

Assam CM's warning: Post 2015 arrivals in the State to be deported

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma 🕰 on Monday said anyone coming to Assam in 2015 or later will be deported back to their country of origin.

"We will deport those who have come after 2015. Only eight persons have applied so far who came before 2015 for CAA. Out of these applicants only two have proceeded to attend interviews with relevant authorities," the CM said at a Press conference in Guwahati to share the insight into the implementation of the Citizens' Act.

The Centre on March 11 implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 CAA by notifying the rules, four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fasttrack citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before December 31, 2014, and stayed here for five years.

"We conducted outreach programmes in the Barak valley and approached many-Hindu Bengali families and asked them to apply for citizenship under CAA. However, they refused to do The Assam Chief

after he stated that the citizenship act will be "completely insignificant" in Assam due to a low number of applications.

Himanta said anybody (according to CAA) who has come to India before 2015, they have the first right to apply for citizenship. "If they don't apply we will lodge a case for them. So this is a statuary instruction," the CM said on a strong note to carry forward implementation of the CAA. Based on the rules of the

Citizenship Amendment Act, migrants belonging to six religious minorities Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, eligible for citizenship.'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma addresses the media in Guwahati PTI

Minister's statement comes Parsi, and Christian from neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan will be allowed to stay in India as citizens if they entered the country before December 31, 2014. Sarma claimed that most of the Hindu-Bengali families, who were not included in the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), told him that they possessed necessary documents to prove their Indian citizenship and preferred the FT route than applying through the CAA

Asked whether the Assam Government is dropping cases in Foreigners Tribunals (FT) against Hindu-Bengalis,

Sarma clarified, "This misleading. We cannot drop any case. We are simply advising that before initiating a case, individuals should apply through the CAA portal. Even if a case is filed, there won't be any outcome because these people are

The Chief Minister said he will request the Advocate General to flag the issue of CAA so that FTs can give time to people whose cases are going on to apply for citizenship under the newly implemented law.

"I can't give a direction to court to pause while deciding the citizenship cases. The FT judges themselves have to decide and they know the latest situation," he added. Asked about such a low number of applications in CAA, Sarma said the Opposition myth that 15-20 lakh Bangladeshis will get citizenship in Assam has been busted completely. "In the anti-CAA movement

five Assamese youths lost their lives. So they made the sacrifice to prevent only these eight people! This abysmally low number of eight applications, of which only low two turned up for interview, is a bit surprising for us also,' he added

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BJP numbers dip in Rajya Sabha, Party eyes bypolls for renewed strength



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

B^{JP's} tally in the Rajya Sabha has dipped below 90 for the first time in many years but the ruling party at Centre with its NDA partners is looking forward to gain berths in the Upper House by-elections to fill the existing vacancies in forthcoming weeks.

The current strength of the Rajya Sabha is 226 with the BJP having 86 followed by 26 of the Congress and 13 of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). There are currently 19 vacancies.

Interestingly, after a decade without a Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha due to a shortage of numbers, this position has now been filled with the appointment of Rahul Gandhi, as the party improved its score in the

recently concluded general elections. The Rajya Sabha is heading in a similar direction, with the Congress struggling to maintain the numbers necessary to keep the status of LoP for its party chief, Mallikarjun Kharge.

After the election of party leaders KC Venugopal and Deepender Singh Hooda to the Lok Sabha and their subsequent resignation from the Rajya Sabha, the Congress strength in the Upper House too has come down to 26, just one more than the minimum 25 members required to qualify for the post.

For this grand old party strategically made its old timer Kesava Rao to quit the RS berth from the BRS party who joined Congress last week which is the party's plan to improve its tally in the



Sensex, Nifty sing on an all time high

PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed at new record high levels on Monday following buying in PSU bank shares and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new record high of 80,664.86. During the day, it advanced 343.2 points or 0.42 per cent to hit a high of 80,862.54.

The NSE Nifty rallied 84.55 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,586.70. During the day, it surged 132.9 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a new record peak of 24,635.05.

Among Sensex shares, State Bank of India was the biggest gainer, rising by 2.55 per cent after the bank announced a hike in MCLRbased lending rates for various tenors. NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Maruti and ITC were the other major winners.

Pollution Centres down shutters, hike not Under Control

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Around 600 Pollution Under Control Centres (PUCC) across 400 petrol pumps in the national Capital will remain closed starting Monday in response to a protest call by petrol dealers and pump owners following the Delhi Government's proe in pollution certifi





SC agreeable to hearing pleas on key Central laws

Upper House to retain the

post of LoP for incumbent

Kharge. This has caused a

vacancy from Telangana,

which will be filled up by the

Congress given its numbers

Congress is trying to get

more members from other

parties from Telangana and

Karnataka to resign and get

While the BJP-led NDA is

confident of winning two seats each in Bihar,

Maharashtra and Assam and

one each in Haryana, Madhya

numerical superiority over

the Opposition, the four new

nominated members are also

expected to be pro-treasury

Government names them.

Rajasthan and

their

the

due to

whenever

Continued on Page 2

them elected on its ticket.

sources,

in the State Assembly.

According to

Pradesh,

Tripura

benches

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a suggestion for setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of pas-sage of laws like the Aadhaar Act by the Modi Government as money bills allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha where The BIP vas in a minority



last year for procedural directions. In November 2019, a five-judge bench of the apex court had referred to a larger bench the issue of examining the validity of the passage of the Finance Act, 2017 as a money

Constitution, and certification

accorded by the Speaker of the

Lok Sabha in respect of Part-

XIV of the Finance Act, 2017

is referred to a larger Bench,'

The five-judge bench had then

struck down in entirety the

rules governing the appointment and service

conditions of the members of

various tribunals that formed

Earlier, another bench of the

top court, while upholding the

constitutional validity of PMLA, had kept the issue of

passage of the amendments to

it as a money bill open for

adjudication by a larger bench. In the Aadhaar judgement, the top court had

upheld the validity of passage

part of the Finance Act.

it had said.

had earlier said all pending

seven-judge bench matters

will be listed on October 12

cate charges.

The closure call of PUCC by the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association (DPDA) comes amid tussle with the Government for not revising the PUC checking rates according to the demand of the association.

The association of petrol dealers claimed that while the rates for PUC certificates were not increased from the last 13 years, last week, there was a very nominal increase in the rates by the Delhi Transport Department.

While announcing the decision on Thursday, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "In response to the long-pending demands of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association and to keep up with the rising costs of pollution checking services, we have decided to revise the rates.

This revision is necessary to ensure that pollution stations checking can continue to operate efficiently and provide quality services to the public.

