for reserved seats as required by the election PHC, which upheld the electoral programme.

#### **Teenage Pak boy kills** man over 'blasphemy' motivated by the words of his

**Lahore (PTI):** A 14-year-old seminary student stabbed a man belonging to the Shia minority Muslim community to death for allegedly speaking against the companions of Prophet Muhammad in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Monday, the second blasphemy-related killing in the country in four days.

The incident occurred on Sunday in Kunjah, Gujrat, approximately 170 km from Lahore. A senior police officer told PTI that the minor seminary student stabbed 55-yearold Nazir Hussain Shah to death after being incited by his father and uncle's remarks. The boy's father, a prayer leader at a Sunni mosque, and his uncle

had told him that Shah would

often speak against the compan-

ions of the Prophet. "Getting

father and uncle, the enraged teenager took a knife from his house and confronted Shah on Sunday afternoon, stabbing him multiple times and killing him on the spot. The boy then fled the scene," the

police officer said. A police team has been formed to apprehend the boy, he said.

A case has been registered against the father and uncle under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code. The incident took place just two

days after an enraged mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Quran.

### Iran, Bahrain to resume diplomatic ties

Tehran (AP): Iran and Bahrain have agreed to talk about how they might resume bilateral relations after nearly eight years, Iranian media reported on Monday. The report by staterun IRNA news agency said Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani and his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani spoke on the sidelines of the ongoing Asian Cooperation Dialogue in Tehran. The report said both sides agreed on creating the framework to start talks on the requirements for resuming diplomatic relations. This is al Zavani's second visit to Tehran in a month. The first came during the memorial for President Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

#### Poland President visits China Beijing (AP): Poland's ued," Duda said in an inter-

President Andrzej Duda is in China on a visit that brings the leader of a NATO member to a country that has backed Russia in its full-on invasion of Ukraine.

'I am trying to maintain friendly relations with China, Poland has always had decent relations with China and I would like that to be contin-

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

view on private Radio Zet or Friday. He was scheduled to meet

with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Monday and has said peace in Ukraine will be discussed. Asked if he believes that China is holding a key to peace in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Duda said: "I think that to a large degree, yes.

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E-Tender Enq. No.536/P-3/EMPW-12687 Dated 21-06-24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTF Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No.2024 POWER 122672 1 for annua overhauling of Coal Pipe for 1 no. units of 210 MW at GGSSTP, Ropar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated 21-06-24/ 05:00 PM onwards

Note:- Corrigendum & Addendum, if any will be published online at

76155/12/3021/2023/34921 Dated CHD :- 6/24/2024

RTP -54/24

# **Markets settle marginally** higher in volatile trade

Benchmark equity indices ended marginally higher on Monday, helped by buying in bank stocks and firm beginning in European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 131.18 points, or 0.17 per cent, higher at 77,341.08. In early trade, the benchmark had declined 463.96 points, or 0.60 per cent, to 76,745.94. Later, it bounced back and jumped 213.12 points, or 0.27 per cent, to 77,423.02

during the day.
The Nifty went up 36.75 points, or 0.16 per cent, to settle at 23,537.85.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, Nestle, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, ITC, ICICI Bank, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, and HDFC Bank were among the biggest gainers. IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year at 6.8 per cent and said high interest rates and lower fiscal spur would temper demand.



In its economic outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P Global said India's economic growth continues to surprise on the upside with the economy growing 8.2 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

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

European markets were trading with gains. US markets ended mostly lower

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,790.19 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.41 per cent to USD 85.59 a barrel.

Snapping its six-day rally, the BSE benchmark declined 269.03 points, or 0.35 per cent, to settle at 77,209.90 on The NSE Nifty slipped 65.90 points, or 0.28 per cent, to end at 23,501.10.

### Noida airport to launch flight service by April '25 amid construction delays

The Noida International Airport is expected to launch its flight service by April 2025, missing its September 2024 deadline due to construction delays.

Recently there were reports of delay in construction works at the greenfield airport coming up in the Jewar area of Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar district, some 75 km off Delhi.

The airport were scheduled to launch flight operations by September 2024.

"In view of the current construction status, we expect begin commercial operations by end of April 2025," the airport said in a statement on Monday.

"We are working together with EPC (engineering,

procurement constructions) contractor Tata Projects Limited and with other stakeholders to keep the pace of construction activities preparations operational readiness high, the airport said.

It mentioned that agreements have been signed with several airlines for flight connections from Noida International Airport.

The airport highlighted that construction work is at advanced stages. 'Construction

development work at Noida International Airport is at an advanced stage and we continue to pass important milestones on the road to operational readiness. This is a large and complex project, and the next few weeks of construction activities are crucial," the airport said.

It said that work on the runway, the passenger terminal and the control tower, is "well advanced" and recently, the concessions for grounḋ handling, ground handling, the operation of commercial areas and important maintenance contracts were awarded.

The mega public-private partnership project of the UP government is billed to be India's largest airport upon completion. The airport is to be developed in an area of over 5,000 hectares in four phases. Currently work for the first phase of the airport is underway and was initially expected to be completed by September 2024, paving way for commencement of passenger flights from Jewar. In the first phase, the airport will have one runway along with a terminal building with

capacity to handle 1.2 crore

passengers annually, according

## Govt imposes stock limits on wheat to check hoarding, price rise

limits have been given a 30-

day window to comply with

"I want to dispel the shortage

of wheat in the country,

He also noted that there is a

In a move to check wheat price rise and hoarding, the Centre on Monday imposed stock holding limits on traders, wholesalers, retailers and processors immediate effect.

The restrictions will remain in force until March 31, 2025, across all states and Union Territories.

Single retailers, big-chain retailers, processors and wholesalers will disclose wheat stocks every Friday, said Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra in a press briefing

Under the new rules, retail outlets and individual stores of big chain retailers are allowed to stock up to 10 tonnes of wheat, an official statement

Traders, wholesalers, and large depots of big chain retailers face a cap of 3,000 tonnes each. For processors, the limit is set at 70 per cent of their monthly installed capacity (MIC) multiplied by the remaining months of the 2024-25 fiscal. The government has mandated all entities to declare their stock position and regularly update it on the Department of Food and

Public Distribution's portal

(https://evegoils.Nic.In/wsp/lo

gin). Those holding stocks

exceeding the prescribed

ban on wheat exports as of now, and there is no proposal to review a ban on the export of sugar. The decision comes after a high-level meeting, chaired by Affairs Home Cooperation Minister Amit

the new norms.

Chopra stressed.

Shah, held last week, where officials were directed to monitor wheat prices closely. The government had then signalled its readiness to intervene in the market to ensure price stability for consumers. Official data reveals that wheat

and wheat flour prices have risen by up to Rs 2 per kg compared to last year.

As of June 20, the average retail price of wheat stood at

28.95 a year ago. Wheat flour prices have also climbed to Rs 36.13 per kg against Rs 34.29 per kg last year.

The government maintains that it has sufficient wheat stocks to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes, which amount approximately 18.4 million

As of June 18, the government procured 26.6 million tonnes of wheat for the central pool in the 2024-25 rabi marketing year, marginally higher than the 26.2 million tonnes procured in the preceding

Chopra pointed out that the stock limit has been imposed to reduce hoarding and noted that there are many tools (to keep a tab on retail prices) and the stock limit is one of such

### Passenger vehicle sales to see 3-5 per cent growth this fiscal: Report

**PTI** MUMBAI

 $P_{\text{projected to grow at a}}^{\text{assenger vehicle sales is}}$ moderate 3-5 per cent this financial year on account of a high-base effect of FY24, shrinking order book and subdued demand for entrylevel variants, a report said on

According to the report by credit ratings agency CareEdge, following robust growth of 90 per cent with volumes at 90,432 units in FY24, with an improving penetration rate, electric car sales in the passenger vehicle (PV) segment is likely to clock volume of around 1.30-1.50 lakh units in FY25.

In FY22 and FY23, the PV industry

volume growth due to pentdemand post-Covid recovery and new product

introductions, it said. Utility vehicles played a significant role, with volumes increasing by 41 per cent in FY22 and 33.2 per cent in FY23. The industry benefitted from lower interest rates and an increased desire for personal mobility in the wake of the pandemic,

FY12. It grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15.51 per cent between FY13 and FY24, as consumer FY23, the PV preference shifted towards experienced utility vehicles that offered better and innovative designs,

professional forecasters and

elsewhere is that growth in 2025-26 will be roughly

similar to the forecast for

In other words, he said the growth sacrifice of 0.75-1 percentage points will last not

for one year, but for two. He said that during the last

few years, the government has

taken several policy measures

including digitalization, tax

infrastructure investment to

boost the economic growth rate to its potential of 8 per

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank left its key

interest rate (repo rate)

unchanged for the eighth time

in a row at 6.5 per cent. The RBI has projected Consumer Price Index (CPI)-

based retail inflation at 4.5

per cent for FY25 with 4.9 per

cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8

per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4.

Retail inflation was 4.75 per

cent in May .
The RBI, which has been

mandated to ensure inflation

remains at 4 per cent (with

margin of 2 per cent on either

side), mainly factors in CPI

while arriving at its monetary

and

2024-25.

reforms,

new models, technological, functional and features.

For the past decade, the utility vehicles segment has consistently outperformed the passenger vehicle industry growth rate. In FY24, for the first time utility vehicles sales volume stood higher than passenger cars and vans, it said. Currently, utility vehicles account for over 55 per cent of all new PV sales and its share in overall passenger vehicle (PV) sales is expected to further rise over the medium-term, CareEdge said. "The PV industry is expected

to exhibit moderate volume growth of around 3-5 per cent in FY25 on account of a high-base effect of FY24, shrinking orderbook and



expectation of persistently subdued demand for entry-level variants in FY25," said Arti Roy, Associate Director at CareEdge Ratings. Strong demand for new model launches and SUVs coupled

with the expectation of interest rate cuts in the second half of FY25 is expected to keep the sales momentum rolling, she added.

However, in line Ratings' expectation of volume growth of around 7-9 per cent in FY24, the PV industry volumes grew by 7.4 per cent in FY24, the ratings said. This moderation in year-on-

year volume growth in FY24 was due to the levelling off of pent-up demand amid a hike in vehicle prices, high base effect of FY23 and the highStrong order book in FY24, robust demand for new launches

interest rate environment, it

model increasing demand in the sports utility vehicle (SUV) segment kept the sales momentum rolling, as per the report. "While the market for

vehicles premium predicted to thrive, driven by a surge in demand for luxury and high-end models, entrylevel variants are likely to see continued diminished demand due to a downturn in both rural and markets," said Hardik Shah, Director at CareEdge Ratings. The rural sector is feeling the pinch as entry-level vehicles

### RBI needs to shift focus from inflation management to growth promotion: MPC

PTI NEW DELHI

With retail inflation nearing the RBI's target of 4 per cent, the monetary policy needs to shift focus on promoting growth, RBI MPC member Jayanth R Varma said on Monday. Varma further said CPI

inflation in 2024-25 is projected to be only about 0.5 percentage point above target, and core inflation extremely benign.

"The protracted period of intolerably high inflation is coming to an end... Over the next few quarters, we will see further disinflation and inflation will reach the target of 4 per cent on a sustained basis," he told PTI.