RS.80+12%GST+RS.94.40 5" JULY 2024 TABLE CNGLPG DRIVEN VEHICLES

View of a petrol pump, in New Delhi, on Monday, Around 600 Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres across 400 petrol pumps in the national Capital will remain closed from Monday in response to a protest call by petrol dealers and pump Pioneer photo owners

petrol PUCC centres. Some We remain committed to maintaining Delhi's air of them also have diesel quality and ensuring that all PUCC centres, which takes vehicles meet the required the count to around 600 pollution standards PUC centres," he added. President of All India Stating that the association has decided to go ahead with Petroleum Association Ajay Bansal the strike as the running of claimed that the nominal PUC centres have become unviable, DPDA president increase in the rates are Nischal Singhania said, not "There are 400 petrol pumps Government.

in Delhi and all of them have

Continued on Page 2

Singh, and Gurkeerat Mann

face backlash and a police complaint for allegedly mock-

ing people with disabilities

(PwD) in a video posted on

Instagram, a battery of individ-

uals and players within the

community have stepped for-

ward to vehemently condemn

the sports' icons 'disgraceful'

As the video, where they

disabilities while recreating

actor Vicky Kaushal's dance

step from the song "Tauba

Tauba", sparked widespread

physical

act.

mimicked

justified by the

Dealers

surrounded by US Secret Service agents at a campaign rally, in Butler AP/PTI

US Secret Service Spooked

AP MILWAUKEE

 $F_{\text{Trump has arrived in}}^{\text{ormer President Donald}}$ Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention a day after he was targeted in an attempted assassination at a campaign event. Trump's airplane touched

down Sunday, the day before the four-day event kicks off thousands with of Republicans coming together to formally elect him as their 2024 presidential nominee. The shocking scenes of violence at his Saturday campaign rally that injured his right ear, killed a spectator and injured another set a dark backdrop for the convention, which is typically four days of party pageantry, political speeches, policy platforms and the presidential

nominee's keynote address. The attack on Trump has put a heightened focus on safety and security of the event.

The former president said in a social media post earlier Sunday that he was going to delay his trip by two days because of the attempted assassination "but have just decided that I cannot allow a shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else.

Republican National Convention starting on Monday which will nominate him as the party's candidate for the November presidential election. In one of his first interviews

since the incident, the 78year-old former president told conservative US media that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God".

currently has 86 MPs and the ruling NDA 101 in the 245member Rajya Sabha where the majority mark is 123.

The passage of Bills like the Aadhaar Act and even amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills, apparently to circumvent the Rajya Sabha when the NDA did not have a majority there, has been at the centre of a major political and legal row. Congress general secretary incharge of communications Jairam Ramesh is one of the petitioners who have challenged the passage of the Aadhaar Act of 2016 as money bill under Article 110 of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday that the pleadings are complete and the petitions needed to be listed for hearing.

Sibal said since the matter is already there in the list of scheduled constitution bench

of violating the



File Photo

hearings, such a bench should be created on a priority basis. "I will take the call when I constitution form the benches," the CJI told him. Later in the day, the Congress welcomed the top court's decision agreeing to consider setting up a constitution bench to hear the pleas. The party hoped a final verdict would come before Chandrachud retires in November this year.

Earlier, the top court had said it would constitute a sevenjudge bench to consider the issue of validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as a money bill.

A money bill is a piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it. The Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the

Lower House. A bench headed by the CJI of the law as a money bill. Justice However, Chandrachud, the present CJI, had penned a dissenting judgement and called designating the Aadhaar

legislation as a money bill a "fraud on the Constitution".

Nepal okays Oli as PM Sport Icons draw ire, not applause ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

PTI KATHMANDU

K^P Sharma Oli on Monday was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time to lead a new coalition Government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as Prime Minister

on Sunday by President Ram Prassad Oli is being sworn by Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition Government with the Nepali Congress (NC), largest party in the Parliament, apart from other smaller parties.

Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' who lost the vote of



president Ram Chandra Paudel unseen, at the Presidential residence in Kathmandu, Nepal PTI

confidence in the House of Representatives (HoR) on Friday, leading to the formation of the new Government.

sports icons under the scanner Harbhajan Singh has n a controversial incident, as issued an apology amidst former cricketers Harbhajan calls for accountability and Singh, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj sensitivity.

Arman Ali, the executive director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) who filed the complaint in the afternoon with the SHO of the Amar Colony police station in a strongly worded statement said it is "disgusting to see India's top cricketers mocking disability. Shameful and atrocious behaviour from those who are idolised by masses. Shame on them...

Alongside the cricketers, the condemnation, one of the complaint also names



Sandhya Devanathan, Vice Meta, President and Managing Information Technology Act, Director of Meta India. It 2000, for allowing such accuses Instagram, owned by content to be uploaded and Information Technology Act,

shared. Authorities at the Amar Colony police station stated that the complaint will be forwarded to the cyber cell for further investigation.

Para-badminton star Manasi Joshi, a former world number one in her category, minced no words as she directly addressed Harbhajan Singh, who is Rajya Sabha Member from Aam Aadmi Party also and Suresh Raina on social media instagram, criticizing them for mocking the gait patterns of people with disabilities.

Wanted more responsibility from the stars that you all are, please do not mock the gait patterns of people with disabilities. This isn't funny...this isn't legendary.

"You don't know how much harm your behaviour can do. appreciation you're The getting from people around is appalling to see. This reel of yours is going to encourage that it is ok to make fun of the walking patterns of people with disabilities for a few laughs.

"More young children with disabilities will be bullied by using this reel. If any of you athletes would have done responsible community service in disability space area, you all would not have come up with this reel. I'm scared how the PR agencies of these athletes approved this reel for public platform," Manasi rued.

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nation 02

BSP leader's murder takes curious turn as police gun down surrendered suspect

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN CHENNA

The killing of K Thiruvengadam, a 33-yearold history sheeter by Chennai Police on Sunday has stirred a hornet's nest across Tamil Nadu. Thiruvengadam, an accused in the murder of K Armstrong, State president of BSP on 5th July had surrendered to the Police along with seven of his associates within hours of the incident.

Mayawati, BSP's all India President, who flew down to Chennai on hearing about the murder of Armstrong had said that the latter's murder was part of a political conspiracy and those who surrendered to the police were not the real culprits. She had also demanded a CBI probe into the murder of Armstrong.

K Annamalai, the chief of Tamil his Nadu BJP, expressed shock over the encounter killing of been handcuffed before taken



Thiruvengadam. Annamalai, himself a former IPS officer, had asked the State Government to hand over the probe of the Armstrong murder case to the CBI. Reacting to Sunday's murder of Thiruvengadam, the BJP leader said that there were many unanswered questions. "It is unbelievable to see a culprit, and that too a history sheeter with many murder charges against him, was taken to an isolated area without handcuffs. Taking into consideration past misdeeds, Thiruvengadam should have

to the spot for recovery of arms used in the murder of Armstrong," said Annamalai. He also said that it was unheard

of persons like Thiruvengadam was taken for arms recovery without any body frisking. He alleged that three DMK functionaries - Arul, Kalai Ma Srinivasan and Sathish had been involved in Armstrong's murder and asked when Chief Minister MK Stalin would break his silence on this. Jacob Thomas, former director general of police, Kerala, is of the view that a probe should be ordered to find out how Thiruvengadam got a weapon

in his hands while he was still in police custody. "The murder of Thiruvengadam has been carried out with the connivance of the police. It has been done by the police to save the real culprits,"Jacob told The Pioneer. Mayawati, before emplaning for Delhi after offering homages to Armstrong had left strict instructions with the BSP cadre not to take law into their hands. It is an open secret in Tamil Nadu that Armstrong, a strong Ambedkarite, was completely against any kind of alliance with the DMK which he always described as a caste party.

Thol Thirumavalavan, MP and founder of the VCK, an outfit of the SC/ST, who initially wanted a CBI probe into the murder of Armstrong, has fallen silent since the encounter killing of Thiruvengadam. He alleged that the BJP and some other Opposition parties were trying to foment trouble in the

TMC, BJP spar as Suvendu demands Disturbed Areas Act in West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has scoffed at the BJP for demanding the imposition of Manipur-like disturbed area laws in the State saying, in the wake of "humiliating defeats one after the other" the saffron party was "betraying all the signs of madness?

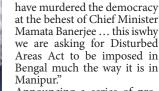
"Suvendu Adhikari is asking for imposition of Disturbed Areas Act in Bengal ... let them do so and see the consequence ... they will lose whatever trifle seat they have won in the recent elections ... the demand itself shows that they are a decaying force and very soon they will change into a signboard," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said adding, "Suvendu is making such demands in order to maintain his credibility before his bosses in Delhi ... it clearly showsthat he is short in confidence after the resounding defeat... he cannot digest the electoral loss.

Consequent to the ongoing



post-poll political violence, massive rigging in the recently concluded by-elections and a general drop in the law and order situation of the State Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari earlier demanded the imposition of "disturbed areas" laws in theregion.

The way our people were stopped from voting in the byelections ... the way the booths were looted ... and the way the police stood a silent spectator it clearly showed that there is no law and order in Bengal ... the way our workers are being attacked everyday it is clear that there is no rule of law here ... I will not demand President's Rule in the State ...



instead of that we will want that Bengal be declared a disturbed area much like Manipur ... that is the only way to control the law and order situation, Adhikari said.

"We will observe July 21 as 'Ganatantra Hatya Divas'. Millions of people could not vote ... only a particular community was allowed to vote and others were restrained from going to the booths ... we will organize mass movements taking along the people who could not vote," he said alleging how in the by-polls, nearly 50,000 people in Raiganj could not vote" and how 70,000 people in Ranaghat and 10,000 people at Bagda" constituencies were prevented from voting ... they

Mamata Banerjee ... this iswhy we are asking for Disturbed Areas Act to be imposed in Bengal much the way it is in Announcing a series of pro-

grammes to counter the hype around the July 21 Trinamool Congress Martyrs' Day, Adhikari said "we will observe the day as Ganatantra Hatya Diwas (Murder of Democracy Day)

The TMC observes July 21 as its Martyrs' Day because it was on this day that several party workers were killed in a police firing at Esplanade in Kolkata more than three decades ago.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, then the State Youth Congress president, was on this day leading thousands of people — in an anti-infiltration march — towards the iconic Writers' Buildings insupport of her demands for voter identity cards for the citizens complaining

It is Ramayana Month for next 30 days in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

ife in Kerala, especially in L'ife in Keraia, corcerne, Hindu homes, will become sedate for the next 32 days from 16th July 2024. The day marks the beginning of Malayalam month Karkkadaka (in synch with the month of Sravan) and Hindu homes and temples in the State would reverberate with "SreeRama, Rama! Rama!, SreeRamachandra! Jaya, SreeRama!Rama!Rama! Sree Rama bhadra! Jaya.." the lyrics from Adhyatma Ramayana, a version of the great Indian epic Valmiki Ramayana.

Every morning or evening, the family patriarch or the eldest member of the family recites the chapters from the epic and explain to the next generation the meaning of what has been written in Ramayana.

Though there are Rama Charita Manas and Valmiki Ramayana, the Keralites follow the Adhyatma Ramayana, believed to have been composed during the 13th century. What makes Adhvatma Ramavana different from Valmiki Ramayana is its portrayal of Lord Rama as God incarnation. The Valmiki Ramayana characterizes the Lord as an ordinary human being



According to Adhyatma Ramayana, according to monks Ramayana, Lord Rama was in Kuttanadu region where he born in the month of was born. Karkkadaka is the period that Karkkadaka with Punarvasu brings copious rainfall to Kerala

as his birth star. Saroj Bala, an Indologist and author of repute thanks to the South West Monsoon. The monsoon is at has substantiated the birth details of Rama with planetarits fury for the whole month sending the daily wage earners ium software. She has used the details given in Valmiki to starve as they are left with no Ramayana and a comparative income study with planetarium soft-The hunger and poverty force them to devotion and what is

ware and astronomical data established that what the Sage has written in his work scientifically match. Kerala's fascination with

Adhyatma Ramayana dates back to many centuries, much older than the claim for Ram Janmabhumi Temple. Perhaps, K K Nair, the then district magistrate of Ayodhya, got his passion for Ram Temple because of his daily recitation of

vehicles after a gap of about

13 years. The new pollution

checking rates for vehicles

are, Rs. 80 for petrol, CNG,

or LPG (including bio-fuel)

two and three wheelers, Rs

110 for petrol, CNG, or LPG

(including bio-fuel) four

Diesel

and

above

wheelers

respectively.

for

Upgrade power transmission system for 'Har Ghar Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli': Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday reviewed the current status of power generation, transmission and distribution in Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting, which was attended by Energy Minister AK Sharma, senior officials of the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited and all DISCOMs, focused on ongoing efforts and future plans. Electricity demand is growing rapidly, with peak demand rising from 20,062 MW in 2018-19 to 30,618 MW on June 13 this year. To meet public needs, uninterrupted power supply was ensured during the summer, he said, and added it was essential to provide adequate power supply in accordance with demand.

To achieve the goal of 'Har Ghar Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli', it is head of the Sanatanis in the crucial to upgrade the power transmission system. Before Another monk, Swami Ranganathanada, in his work *Eternal Values for a Changing establishing a new sub-station, a thorough assessment of local needs must be conducted. New sub-stations should be set up based on a five-year requirement target, the chief minister stressed

Whether in rural or urban areas, any damaged transshould be repaired



need for uniformity. Rules should be improved to ensure consistency, with a focus on reducing unnecessary infrastructure charges and prioritising the convenience of the common citizen, he added.

The chief minister said UP had achieved the goal of 'Sabko Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli' (uninterrupted electricity to all) in the last seven years.

"Electricity now reaches every village and hamlet ensuring equitable distribution without VIP treatment to any particular district. It is gratifying that currently, electricity is supplied without discrimination," he said, adding that during the intense heat, additional efforts were made to ensure convenience for the public, with round-the-clock electricity provided state-wide from March 15 to June 30.

In addition to various hydropower projects, 22 thermal projects are successfully operational in the state, locat-Harduagan

to explore the feasibility of establishing pump storage plants at Rihand Dam, Obra Reservoir and nearby areas, the chief minister said

The primary challenge faced by the power corporation is issue and distribution of flawless bills and collection of revenue from all consumers. It is crucial that no consumer receives an incorrect electricity bill and that all bills are delivered on time. Overbilling or delays not only inconve nience consumers but also diminish their confidence in the system, affecting their willingness to pay. Concrete efforts must be made by all, from Discom to feeder, to ensure timely and accurate billing and effective communication with consumers to achieve this goal, he stressed. Line losses are steadily decreasing due to strategic efforts. It is essential to combat electric-

ity theft and monitor the performance of meter readers. We must ensure that no consumer faces harassment under the guise of meter checks or outstanding bills, maintaining a goodwill approach in all interactions, he added.

There was considerable enthusiasm for the PM Surva Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, with over people having

the proposed solar parks in

Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kanpur Nagar,

to take part, he added.



Bhujbal meets Sharad over Maratha, OBC quota issue

TN RAGHUNATHA **MUMBAI**

In a move that sparked intense speculation in the state political circles, senior Maharashtra minister and Ajit Pawar-led NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal on Monday met rival Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar ostensibly to discuss the brewing tension between the Marathas and Other Backward



reservations being accorded to the Maratha community. These



State.

hike not Under Control

From Page 1

"Our demand was to consider the wages hike, take into account the inflation index for other operational costs and increase the charges to Rs. 150 for 2W, Rs. 200 for 4W and Rs. 300 for Diesel Vehicles. An increase of Rs. 20,30 & 40 is not justified at all. What calculations have been considered to come to these figures. DPDA reject the proposed hike and would close the PUC operations from 15th July 2024," he said.