Varma, a professor at the Institute Indian Management Ahmedabad) noted that the fight against inflation has understandably come at a cost

to growth. Economic growth in 2024-25 is estimated to be 0.75-1 percentage points lower than the 8.2 per cent growth in 2023-24, he said adding India's potential growth is

about 8 per cent.
Earlier this month, the
Reserve Bank of India pegged
the GDP growth rate for FY25 at 7.2 per cent.

backdrop, "Against this monetary policy has to shift from a single-minded focus on inflation to balancing inflation against growth. We need a less restrictive monetary policy maintains a steady pace of disinflation while supporting growth," the MPC member

According to Varma, what is alarming is that the forecasts from the RBI survey of

CareEdge said. According to CareEdge, utility vehicles contributed 10-15 per cent of total passenger vehicle sales until FY12. It grew at a compound

Rupee rises 11 paise to close at 83.46 against US dollar PTI MUMBAI The rupee appreciated 11 paise to settle at 83.46 (provisional) against the US

dollar on Monday, supported by a positive trend in domestic equity markets and stable global crude oil prices. Forex traders said a weak US dollar against major rivals overseas on Monday also helped the rupee. However, weak Asian markets and renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East capped

sharp gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.52 and hit the intraday high of 83.44 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 83.46 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 11 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee hit the

lowest level of 83.63 but finally settled at 83.57 against the dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias as strength in the domestic markets and expectations of fresh foreign inflows may support the rupee.

"However, any bounce back in the US Dollar on rising expectations of a further delay in rate cut and safe-haven demand amid geopolitical tensions in the Red Sea region may cap the sharp upside," said



Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Investors may remain cautious ahead of core PCE data from the US this week. "USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.80," Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.57, lower by 0.21 per cent. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.36 per cent to USD 85.55 per

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 131.18 points, or 0.17 per cent,

to close at 77,341.08 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 36.75 points, or 0.16 per cent, higher at 23,537.85 points. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,790.19 crore, according to

exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves dropped by USD 2.922 billion to USD 652.895 billion for the week ended June 14, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the kitty had jumped by USD 4.307 billion to USD 655.817 billion, a new all-time high after consecutive weeks of increase in the reserves.

### **India Storage Alliance demands cut in GST** on batteries, charging infrastructure

Industry body India Energy Storage (IESA) has demanded that the government reduce the goods and services tax (GST) on batteries and electric charging vehicles infrastructure services as well battery swapping.

Ahead of the India Energy Storage Week 2024 (IESW) in New Delhi from July 1-5, 2024, the IESA also suggested expansion of production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for battery components and battery raw materials processing industry, in a wishlist submitted to the submitted to the government, a statement

"Lithium ion batteries current GST rate is 18 per cent and other batteries is 28per cent. We want all batteries to come under the 18 per cent GST bracket. Charging infra services and battery swapping services

should be reduced to 5 or 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent," IESA President Rahul Walawalkar said in the statement. He lauded the government

for the initiatives like advanced chemistry cell battery (ACC-PLI), Auto-PLI, Auto Components PLI, etc. He suggested further expansion of PLI schemes to battery components and battery raw materials processing industry, support battery recycling initiatives, and collaboration with international partners to secure critical raw materials

IESA urged the new government to continue incentivising the deployment of large-scale battery storage systems and to support research and development in this area to enhance performance and reduce While the EV market is

growing, further support is

needed to overcome barriers

such as the lack of charging infrastructure and high upfront costs, the IESA said. The recommendations also included streamlining regulatory processes and providing clear guidelines for clean energy projects which will help implementation and reduce uncertainties for investors. affordable Access to financing remains a major

barrier for clean energy projects. Innovative financial mechanisms and incentives private participation are essential. Greater emphasis on research and innovation is needed to drive down costs and

improve the efficiency of clean energy technologies, it stated, adding that publicprivate partnerships can play a vital role in this regard. The industry body also suggested raising public awareness about the benefits

of clean energy and investing

development

skills

programmes.

lower than the USD 52.6 billion a year ago.

### India records 0.6 per cent current account surplus in March quarter on higher service exports, remittances

PTI MUMBAI

 $\mathbf{I}$ ndia recorded a current account surplus of USD 5.7 billion or 0.6 per cent of GDP in the March quarter, the Reserve Bank of India said on Monday.

In the year-ago period, the current account deficit stood at USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP, and the same was USD 8.7 billion or 1 per cent of GDP in the preceding quarter ending December

For FY24, the current account deficit narrowed to USD 23.2 billion or 0.7 per cent of GDP against USD 67 billion or 2 per cent of GDP in FY23, the RBI said in a release on the Developments in India's Balance of Payments.

In January-March 2024, the merchandise trade deficit stood at USD 50.9 billion,

Net services receipts at USD 42.7 billion were higher than the USD 39.1 billion on the back of a 4.1 per cent growth



bank said, adding that this helped in swinging the current account into the surplus territory. Net outgo on the primary

income account, mainly reflecting payments of investment income, increased to USD 14.8 billion from USD 12.6 billion a year ago, the data released by the RBI said. Private transfer receipts, which mainly represent remittances by Indians employed overseas, grew 11.9 per cent to USD 32 billion in

the March quarter. The non-resident deposits also surged to USD 5.4 billion in January-March compared to USD 3.6 billion in the year-

Net foreign direct investment flows were USD 2 billion in Q4 FY24 against USD 6.4 billion a year ago. Foreign portfolio investment

recorded a net inflow of USD 11.4 billion during the quarter compared to a net outflow of USD 1.7 billion a year ago. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings to India were USD 2.6 billion against USD 1.7 billion.

In FY24, the portfolio investment recorded a net inflow of USD 44.1 billion against an outflow of USD 5.2 billion a year ago, while net FDI plummeted to USD 9.8 billion from USD 28 billion in FY23, the RBI said.





## India secure Olympic team quotas in archery; Deepika, Tarun set for fourth Games appearances

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ndia secured men's and women's team quotas in ▲archery for this year's Paris Olympics based on the updated world rankings on Monday. India topped the rankings among the non-qualified nations in both men's and women's section to seal their team quotas.

India will, thus, be eligible to compete in all the five medal events in Paris -- men's and women's team, individual and mixed categories.