"The reason for increase is that salaries have increased 300 per cent in the last 13 years. The other operational costs have also increased. Maintenance and spares of the PUC checking have increased tremendously. Earlier, customers were supposed to get PUC checked every 3 months, now government has made it once a year, thus reducing the revenue to one fourth," Bansal stated.

The AAP led Delhi government increased the PUC certificate charges for

warning: Post **2015 arrivals...** petrol, CNG and diesel

From Page 1

According to the Assam Accord, names of all foreigners coming to the state on or after March 25, 1971 would be detected and deleted from the electoral rolls and steps would be taken to deport them. The final NRC was released

the best recourse other than

Ramayana," asked Swamy

Chidanandapuri, the spiritual

categories and Rs. 140 for on August 31, 2019 by diesel-propelled vehicles. Earlier, the rates were Rs. 60 excluding 19,06,657 people. for two-wheelers, Rs. 80 for A total of 3,11,21,004 names four wheelers, and Rs. 100 were included out of 3,30,27,661 applicants. On people facing issues due to vehicles, blocking of Aadhaar cards, The Delhi Petrol Dealers Association had been Sarma said around nine lakh advocating for an increase in cards have been blocked as they had applied during

pollution checking fees, as they had not been revised since 2011. Delhi's Transport update work of NRC. 'At that time, Minister, Kailash Gehlot, Government transformed the Aadhaar also held a meeting with centres to NRC centres. representatives of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association These people had gone there on June 20, 2024 and later to get Aadhaar, but it was revised the rates. blocked due to a clash of timing only. We are examining the list now," he But the DPDA has rejected the proposed hikes and stated that the revision by added. The CM said after the department is not the assessment, the state

according to the inflation government will actively adjustment and the rising take up the issue with the expenses of the operators. Centre

immediately, with new transformers provided as needed, he said, adding that adherence to the stipulated time limits was essential, and the performance of agencies responsible for transformer repairs should be monitored.

"All calls to the toll-free number/helpline must be attended to, ensuring that every consumer's issue is addressed promptly," he stressed.

There is often dissatisfaction among the public regarding fixing the electricity connection charge, highlighting the

in Anp Obra, Parichha and Jawaharpur. The construction of units in Ghatampur, Panki, Obra-C and Jawaharpur should be completed prompt-Ápart from Obra D, Anpara E

and Meja Thermal Project-II process of land acquisition for being set up as a joint venture with NTPC, the work of Kanpur Dehat, Chitrakoot and Khurja thermal project under construction with THDC is Jalaun expeditiously. Similarly, expected to be accelerated. in accordance with the bio-These initiatives will signifienergy policy, the process of cantly enhance the state's

power generation capacity. A study should be conducted bio-diesel plants should also be taken forward, he added.

BJP numbers dip in Rajya Sabha...

From Page 1

Though nominated members are usually independent in the House in terms of their party affiliation, they are traditionally supportive of the agenda of the government which picks them.

The ruling Congress is looking to win the lone seat in Telangana at the expense of the BRS but its gain will be negated in Rajasthan where the BJP, which has a strong majority, will claim the seat vacated by K C Venugopal of Congress who is now in Lok Sabha.

BJP is also confident of winning the lone seat in Haryana where the poll will be held to fill the vacancy caused by the election of its Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda to Lok

Congress, though, hopes that a few MLAs, who are either independent or affiliated to the regional parties and are looking for political alternatives ahead of the assembly polls expected in October, may switch sides and help it make a fight.

The Election Commission (EC) is yet to announce the date for elections to fill the 11 vacancies effected by the resignation of as many members. Ten of them were elected to Lok Sabha while one MP, K Keshava Rao of the BRS, quit after joining the Congress.

Out of the total 19 vacancies in the 245member Rajya Sabha, four are from Jammu and Kashmir where there is no assembly currently after the erstwhile state was made a Union Territory in 2019.

Classes (OBC) over reserva tered for the programme, Yogi tions said. It is important to promote

Bhujbal - whose meeting with this scheme widely and Sr Pawar came just a day after encourage more individuals he took a dig at the latter for the Opposition Maha Vikas The chief minister asked the Aghadi (MVA)'s failure to officials to complete the attend an all-party meeting called by chief minister Eknath Shinde on the reservation issue - met the NCP (AP) chief at his "Silver Oak" bungalow in south Mumbai and confabulated on the quota issue.

What has fuelled the speculasetting up CBG, bio-coal and tion is that it has come in the run-up to the State Assembly polls and the fact that his claim for a ticket to contest the Lok Sabha polls was ignored and that he was not later nominated as a candidate to contest the

Rajya Sabha polls. Bhujbal, who despite being a senior minister in the BJP-led MahaYuti government, has been opposing the Shinde dispensation's move to carve out reservations for the Maratha community in the name of Kunbi OBCs.

However, there is more than what meets the eye. Because, it has emerged now that Sr Pawar, Bhujbal had spoken to NCP Working President Praful Patel. Later, Ajit Pawar, Patel, Tatkare and Bhujbal met informally over lunch. This goes to prove taht the NCP (Ajit Pawar) leadership was in the know that Bhujbal would meet Sr Pawar. As Bhujbal himself disclosed after his meeting with the NCO (SP) chief, Bhujbal said: "I had gone to meet Pawar at his residence around 10 am today Pawarsaheb was unwell and he was taking rest. "After

waiting for nearly one and half hours, Pawar saheb called me inside. Our meeting lasted for one and half hours. Confirming that he had met Sr Pawar to seek resolution to the Maratha-vs-OBC stand-off over reservations over reservations, Bhujbal said: NCP(SP) Chief Sharad Pawar knows how the people of different communities are living in villages. I told him that there have

been clashes in villages over the

snes need Otherwise, the situation will

keep worsening". "Pawar saheb told me that he would speak to CM Shinde and try to bring out a solution to the problem I can meet Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah or Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi for OBC reservation, I am ready to do anything to solve this issue," Bhujbal said, adding that he would also talk to leaders within the MahaYuti government including Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Elaborating on the issue, Bhubal said: "Last week, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had convened an all-party meeting in Mumbai to discuss the reservation issue. Everything was fine, however, around 5 pm, someone called from Baramati and the opposition (Maha Vikas Aghadi) leaders backed out.We wanted to resolve the issue I spoke to Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar the Congress, Jitendra of Awhad of NCP (SP)...I also

wanted Sharad Pawar Saheb to come...he is a senior leader and he can play a role in resolving the issue."

On being asked about the meeting with Pawar, he said: 'Pawar Saheb had taken a stand regarding the reservation to the OBC community...today there is a sort of misunderstanding among the Marathas and OBCs...to resolve the issue, Pawar Saheb must take a lead."

Queried about the Pawar-Bhujbal meeting, senior state BIP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said: "It is unjust to scrutinise interactions between two leaders and draw premature inferences...it is the political culture of Maharashtra for leaders of various parties to

hold discussions." NCP (SP) leader Awhad said: "It is a reflection of Pawar Saheb's generosity that he allocates time to individuals who hold contrasting views, even within the public domain."

Sport Icons draw ire, not applause

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From Page 1

"This isn't legendary if you're mocking gait patterns of people with polio. This will enable bullying on young children with disabilities in India," Manasi added in another comment added in another comment on the video. Disability rights activist Satendra Singh criticised the cricketers for lacking empathy, particularly noting Yuvraj Singh's personal battle with cancer, which should have fostered greater

Likewise, General sensitivity. the past. Muralidharan, This degrading Secretary, National Platform reveals for the Rights of the insensitivity Disabled too was upset. boorishness. They should "While cricket lovers remember that their actions throughout the country have only help to reinforce joined them in celebrating regressive every victory, the mimicking understandi understandings, he said. of certain categories of Murlidharan disabled persons to show the unequivocally hardships is distasteful. commented, ... considering that people "Notwithstanding hold them in high esteem for guidelines, and court the high laurels that they strictures, the overarching have brought the country in consciousness of people and

society are what gets exposed."

The criticism of such acts by the advocacy groups highlights a' growing awareness and scrutiny of how disability is represented and treated in public discourse and media, reinforcing the importance of sensitivity and inclusivity in cultural expressions and public action, noted Thilakam Rajendran, one of the Co-founders of NEDAR Foundation which assists the

PwDs in setting up startups in the country.

Rahul Gupta, founder and Managing Partner of ValuAble, a USD 100 million venture debt business aimed fostering economic at inclusion, too expressed his disappointment, particularly towards Yuvraj Singh. Gupta, who is visually impaired emphasised that the ex-cricketer who is more known for his resilience on the cricket field while battling the throat cancer

should have been more sensitive in his actions as he is viewed as an icon within the disability community. Gupta said that the sector is not seeking their apologies but it is high time they should also deeply reflect on the impact their actions have on the disability sector. He emphasised the

importance of standing in solidarity with the sector rather than inadvertently undermining its challenges.



GTB Hospital shooting: Two arrested, hunt for other accused on

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

The Delhi Police arrested L two people on Monday in connection with the fatal shooting of a 32-year-old man inside a ward in the GTB Hospital by an unidentified person.

According to the police, the accused have been identified as 20 year old Faiz from Loni in Uttar Pradesh and Farhan from Chauhan Banger area in Delhi, but said they might not have been involved in actual firing of shots Sunday evening. The mastermind behind the attack is one person namely Faheem, alias Badshah Khan.

They said the Faiz and Farhan were allegedly involved in providing a motorcycle to four accused who went to the hospital. The four accused reached the GTB Hospital on that motorcycle, the police said. One of the four entered the ward number 24 and shot fires at the patient, killing him at the hospital bed.

"We are interrogating them (Faiz and Farhan) and will take their police remand to



know about the one who shot the person (patient). Our teams are working round the clock to nab rest of the accused. They will be nabbed soon," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary said. The attackers had gone to the

hospital to kill a gangster, a rival of the Hasim Baba gang who was also shot at by some people on June 12 and was admitted in the same wards for some time,on the instructions of Faheem but they shot dead Riyazuddin who was lying on

the bed opposite to him. Police also said the shooters had proper instruction on how they can escape from the hospital after committing the crime. "On Sunday, the GTB Enclave police registered a case of murder on the statement of Tarranum Malik. She told police that her brother Riyazuddin was fired upon by an unknown person inside ward number 24 of the GTB Hospital, where he was undergoing treatment," DCP Choudhary said. The officer further said that the

video footage from the cameras near the have been obtained. The CCTV footage from cameras on the ground floor was also obtained which show four people entering the hospital emergency gate.

"Multiple teams were formed to investigate the case and to nab the accused. Teams identified the people in the footage based on inputs. Their social media handles were also obtained and their mobile numbers were checked. We checked the call details and some more suspects were identified," said the DCP. Police said that after checking call details, Faiz was arrested from Laxmi Garden area in Loni of Uttar Pradesh. "During interrogation, Faiz revealed that one Faheem alias Badshah Khan is the mastermind of the incident. Faiz and his two brothers -- Faujaan and Moin Khan -- usually meet Faheem who is an associate of the Hasim Baba gang and works for the gang," said the DCP, adding that one more suspect Farhan (whose age is not yet known) was also nabbed from Chauhan Banger area

Hospital's resident doctors go on indefinite strike STAFF REPORTER NEW

Resident doctors of Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital in Delhi's Dilshad garden area went on an indef-inite strike on Monday morninite strike on Monday morn-ing a day after a patient was shot dead while a doctor was treating him but left the emer-gency services operational. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) Medical Association (FAIMA) met with Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj in the presence of senior health officials of the city government. According to doctors of the

Delhi government-run hospital, three doctors were present in ward 24 when the assailant pushed aside a doctor and shot Riyazuddin. Members of the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) began the strike at 9 am on Monday but emergency services are operational.



RDA president Nitesh Kumar said that the strike is being led everything for the association by junior doctors with the support of the Delhi Nursing Federation and other associations. The protesters raised slogans, demanding improvement in the security situation at in hospital.

The medical professionals at the hospital are attending to only emergency patients, while the outpatient department, laboratories and other departments are closed, a member of the RDA said. Another mem-

Chairman and accompanied by the National General Secretary and Chief Advisor. Bhardawaj took note of the grievances raised by the FAIMA delegation and addressed all the concerns while assuring that he will implement measures to heighten the security of the hospitals. He stated that there will be installation of metal detectors at the emergency entries of hospitals, deployment of two armed guards at the emergency entries of major

capital 03

hospitals. Further he stated that he will request the Police Commissioner for the assignment of one police constable on duty round the clock. He stated that he will review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the hospitals and promised to look after the installation and maintenance of CCTV cameras at hospitals with proper functioning.

Senior BJP leaders protest at AAP-supported discom offices against tariff hike

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Senior Delhi BJP leaders and workers on Monday protested at 14 major offices of AAP supported power discoms in different parts of the city against the Power Purchase Agreement Charge (PPAC), Pension Surcharge, Meter Charge and Load Surcharge which are making

the electricity bills hefty. State BJP President Virendra Sachdeva accused the AAP government of looting the Delhiites and said "In the name of electricity surcharge, the Arvind Kejriwal government has continuously cheated the people of Delhi." The

protestors raised slogans of 'Kejriwal Delhiwalo ko lootna band karo' and 'PPAC and pension surcharge wapis lo' while carrying posters which had written 'Delhi sarkar ka janta se jhoot aur bijli company ki loot' He alleged that the Delhi

government is in connivance with power companies and has been looting Delhi for the last 10 years. "Every consumer who is paying electricity bill, more than 50 per cent of the money is going into the pockets of Arvind Kejriwal and power companies in the name of sur



charges," he claimed. Sachdeva accused kejriwal of imposing the PPAC on the people of Delhi and said, "At the behest of Kejriwal government, the electricity companies are collecting pensions of their retired employees from the consumers of Delhi in the name of pension trust, whereas giving pension is the job of the electricity company and not the people of Delhi." He added that as long as the loot will continue so will the protest of BJP. Delhi BJP MLAs Om Prakash Sharma, Abhay Verma and Anil Bajpai said that while we are participating in the Jan

Sangharsh started by the state BJP against the rigging of electricity bills, we will also raise this issue of loot of the public in the Monsoon Session of Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

so we can stay on strike until

our voices are heard by the

administration department

and the government." He said

the RDA will stand resolute

Meanwhile, during the meet

with the delegation from

FAIMA, Bharadwaj assured

of robust security measures to

create a safer working envi-

ronment for doctors and ben-

efit patient care. The delega-

tion was led by the National

over their safety demands.

South Delhi BJP MP Ramveer Singh Bidhuri addressed the protesting workers and said, "Arvind Kejriwal came to power with the promise of auditing the accounts of power companies but today the Delhi government and power companies are seen to be equal partners in looting the electricity bills of the public." West Delhi BJP MP Kamaljeet

Sehrawat addressed the protest organised outside KV Grid Sub Station at Najafgarh and said, "Arvind Kejriwal has ruled Delhi for the last 10 years by just telling lies and during this time he has looted the pockets of the people

of Delhi in the name of electricity bills." New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj addressed the protest led by District President Sunil Kakkar outside 33 KV Substation building at Karol Bagh and alleged that in the last few years a worrying partnership is visible between the Kejriwal Government and private Discoms.