In the men's section, India and China made the cut, while in the women's section Indonesia were the second nation to

secure the team Olympic quota. The team events will have 12 sides in each section, while five teams will compete in the mixed competitions. For the first time, team quotas

are offered to the top-two nations after the three-leg Olympic qualifiers.

The first Olympic Qualifier was held during the World Archery Championships in Borlin last year from where Berlin last year from where South Korea, Turkey and Japan qualified in men's category; while Germany and Mexico secured their spots in women's division.

The second leg was continental qualifier. Kazakhstan and South Korea

took the men's and women's team quotas respectively from the Asian leg, while Colombia and the United States made the cut from Pan-America.

From the European leg, Italy (men) and the Netherlands (women) secured quotas. The final Olympic Qualifier was held in Antalya last week.

Mexico, Chinese Taipei, Great Britain in men's section; China, Malaysia, Great Britain and Chinese Taipei from the women's section secured quotas from the Final Qualifier.

TARUN, DEEPIKA HIT A FOUR: Forty-year-old Army veteran Tarundeep Rai, who made his Olympic debut at

Athens 2004, will make his fourth Games appearance. The same is for former world No. 1 Deepika Kumari who

will compete in her fourth Olympics on the trot, having made her maiden Games appearance in London 2012. Dhiraj Bommadevara, Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur will make their Olympic debuts, while for Pravin Jadhav it will be his second successive Games after Tokyo.

INDIA SQUAD: Men: Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Pravin Iadhav.

Women: Deepika Kumari Bhajan Kaur and Ankita

#### **EURO CUP 2024**

## Germany gets late goal to draw 1-1 with Switzerland and finish top of Euro 2024 group

AP FRANKFURT (GERMANY)

They all jumped for the ball in a frantic late push for the goal that would save Germany from its first loss at the Championship, European Switzerland team.

Defender Nico Schlotterbeck leaped up, next to the even more imposing center-back Antonio Rüdiger, who reached highest of all. In front of them both was substitute Niclas both was substitute Niclas Füllkrug.

The German trio was circled by three Swiss opponents trying to protect a 1-0 lead two minutes into stoppage time. Six pairs of feet off the ground in unison, straining to be the one unison, straining to be the one to head the ball.

It was Füllkrug who won the contest, guiding the ball crossed from another substitute David Raum back across Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer into the top corner of the net. The match ended 1-1.

We risked a lot in this phase because we could have conceded a second coach Germany Nagelesmann said about throwing his defenders into attack. "Who doesn't dare to risk, doesn't get to draw."

Germany had already advanced to the round of 16

Germany had already advanced to the round of 16 before kickoff Sunday, but a draw felt like a win in the circumstances and kept the



momentum of impressive wins against Scotland and Hungary. When you see how the Germans celebrated their goal their final round of Group C games on Tuesday. Nagelsmann acknowledged that says everything," said Switzerland captain Granit

Xhaka, named player of the match. Switzerland impressed while protecting a 28th-minute goal from Dan Ndoye's clever volleyed shot, and chasing a bigger lead. A second goal was denied by a marginal offside ruling against Ruben Vargas and a fine save by Manuel Neuer from Xhaka's shot.

The point for each team ensured Germany finished top and Switzerland second in Group A. Hungary took third place in the standings with an even later stoppage-time goal to beat Scotland 1-0 in Stuttgart.

Germany now goes Dortmund for a round of 16 game Saturday against the runner-up in Group C. That

opponent can be any of the four teams - England, Slovenia, Denmark or Serbia - playing

Germany's opponent might not like having two fewer days of rest, though added: "We have to prepare for four teams, they only have to prepare for one team.

Switzerland heads to the Olympic Stadium in Berlin to open the round of 16 on Saturday against the runner-up in Group B, likely Italy or Croatia. They meet Monday in their decisive group game. Coach Murat Yakin suggested Switzerland had earned the right to make a higher-ranked opponent concerned about his

"I think we have a certain standing which we worked hard for. Were on a good path," Yakin said, "without a defeat,

unbeaten team.

We like being the dark horse."
Switzerland's goal was made in Bologna, the upstart Italian club that has qualified for its first Champions League entry next season.

Ndoye timed his run to meet a floated pass across the goalmouth from his Bologna teammate Remo Freuler. The attack began when Fabian Rieder, making his first start since the 2022 World Cup, won the bell in the Cormon belf and the ball in the German half and then fed Freuler.

A video review had denied Germany taking the lead in the 17th. Robert Andrich's long-range shot bounced up and over the dive of Sommer, but the VAR team alerted Italian referee Daniele Orsato to an earlier foul in the goalmouth by Jamal Musiala.

much-criticized Waldstadion playing surface behaved better Sunday and the roof stayed closed to protect it though no more rain is forecast

for at least five days. The turf cut up during both previous Euro 2024 games in Frankfurt. It has seemed not to bed in properly since being laid in November after the stadium hosted two NFL games.

Frankfurt will host two more games, finishing with a round of 16 match that will include Group F winner Portugal perhaps facing Hungary, which faces a three-day wait to learn

### Jamshedpur FC extend head coach Khalid Jamil's contract by two years

**PTI** ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Indian Super League side Jamshedpur FC has retained the services of head coach Khalid Jameel for the next two years, the club announced on

An AFC Pro licensed coach, Khalid, who had guided Aizawl FC to the I-League title in 2017, took over as Jamshedpur's head coach in the middle of the previous season, at a time when the club had won only two out of its 11

His appointment brought immediate results, with the club bouncing back to reach the semi-finals of the 2024 Kalinga Super Cup.

Under him, Jamshedpur FC notched 11 points with three wins and two draws in his first five ISL games, helping the club stay in the playoff race until the penultimate game of "We want to win the ISL. Our

fans deserve it for the tremendous support they show every time," said Khalid after signing the extension, which runs until the end of season 2025-26. "We are forming a team that

will give their all to achieve this in every training session and match, both players and staff," added Khalid, who was adjudged Football Players' Association of India Coach of the Year 2020-21.

The club's pre-season camp is tentatively expected to begin in

### Indian trio plays part in ZNK Dinamo Zagreb's maiden title triumph

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian trio of Jyoti Chauhan, MK Kashmina and Kiran Pisda played decisive roles in ZNK Dinamo Zagreb clinching the Croatian Women's Football Cup, the club's maiden silverware at the top echelons of the country's football.

Kashmina, the 25-year-old midfielder from Manipur, turned out to be the cynosure of all eyes at the SRC Mladost ground in the picturesque town of Cakovec, as her successful conversion broke the deadlock after their Osijek went into sudden death. Kashmina calmly scored the final spot-kick to help the Croatian capital side win 5-4 on penalties after both teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of



regulation time.

It was a sensational victory against a powerhouse club like Osijek, who are record 19-time champions of the Croatian Women's Football Cup. They throughout this season until going down to Dinamo in the final on Saturday.

ZNK Dinamo Zagreb have been a haven for Indian women footballers over the last

couple of seasons. It began with Jyoti and Soumya Guguloth, in 2022, and they were soon joined by winger Kiran and Kashmina.
"The way we won this Cup was special. Our club had never won it before, and the manner in which we won it right at the end, simply makes it all the more memorable," Kashmina told the-aiff.Com. told the-aiff.Com.

"I've scored a few goals in the IWL as well, but winning here in Croatia, with the three of us playing an important role in the team, it really feels like we have created history for our

from the bench in the final, Jyoti and Kiran played the full Both Jyoti and Kashmina had scored one each in the quarter-finals and semifinals, respectively

### Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar qualify for Paris Olympics

Indian golfing stars Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar on Monday secured qualification to the upcoming Paris Olympics via the world rankings.

The two women join Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar (men's section) to form a four-member Indian team for the showpiece, which will be held from July 26 to August 11.

While it will be a third appearance for Aditi at the Olympics which is also the most for an Indian, Diksha will be competing for the second time.

For Sharma and Bhullar, it would be their maiden appearance at the Olympics.

India's best performance at the Olympics came from Aditi who finished fourth in the Tokyo Games 2020.

The Olympic entries are sent by the Indian Golf Union. Qualification for Olympics is

determined by rankings, limited to 60 men's and as many women's players through the Official World Golf Rankings (OWGR).

The top 15 players in the OWGR are eligible for the Olympics with a maximum limit of four golfers allowed from a single country.

The Olympic Golf Rankings (OGR), after the top 15 players, consists of up to top two eligible players per country, as long as it does not have at least two golfers in the top 15.

Aditi, the highest-ranked female player from India, is ranked 24, while Diksha sealed her spot by claiming the 40th position. Diksha is the only golfer to have appeared in both the Olympics and the Deaflympics, where she is a two-time medallist

Diksha is the second Indian woman to win on the LET (Ladies European Tour) after Aditi and remains the youngest to do so at the age of 18.



### Denmark takes on Serbia in final match of wide open group at Euro 2024

their final Group C match. Both teams hope it's not their last game at the European Championship. Denmark is currently second in the group, two points below England and level on points with third-place Slovenia. Serbia is last but has only one less point than Denmark and Slovenia.

HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE MATCH: MATCH FACTS

Denmark would advance to the round of 16 with a win and would be eliminated if it loses and Slovenia avoids defeat against England.

If both matches end in a draw, Denmark and Slovenia will be split for second and third on overall goals scored, then disciplinary points, then European Qualifiers rankings. The first two tiebreakers are head-to-head and goal difference but that would stay equal.

Serbia, which snatched a vital draw against Slovenia on Thursday to keep its hopes alive, will advance if it beats Denmark and Slovenia fails to win against England. It will be

out if it draws and Slovenia avoids defeat.

Denmark faces Serbia on 

Other results could leave calculator and facing an anxious wait to see if it scrapes through as one of the four best third-place teams. **TEAM NEWS** midfielder Denmark

Thomas Delaney recovered from the illness that kept him out of the match against England. Serbia has no new injury

concerns but winger Filip Kostic is out after injuring a knee ligament in his team's opening loss to England. BY THE NUMBERS There has never been a draw

between the two sides. Each has won five of their 10 encounters.

But four of Denmark's five wins have come in the last four matches, including a 3-0 victory the last time they met, in March 2022. Christian Eriksen has

moved level with Simon Kjaer on a Denmark record of 132 national-team games. Kjaer, Denmark's captain at Euro 2020, was an unused substitute against Slovenia and England as the defender returns to full

### Dutch fans to brighten up Berlin as Oranje face Austria in last group game



**I** point from its final group game Tuesday against Austria knockout stage of the Championship, European while Austria needs a win. The Dutch team has been supported tens thousands of orange-clad fans in Hamburg and Leipzig for its two games so far, and now they take their bright party to Berlin, where the final will be played next month. Perhaps a

rehearsala HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE MATCH: **MATCH FACTS** 

Both the Netherlands and France have four points in Group D, one ahead of Austria, while Poland has no points and was the first team eliminated. France is playing Poland in their final group game at the same time.

The Dutch have a good record against Austria and will hope to make it eight wins in a row including a group stage victory over Austria in the last edition of the tournament. The game will be played in

under the Nazis for the 1936

Berlin's Olympiastadion. It will be the Netherlands' first game in the stadium built

Austria hasn't beaten the The Netherlands needs a Oranje since a 3-2 victory in a friendly in Vienna in 1990. The Dutch won both their at the 1978 World Cup and Euro 2020.

☐ The Netherlands started Euro 2024 by defeating Poland 2-1 thanks to a late goal from Wout Weghorst, then held France to the first and so far only goalless draw in the tournament. France missed a host of chances to score, while Xavi Simons had a goal ruled out through VAR, much to coach Dutch Koeman's annoyance.

Koeman helped the Netherlands win Euro '88 as a player when West Germany hosted the tournament. He's now in his second stint as

national team coach. Under German coach Ralf Rangnick, Austria lost only one of its 10 qualifying games for Euro 2024, to Belgium 3-2 It was the team's only defeat

last year. ☐ Austria opened Euro 2024 with a 1-0 loss to France, then defeated Poland 3-1.