Kejriwal Government continuously increasing electricity prices: Vijender

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Former BJP Delhi President Vijender Gupta along with hundreds of BJP workers protested against the massive hike in the Power Purchase Adjustment Charge (PPAC) by the Delhi Government. He accused the Kejriwal Government of being in collusion with electricity com-



Tihar jail authorities refute AAP's claims 'Kejriwal's health deteriorating' in prison

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A mid the Tihar jail author-ities and AAP leaders being at loggerhead regarding the health of Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal, the prison authorities on Monday said Kejriwal lost only two kg in prison and that he was being regularly monitored by an AIIMS medical board, refuthealth is deteriorating and has lost 8.5 kg in jail since his arrest. In a report sent to the Delhi government's Home Department, the Tihar administration shared Kejriwal's vitals and said that the narrative created by AAP ministers and leaders "confuses and misleads the public". "He has not lost 8.5 KGs weight in jail, as is being touted by AAP Ministers, MP and others," it claimed.



is a crime to "leak" someone's medical report and there should be a probe into this," he said.

Even the medical report "leaked" by the Tihar jail authorities to the media states that he lost weight and suf-fered multiple hypoglycemia episodes in prison, he said. 'Something untoward might happen someday and he uld slip in

Kejriwal having home cooked food lacking nutritional value to get bail: Sachdeva

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Monday accused the Chief Minister Arvind kejriwal of deliberately having food made from his home that lacks nutritional value to show cal weakness to "Whenever a court date is around AAP leaders start their rhetoric statement that there is risk to Arvind Kejriwal's life and he is facing médical issues like high sugar and weight loss," Sachdeva alleged, adding that these rhetoric will not work. Further, the Delhi BJP president stated, "This rhetoric now holds no value in the eyes of the people of Delhi and by raising these frivolous issues AAP leaders make a joke of their party leader Arvind Kejriwal." He questioned the AAP leaders on saying such things despite the food for Kejriwal coming from his own home. "People want to ask Sanjay Singh, Atishi and other AAP

The report by the jail author-ities stated that Kejriwal weighed 65 kg when he first came to prison on April 1 and 66 kg between April 8 and 29. When he returned to prison on June 2 after a 21-day bail, his weight was 63.5 kg.

ly since June 3, from the very next day that he came back to jail after election campaigning. "It may be noted that in his earlier stint in jail, he was deliberately eating food that would spike his sugar levels," it said. A medical board of AIIMS

"On July 14, his weight was

61.5 kg. So, effectively, he lost 2 kg," the report stated. It statrative with "false information and ulterior motive" was ed that while he has been eating home-cooked food in jail, intended to "browbeat" it. he has been returning food The blood pressure and sugar sent from his home routinelevels and weight of the accused is regularly being monitored and he is provided adequate treatment for all his ailments and is regularly having home-cooked food thrice a day. "These facts are brought on record in the light

groups," it said. has been constantly monitor-Meanwhile, senior AAP leader ing the chief minister and his and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay wife Sunita Kejriwal remains Singh alleged the BJP was playing with Kejriwal's life. "It in regular touch with the board, the report stated. The

coma. Since his custody, his blood sugar has dropped below 50 mg/dL on five occaprison administration said in sions in the night," the AAP MP claimed.Kejriwal was its report that the AAP's nararrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy 2021-22. He was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a corruption case related to the alleged scam from Tihar jail of the media vilification being carried out by vested interest on June 26. The chief minister was grant-

ed interim bail by the Supreme Court on Friday in the money laundering case but he remains in jail in the CBI case.

leaders that Kejriwal eats three meals all cooked and coming from his home and his medicines are provided as per directive of the Supreme Court of India based on the advice of his own selected doctors. Kejriwal just lives behind the walls of Tihar Jail everything he consumes eats comes daily from his home," he claimed while stating that despite the fact that Kejriwal is eating everything from his

home and yet facing weight loss then it means Kejriwal's home cooked food lacks proper nutrition.

Lack of nutritional value in Kejriwal's home cooked food means it's being done intentionally show medical weak-ness to get bail," he said.

ing these companies, the AAP Government is involved in transactions worth crores of rupees, and in return, the electricity companies are looting the common people of Delhi.

Protesting outside the Tata Power-DDL in Bawana, Gupta said that the Kejriwal Government is continuously increasing electricity prices under the names of PPAC, various charges, pension surcharges, and fixed charges.

Gupta added that the Kejriwal Government, synonymous with corruption, is setting new records of scams. He mentioned that while Kejriwal is in jail due to the liquor scam and is hiring the most expensive lawyers with public money to secure his bail. The money that was meant to

e Denn's problems and vide services to the people is being spent illegally on lawyers, courts, and extravagant facilities. Further attacking Delhi Government over waterlogging , Gupta said while the public is already struggling with the water crisis, they are now facing waterlogging and severe traffic jams in most areas due to rains. Due to the negligence of the Delhi Government, the barrage of the Munak canal broke, flooding several blocks of Bawana JJ Colony with three feet of water. Gupta highlighted that while the Delhi Jal Board is in debt of Rs 72,000 crore, the DTC's condition has deteriorated due to the bus procurement scam. Additionally, the governmentfunded colleges in Delhi are on the verge of closure.

Massive fire breaks out in Mayur South Delhi MP Bidhuri addresses workers' Vihar cafe, one fireman injured conference in Bijwasan

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $S^{\rm outh \; Delhi\; BJP\; MP\; Ramvir}_{Singh\; Bidhuri\; addressed\; a}$ workers' conference in Delhi's Bijwasan area ahead of the legislative assembly election in the national Capital and said that after securing a third term for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led NDA government at the center, it is now time to give BJP a chance in the city. He claimed that only BJP can

fulfill the dream of making the capital a world-class city. While addressing the party workers, Bidhuri said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented welfare schemes across the country, but the Kejriwal government has deprived Delhi of these benefits. The Delhi government is deeply corrupt and has failed on every front." The former Leader of

Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi

assembly urged the workers to work hard to ensure BJP's victory in the upcoming assembly elections next year to free the city from this government while requesting Delhi resi-dents to give BJP a chance so that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making Delhi a world-class city can be realized. The program was presided over by former MLA Satorakash Rana.

Bidhuri thanked Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Delhi Development Authority Vice Chairman Subhashish Panda for approv-ing a fund of Rs 1,000 crore for the development of Delhi's villages. "Development work has begun in Bijwasan with a budget of Rs 30 crore, and similar projects will be initiated in other villages in the coming

days," he stated.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

massive fire broke out at Aa cafe in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar and also gutted several shops on the build-ing's upper floors. A fireman has been reportedly injured in the matter.

The blaze, which erupted at the cafe located on the building's ground floor on Sunday night, spread rapidly and engulfed stores on first and second floors.

An official of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said that the fire is under control but three to four fire tenders are still at the location and the cooling process is underway. "We received a call regarding fire at a cafe and school uniform store at 11.40 pm on Sunday in Phase 2 and Pocket B of Mayur Vihar area," the official said

'We rushed 25 fire tenders to the spot. One person was rescued from the terrace of the building," he said. DCP East Apoorva Gupta said, "Two brothers Amar Preet

Singh and Suman Jeet Singh, who have three shops on first and second floors, had shut down their shops at 9.30 pm and went home. At about 11.30 pm, they were informed by some locals regarding the fire in their shops, after which they alerted the Pandav Nagar police station."