Team news Neither team had any major injury worries Monday's pre-match press

### Uruguay starts Copa America campaign with 3-1 win over Panama

**AP** MIAMI GARDENS

Maximiliano Araújo scored when he sent a left-footed shot into the top far corner in the 16th minute, Darwin Núñez and Matías Viña added late goals and Uruguay beat Panama 3-1 in its Copa America opener.

Seeking a record 16th Copa Uruguay America title, dominated with 20 shots, including seven on target. Amir Murillo scored late into stoppage time for Panama. The match drew 33,425 to

Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins. The stadium is the site of the July 14 final and seven games during the 2026 World Cup. The United States defeated Bolivia 2-0 in Sunday's earlier Group C game at Arlington,

Uruguay plays Bolivia at East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Thursday, when Panama faces the U.S. In Atlanta. The group ends July 1 with a U.S.-Uruguay game at Kansas City, Missouri, and a Panama-Bolivia match in Orlando, Florida. The top two teams move on to the quarterfinals. Uruguay is tied with Argentina for a record 15 Copa America titles but hasn't advanced past the quarterfinals since winning its last championship in 2011 Panama failed to get past the group phase in 2016, its only previous appearance as a guest South America's

championship.



after he received a pass from goalkeeper Viña from just outside the penalty area, took a touch and turned. He tapped the ball international appearances.

twice and curled the ball past Orlando Mosquera's outstretched left arm for his second goal in nine

Núñez made it 2-0 in the 85th minute after Panama turned over the ball in the center circle. Nicolás de la Cruz played a long cross to Araújo, whose header deflected off a shoulder of Murillo to Núñez. He volleyed from 12 yards for his 12th goal in 24 appearances, his ninth in his last six matches. Viña boosted the margin to 3-

0 with a header from de la Cruz's free kick in the first minute of stoppage time, outjumping defender Abdiel Ayarza for international goal.

Murrillo spun a defender to beat goalkeeper Sergio Rochet the fourth minute of stoppage time for his ninth

### After back surgery, Andy Murray is undecided on readiness for Wimbledon

**AP** ■ LONDON

Andy Murray hasn't decided on whether he'll play at Wimbledon next week following his

The 37-year-old Murray had surgery Saturday after retiring injured from a midweek match at Queen's Club in the buildup to what was expected to be his final appearance at the All England Club. Murray's team said in a statement Monday that

the two-time Wimbledon champion "is continuing to work with his medical team to confirm when he will return to the court.' "At this stage, no decisions have been made and we will update further as soon as anything has

The former No. 1 has signaled his intention to retire later this year. Murray, who won the Wimbledon title in 2013 and 2016, retired from his match Queen's Club

been finalized," the statement read.



was experiencing problems with his right leg even before getting to the court. After three games, Murray received treatment

on his surgically repaired right hip, right knee and lower back.

# Afghans to hope for Indian win before clash against Bangladesh

fghanistan will watch the India-Australia clash with bated breath, hoping that the 'Men in Blue' stand on the winning side -- a result which will hand them a golden opportunity to qualify for the T20 World Cup semifinals when they take on Bangladesh in their Super Eights match.

Eights match.
Afghanistan augmented their chances of making their first-ever World Cup semifinal when they downed the mighty Australians on Saturday.
As things stand, India lead the group followed by Australia and Afghanistan -- both on 2 points each -- and Bangladesh are last.

Rohit Sharma and his men are favourites to qualify for the final-four with a net run rate of 2.425 while Australia (0.223) have superior NRR compared to Afghanistan (-0.650).

Rashid Khan and Co. Will hope India do them a favour by beating Australia so that they enter the clash knowing exactly what they require to do for

making the semifinals. But if Australia win, it will be

an uphill task for Afghanistan to overtake the former champions on NRR. Having said that, Afghanistan will be super high on confidence having exacted revenge from Australia for their ODI World Cup loss last year in Mumbai. Irrespective of the India-Australia result, the Afghans would fancy their chances against a down-and-out Bangladesh, who seemed happy just to progress to the Super Eights.

That Afghanistan have the skills and mindset to excel in the format is not up for debate. They have proved that they are no longer a side reliant on just their bowling unit to eke out

Rahmanullah Openers Gurbaz, the leading run-getter, and Ibrahim Zadran have set the tournament ablaze with their sensational hitting.

Additionally, the Afghans are enjoying the conditions that Caribbean pitches are offering. Having a plethora of quality all-rounders has only



helped their cause. They will take on Bangladesh

at the same venue where they defeated Australia and the spin friendly conditions will aide

Bangladesh, on the other hand, have already given up. Although they do have a minuscule chance progressing to the semifinals, back-to-back defeats against Australia and India have deflated their confidence.

To be honest, I don't think we have a chance to play the semifinal anymore after this loss (against India)," senior all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan said

on Saturday.
Bangladesh have struggled with their batting throughout the tournament. The lack of power-hitters has also hurt them. The underwhelming performance of opener Litton Das and Tanzid Khan has also compounded their woes.

However, Towid Hridoy and leg spinner Rishad Hossain have impressed with their performance. The game against Afghanistan is an opportunity for them to end their campiagn

"But having said that, the next game will be an opportunity for us to get a win on our belt before we finish up this tournament," Shakib said

"We'd love to finish this tournament on a high. We have to face Afghanistan which is a very good side. So, we have to be at our best to be able to win against them," he added.

TEAMS (FROM): **Afghanistan:** Rashid Khan (c),

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Hazratullah Zazai, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq,

Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad Malik. Bangladesh: Tanzid Hasan, Litton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Shakib Al Hasan, Towhid Mahmudullah, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Mustafizur Rahman, Jaker Ali, Tanvir Islam, Shoriful Islam,

### Cool South Africa edge out West Indies to enter semi-final of T20 World Cup

PTI NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

South Africa's golden generation of white-ball cricketers took a big step towards erasing the "eternal chokers" tag by keeping their composure to enter the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup, beating a formidable West Indies by three wickets in a thrilling rain-truncated Super 8s game here. After part-time magician and

full-time wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/27), along with his slow bowling colleagues slow bowling colleagues Keshav Maharaj (1/24) and skipper Aiden Markram (1/28), restricted West Indies to a manageable 135 for 8, South Africa achieved the revised target of 123 with five balls to spare.

The Proteas were 15/2 in two overs when rain disrupted proceedings.

With this win, South Africa topped Group 1 followed by defending champions England as the second semifinalist from

Tristan Stubbs (29 off 27 balls), one of the most talked-about among young T20 batters, set up the chase in company of Heinrich Klaasen (22 off 10 balls) for the South Africans.

not out off 14 balls), who hit a beautiful six down the ground off the first ball of the 17th over bowled by left-arm pacer Obed McCoy to seal the deal.

Equally praiseworthy was Kagiso Rabada's copybook cover drive off Roston Chase when South Africa required 9 off 7 balls.

"Lot of relief to get through to the semifinal. We would have liked to be a lot more convincing," said South likea & convincing," said Markram.

In a contest that was headlined by the most revered names in T20 history, two under-rated cricketers held forte.

Barbados' Roston Chase (52 and 3/12), who year-after-year goes unsold in the IPL and Jansen, who displayed the less talked-about virtue composure, much required in



down-the-wire chases.

It was an unfair rain-rule in the 1992 ODI World Cup that saw South Africa bow out of the semi-finals against England and often the Proteas found ways to lose important games of cricket.

But on Sunday night in North Sound, the one hour rain delay did a world of good for their batters as the pitch suddenly became better for batting with the ball skidding and coming

Also unforgettable was how left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie (1/20), lost his length. His only over cost 20 which did contribute a lot to the co-hosts'

In a game full of T20 prima donnas, it was the Stubbs, Millers Klaasens, Markrams who had the last laugh over the Andre Russells, Rovman Powells and Nicholas

Poorans. On a track where ball wasn't always coming on to the bat, the South African spin troika was excellent with five wickets shared between Markram, Keshav Maharaj and Shamsi for 79 run in 12 cumulative

Markram, Skipper opened the bowling did a stellar job by removing opposition's most destructive batter Nicholas Pooran (1), inviting him to go for a heave, only to hole out at long-off. Kyle Mayers (35 off 34) and

West Indies' most useful player

across formats -- Roston Chase

commendable rescue act with 81 runs added for the third wicket in little under 11 overs. At 86 for two, the duo had built the platform for a respectable total with big hitters like Andre Russell and Rovman Powell still in the dug-out but things changed drastically due to the way Shamsi and Maharaj

> Both were not afraid to toss the ball up and entice the batters to go for expansive drives and it did pay dividends.

> Maharaj bowled a dream delivery for a classical left-arm spinner to get rid of of West Indies skipper Powell.
>
> Maharaj flighted one above his eveline. drawing Powell

forward but it dipped late and then turned away after pitching only for De Kock to complete the stumping.

Shamsi, at the other end was dead accurate, not trying to turn too much, and pitching his deliveries in the leg-middle line not giving batters room to manoeuvre. Both Mayers and Chase were dismissed trying to free the shackles.

Skipper Markram's planning was impeccable and Kagiso Rabada was only brought into the attack in the 18th over and bowled a couple of overs.

Andre Russell, who hit a couple of sixes off Anrich Nortje, could have inflicted more damage but a direct throw from the bowler during a Rabada over found the allrounder short of his ground and ended the hosts' chances of (52 off 42 balls) -- carried out a crossing the 150-run mark.

### As Warner's friend, want him to end on a high with cup win: Usman Khawaja

He has had the best seat at the other end of the 22 yards watching David Warner in full flow and no wonder Usman Khawaja wants Australian team to give his opening partner a fitting farewell with a T20 World Cup

Warner is set to retire from international cricket once Australia's campaign in the ongoing T20 World Cup concludes, which Khawaja loves to believe will only be after winning the coveted final.

'As a friend, I'd love to see him (Warner) finish on a high. He's been playing some really good cricket. It's been really nice to see. You can tell he's just enjoying being out there. He's playing pretty relaxed. So he should. Yeah, it would be good to see," Khawaja told PTI Videos in an interview ahead of Australia's last Super 8s match against India.

The veteran Australia opener is confident that a shock defeat against Afghanistan won't stand in the way of Mitchell Marsh's team winning the T20 World Cup for the second time since

Even if Australia lose to India in their last Super 8s match in Gros Islet on Monday evening (India time), Afghanistan will then have to meet improbable equations in order to beat them in net run-rate.

'If Australia beats India and makes it to the semi-final, I think definitely, I think they can win. I think we've just got to get to the semi-final," Khawaja said. He spoke about Australia's ability to lift their game at the knock-out stages.

"I think we've shown over the years that we're a great knockout team. Ás soon as there's a knockout situation, more times than not we've won, but we've just got to get there.'

got to get there. Khawaja praised Marsh for his leadership skills and his captaincy is a reflection of the kind of person he is. 'I think his captaincy is just him. It's him as a person. He doesn't try to be anything that he's not. He's relaxed. He goes out and plays the game, takes the game on, leads from the front, leads by his actions. So, I've really enjoyed watching his captaincy," he said.



The 37-vear-old Pakistan born batter, who has played 73 Tests for the 'Baggy Greens', also said that no team is invincible but acknowledged that India will be tough to get past.

'I mean, India's always a threat. They have batters left, right and centre. They have great bowlers. They have excellent spinners. They have literally all bases covered. They always have. I wouldn't go out and say India's so far ahead, a better team than everyone else, because

'So' I think on any day, any team can beat anyone, particularly in T20 cricket," he observed.

On Australia's forthcoming series against India and the home Ashes in 2025, Khawaja termed both as pinnacle of cricketing contests.

"It's always tough to beat India in India. But in the last couple of series, India has beaten Australia in Australia, which is never nice for an Australian. So, yeah, we've got a lot to play for. It's a big series. To me, England and India are the two biggest series," he exclaimed. PTI

Khawaja concluded by reflecting on the enduring popularity of Test cricket in Australia and the new golden ticket initiative taken by cricket Australia. "The baggy green is still the pinnacle of Australian cricket. I think we're very lucky in Australia. I still think we get paid really well to play Test cricket. It's not the same across the world. So, it's a little bit different for us. We don't have to try as hard. Because we have a long-

### Sky is limit, we are ending with heaps of learnings: Corey Anderson on USA's T20 WC campaign

Their fairytale run was cut short by the "Big Boys" but USA batter Corey Anderson says his assorted team is signing off from the T20 World Cup here with its head held high and "heaps of learnings". The USA were knocked out after losing their Super 8 stage matches to South Africa, West Indies and England.

This was after a reasonably good run in the group league encounters, during which they beat Pakistan and gave India a

"I mean sky's the limit really...The last few years there's always been whispers around what's happening in America cricket...Hopefully in years to

come as well, we can kind of

grow that," Anderson, who is

from New Zealand and even

played 93 games for that he added. country before shifting base to the UŚA, said following their campaign-ending loss to England on Sunday.

I mean there's probably a lot of areas that we need to improve on. We are still an Associate nation, growing, trying to get a bigger player pool. Making it through the Super 8s was obviously a historic occasion for the USA,"

Asked to explain the USA's loss of momentum after galvanising league run Anderson said it was a case of 'Big Boys' raising their level when it mattered against a mostly novice team.

The last couple of games have just been not quite there, but that's what happens in the Super 8 competition is the bigger boys start to really show

their stride right at the back end of this competition," he

"We don't get to play against these big teams often or at all. So, anything that we can play against these guys is hugely valuable. It's probably a little bit raw at the moment obviously, but yeah there's heaps of learnings out of that," he added.

The 33-year-old Anderson is just one of the acquired talents for USA.

The team is made up of players of West Indian, Indian and Pakistan origin players.

One of their top performers was Indian-origin pacer Saurabh Netravalkar, who is a full-time software engineer with Oracle.

Anderson said there is understandable disappointment in the camp right now

accomplishment....They're disappointed. They're hurt. I'm hurt. Your

pride's always on the line when you're playing these games and you never want to lose badly or have performances like that,' he said referring to the 10wicket loss to England here.
"But again, it's looking at the bigger picture of it too. If we're a team and we first started and

we're beginning to be disappointed about how we play against these big teams and knowing that we can do better, that's a great sign because it means we can give more," he explained. Anderson did not play any

knock of significance during the campaign and he acknowledged that it hurt the team as he was among the most experienced in the line-

### We would have liked to be more convincing than that: Markram after win against Windies

PTI NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Relieved to have qualified for the semifinals of the T20 World Cup, South Africa captain Aiden Markram acknowledged that the Proteas erred a bit in attempting to finish off the chase against West Indies too soon, leading to an

unconvincing victory South Africa did well to restrict the two-time champions to 135/8. In reply, the Proteas were 15/2 in two overs when rain disrupted proceedings for close to an hour.

The South African batters saw the reduced revised target and improved batting conditions after rain as an opportunity to go hammer and tongs at the target of 123 but kept losing wickets as the hosts made things tight. But Makram and his men eventually got

the work done

"A lot of relief to get through to the semifinal. Not going to be brain-washed by that. We would have liked to be more convincing with bat in hand," Markram said at the post match presentation.

After the rain break, the wicket was playing nicely. We did not get the partnerships to then kill the game. Tried to kill it (the chase) too early, it put us in a tricky position. (The win) is massive for us and fantastic for the change room."

Markram hopes the nervy win will be a learning lesson for his side.

"We bowled really well, assessed conditions and kept them to a subpar total. We could have build a partnership after the break and then take it from there, we will take that learning and hopefully not do that same mistake again."



With the wicket aiding spinners, Markram opted to to bowl wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/27), Keshav Maharaj (1/24) and himself (1/28), while using pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen for two overs each. "We picked Shamsi to have a mystery spinner against them and immediately saw it spinning, so we wanted to bowl as much spin as we can. If it wouldn't spun that much then we would have used our pacers, not a lot of times when KG bowls only 2 overs.

We have been doing really well, the bowling unit is firing and as a batting unit it is about when to take the game on. We need to be smart on those situations." OUR

**IMPROVEMENT** COMMENDABLE: ROVMAN Their hopes of winning an unprecedented third title were dashed but West Indies skipper Powell Rovman remained extremely proud of the progress the 'Men in Maroon' have made in the past year. Having missed out on qualifying for the ODI World Cup last year, West Indies cricket seemed to have reached an all time low but under Powell's captaincy, they have enjoyed a resurgence and climbed to the third spot in ICC T20 rankings.

"When you look on a large scale, we have not won the World Cup or in the semi-final, but if you look at the cricket we have played in the last 15 months, to go from No.9 to No.3 in the rankings, it is commendable.

"There is a lot of buzz in the Caribbean around West Indian cricket, and now is where the work starts. Continue to work together as

a group and make the Caribbean people proud. When we hear the anthem, as players, we feel something and that is heading in the right direction."

After putting up a below-par target the West Indies bowlers put up an impressive display to take the match to the last over. 'Credit has to be given to the boys,

they fought till the very end. As a batting group, this is a performance you'd want to forget. We did not bat well in the middle. It was not an easy wicket, especially to get started," Powell said. "In the middle overs, we lost wickets in clusters. That broke the back of our batting team. It was a commendable bowling effort. We said we wanted to give it our all. They (the team) believed even if it was only 135 (on the board)," Powell concluded.

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