A fireman has been injured in the incident as he slipped far

and fell while trying to douse the fire. The fire erupted in the cafe on the ground floor and spread to the remaining two floors, she added. The SHO of Police Station Pandav Nagar along with local police staff is also present at spot. The DCP further said the fire is now under control but is yet to be doused completely, adding that the cause of fire has not been ascertained so

Trial run of Delhi Government's mohalla bus service has commenced, says Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said that the trial run of the Delhi government's mohalla bus service commenced on Monday on two routes.

At a press conference, he said there will be 2,080 buses under the scheme. Of these, 1,040 will be operated by the DTC and the rest by DIMTS, the minister said.

"In a major step to enhance last-mile connectivity in the national capital, the Kejriwal government has commenced the trial of Mohalla Bus service. The trial, commencing today, will continue for seven days and currently operates on two routes: Pradhan Enclave Pushta to Majlis Park Metro Station, and Akshardham Metro Station to Mayur Vihar Phase-III Paper Market," Gahlot said, adding that the trial will go on for a week and based on the learnings and feedback we will roll



out the scheme in two to three weeks.

The minister added that the bus is equipped with six bat-tery packs with a total capacity of 196KW, providing a range of 200+ km with an opportunity charging of 45 minutes. These nine-meter Mohalla buses have 23 passenger seats and a standing capacity of 13 passengers, he said. "The Mohalla buses have

been coloured green for easy Additionally, 25 per cent of the seats (six seats) are pink, reserved exclusively for women passengers," he fur-ther stated ther stated.

Fare in these buses will be the same as AC buses of the Delhi Government and women can avail free rides on these buses through pink passes.



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SC issues notices to pvt parties on NTA pleas to club all cases

PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to private parties on a batch of pleas filed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) seeking transfer of cases pending against it in various high courts on the NEET-UG row to the top court to avoid multiplicity of litigations Earlier a vacation he Supreme Court on of litigations. Earlier, a vacation bench had on June 14 issued notices to the parties on simi-lar pleas by the NTA.

The NTA had submitted that several pleas seeking cancella-tion of the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test-Under Graduate (NEET-UG), 2024 over allegations of question paper leak and other malpractices are pending in several high courts. Advocate Vardhaman Kaushik,

appearing for the NTA, urged a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala on Monday that the fresh batch of pleas be also transferred to the apex court as they pertained to the same issue.

"Issue notice and tag," the bench said, adding that these pleas will also be taken up together with the pending peti-tions on the NEET-UG row on



July 18. The NTA also urged the received a status report from bench to stay the pending prothe CBI on the progress made ceedings in various high courts. in the probe into alleged irreg-The CJI said once the Supreme ularities in the conduct of the Court has issued notices on exam.In an additional affidavit transfer petitions, the high filed in the apex court on July courts, procedurally, do not 10, the Centre had said data proceed with the hearing. The analytics of the results of bench asked the NTA counsel NEET-UG 2024 was conductto bring this to the notice of the ed by IIT Madras which found high courts concerned. The top there was neither any indicacourt was hearing as many as five petitions seeking transfer tion of "mass malpractice" nor a localised set of candidates of cases from various high benefiting from it and scoring abnormally high marks. courts to it.

Earlier, the bench had on July The government's assertion 11 adjourned till July 18 the assumed significance in view of hearing on a clutch of other the observations made by the petitions seeking cancellation, top court on July 8 that it may re-test and probe into alleged order a re-test if there were large-scale malpractices in malpractices in the conduct of NEET-UG, 2024 as the holding the exam on May 5. responses of the Centre and the The Centre's affidavit had said experts from IIT Madras have NTA were not received by found that the marks distribusome parties. tion follows the bell-shaped The bench had also said it has

curve that is witnessed in any large-scale examination indicating no abnormality. A bell curve describes the shape of data conforming to a normal distribution. The NTA had also filed a separate addition-al affidavit on the similar lines and said it has carried out an analysis of distribution of marks at the national, state and city level.

While hearing the pleas on July 8, the top court had observed that the sanctity of the examination has been "breached". Saying that a re-test may be ordered if the entire process was affected, the bench had sought details from the NTA and the CBI, including the timing and manner of the alleged paper leak, besides the number of wrongdoers to understand the extent of irregularities claimed by the petitioners. Over 23.33 lakh students had taken the test on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including in 14 cities overseas. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

PM pays tributes to Kamaraj, hails his visionary legacy



PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid trib-utes to former Congress President K Kamaraj, a towering leader of his era who hailed from Tamil Nadu, and said his contribution to sectors like education remains unparalleled. "Remembering Thiru K. Kamaraj on his birth anniver-

sary. He is widely respected for his visionary leadership and efforts to uplift the poor. His contribution to sectors like education remain unparalleled. We reiterate our commitment to fulfil his ideals and build a soci-

ety that is just and compassionate," Modi said in a social media post. Born in 1903 in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, Kamaraj went on to become its chief min-

ister and is credited for introducing several welfare measures to help the poor. He later became the national president of the Congress and

was considered a deft organisational leader.12

Support to Pacific islands' quest for progress our responsibility: Jaishankar

PNS NEW DELHI

India considers supporting the Pacific islands' quest for development as its responsibility, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday. In his brief remarks at an event, Jaishankar also said the Islands in the Pacific are not "small Islands" but rather "large Ocean countries" and that India is privileged to be their partners.

We consider it our responsibility to support the Pacific Islands in their quest for sustainable development. Climate change, natural disasters, poverty alleviation and healthcare are common challenges that we need to address together," he said.

"India is always ready to do more with our Indo-Pacific partners," he added.

Ĵaishankar's remarks came at a virtual ceremony that saw India signing an MoU for implementation of four community development projects in the Marshall Islands.

"I am glad that these projects cover areas, including a community sports centre in Ailuk Atoll, airport terminal on Mejit Island, community centres at the Arno and Wotje Atolls. These would surely provide better infrastructure to the

people of Marshall Islands," he said

The External Affairs Minister said India and the Republic of the Marshall Islands share a long history of friendly bilateral relations, which has expanded over the years, including under the aegis of the Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). The FIPIC has emerged as a major framework for cooperation between India and the Pacific

Island nations. 'I would like to recall what my Prime Minister said at the third FIPIC summit. The Islands in the Pacific are not 'small Islands' but rather 'large Ocean countries'," he said. Jaishankar also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of

India's "concrete" commitments to the Pacific Islands at the third FIPIC summit.

"I am glad to witness the progress in achieving them. We are also working on the proposals regarding desalination units and dialysis machines for the Republic of Marshall

Islands," he said. The External Affairs Minister said India recognises the priorities and needs of the Pacific Island nations. 'Healthcare and related infra-

structure, quality and affordable medicines, wellness and lifestyle, centres of excellence, education and capacity building, development of SME sector, renewable energy and clean water facilities all these are some of the focus areas of our cooperation," he noted.

PM, leaders congratulate new Nepalese PM Oli

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated K P Sharma Oli on his appointment as Prime Minister of Nepal and said he looked forward to working closely with him to further strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

Oli, the leader of Nepal's largest communist party, was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for a fourth term on Sunday to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on Friday, leading to the formation of the new government as per Article 76 (2) of the Constitution.

Congratulating Oli, Modi said

IFS Vikram Misri takes over as India's Foreign Secretary PNS NEW DELHI

Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, widely regarded as an expert on China and national security, assumed charge as India's new Foreign Secretary on Monday.

Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer(IFS), who was serving as the deputy national security advisor, succeeded Vinay Kwatra.

with China following the lin-gering eastern Ladakh border row and the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated Misri

on assuming his new responsibility. "Congratulate Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri as he assumes his new responsibility today. Wish him a produc-Misri and wishes him a suc-cessful tenure ahead," MEA said in a social media post. Misri served in various capac ities at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in the Prime 's Office and in various Indian missions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. He has the rare distinction of serving as private secretary to three Prime Ministers, Inder



Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. As per norms, Misri is set to have a minimum tenure of two years as the foreign secretary. "Vikram Misri assumed charge as Foreign Secretary today. #TeamMEA extends a warm Secretary

India and China after tensions flared significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes in June, 2020. The ties between the two countries nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley that marked the most serious military condecades. In his illustrious career, Misri also served as India's ambassador to Spain (2014-2016) and Myanmar (2016-2018) besides having stints in many Indian missions, including Pakistan, the US, Germany, Belgium and Sri Lanka. Misri was born in Srinagar and

had his early education there (Burn Hall School and DAV School) as well as in Udhampur (Carmel Convent School) in

Jammu and Kashmir. He finished his schooling from the Scindia School in Gwalior and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree with honours in history from the Hindu College in the University of Delhi and an MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur.Before joining the government, he worked for three years in the private sector in the fields of advertising and advertising film-making. Misri is a Fellow of the Aspen Institute USA's India Leadership Initiative (now the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship). He is married to Dolly Misri and they have two children. The government is in the process of appointing India's next envoy to the US and New Delhi's permanent representative tothe United Nations in New York.

tra is learnt to b

Indian Coast Guard ship rescues two Olive Ridley turtles



marine

PNS NEW DELHI

he Indian Coast Guard T(ICG) ship Kamla Devi successfully rescued two Olive Ridley turtles entangled in ghost nets approximately 35 nautical miles southeast off the coast of West Bengal on Saturday, officials said here on Monday. The Olive Ridley turtles are classified as endangered species and are protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

May 24, under "Operation Olivia" the ICG rescued 24 Ridley turtles, furwcasing their ded tion. These species play a vital role in maintaining the health of marine ecosystems, making their preservation crucial. By safeguarding these vulnerable marine creatures, the ICG continues to demonstrate its dedication to preserving marine biodiversity and ensuring the health of our oceans

the Indian Coast Guard's

unwavering commitment to

protection adhering to their

motto "Vayam Rakshamah": We Protect". Over the years,

the ICG has saved numerous endangered species and demonstrated its unwavering

commitment to marine pro-tection.During the nesting period from 01 Nov 23 to 31



every Indian looks forward to

The 59-year-old assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various geo-political chal-lenges, including its frosty ties

further strengthening the bonds of cooperation between the two countries for a brighter future.In a social media post, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "On the behalf of Indian National Congress, we extend our best wishes to Shree K P Sharma Oli, on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal." eignbours, and Nepal share unique ties of friendship and partnership characterised by deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture, he said. "Every Indian looks forward to further strengthening the bonds of mutual cooperation for a brighter future," Kharge





forward to working closely to further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship between our two countries and to further expand our mutually beneficial cooperation for the progress and prosperity of our peoples."

The Congress also extended its wishes to Oli and and said

spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post. Before he was appointed as the deputy NSA, Misri served as India's ambassador to China from 2019-2021. Misri is believed to have played

a key role in talks between

Sandhu retired in January. The position of India's permanent representative to the UN is also lying vacant after Ruchira Kamboj retired last month.

ving details, ICG offic said while on routine patrol in the front-runners for the ambassador's position in the Bay of Bengal, the crew of Washington. The post has been ICGS Kamla Devi promptly lying vacant since Taranjit responded and executed a rescue operation, ensuring the safe release of a mother-child turtle duo that were badly entangled in discarded fishing nets.

This operation underscores

Shah calls Chief Ministers, takes stock of flood situation

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday spoke to Chief Ministers of Assam, UP and Gujarat to take stock of situation caused by floods there and assured of all possible assistance and support of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Shah's call to Assam chief minister took place as flood situation remains grim there affecting common people.

Death toll has risen to more than 90 and more than 5 lakh people across 18 districts are reeling under the deluge, with Assam's Cachar being the worst-hit district.

The flood-affected districts in Assam include Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Metropolitan, Kamrup Karimganj, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, and Sivasagar. Also, 1,342 villages under 52 revenue circles are still under water and the flood waters submerged 25367.61 hectares of crop area in Assam. The water level of the

Brahmaputra River is flowing above the danger level mark at Neamatighat, Tezpur and Dhubri while the Burhidihing River is flowing above the danger level mark at Chenimari (Knhowang), Disang River at



Nanglamuraghat. Over 58,000 people are still taking shelter in 172 relief camps and distribution centres in 13 districts. water level. 2,83,712 domestic animals were also affected by the deluge. The situation in Uttar Pradesh, especially in the eastern and central regions, is also under observation after an increase in the water levels of several rivers following incessant rains impacting around 18 lakh people in more than 900 villages. As per officials, nearly 18 districts, including Azamgarh, Mau, Ballia, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Balrampur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Barabanki, Sitapur, Gonda Siddharth

not be played on the issue of security of leaders. Trump. 'Third Time Fail Rahul

Nagar, Moradabad, Bareilly and Basti in Uttar Pradesh were affected by increased times now.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath earlier conducted an aerial survey of the affected districts and directed the officials to provide all possible assistance to the affected people.Due to heavy rain in the Valsad district in Gujarat, many low-lying areas have been inundated, and the national highway was also flooded.

Teams from disaster cells were deployed to drain the water from these areas. Additionally, the heavy rains caused the water level in Madhuban Dam to rise

Congress slams BJP for allegations against Rahul, decries 'cheap politics'

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday I slammed the BJP for its allegation that Rahul Gandhi encouraged violence against Prime Narendra Modi, saying "cheap politics" should

The BJP on Sunday had targeted the Leader of Opposition following the assassination attempt on former US president Donald

Gandhi has often encouraged and justified violence against Prime Modi, who he has lost election to, several

How can India ever forget how Punjab Police, then under the Congress, deliberately compromised PM's security, when his convoy was left stranded on a flyover," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya had said. Hitting back at the BJP, Congress' media and public-ity department head Pawan Khera said, "cheap politics should not be played on the issue of security of leaders. The Congress party lost Mahatma ji to Right Wing terrorists. We lost two Prime Ministers at the hands of ter-



rorists. We lost our entire Chhattisgarh leadership to Left Wing terrorists, under the watch of the BJP government."

Prime Modi and the entire BJP has been instigating peo-ple against the leadership of the Congress party by "spreading vitriolic" lies against Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and the entire family, he alleged. "He (Modi) also mysteriously withdrew their SPG security," Khera said.

Donald Trump survived an attempt on his life when a young gunman fired multiple shots at the former US president at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear.

Indian warships, USS Theodore Roosevelt conduct joint exercise

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's frontline war-ships carried out a mega military exercise with the Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group of the US in the Indian Ocean, demonstrating the growing strategic congruence between the two sides in the key maritime domain.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt is a Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered, aircraft carrier of the US Navy.

A carrier battle group or carrier strike group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships.

The Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group operated alongside forces from the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean on July 12, the US embassy said in a read out.

The wargame came amid increasing concerns among democratic countries over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the larger Indo-Pacific region. The Indian Navy's deployment included guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam and replenishment ship INS Aditya.

'This joint maritime activity advanced interoperability between the two major defence partners and underscores their



shared commitment to upholding a free and open Indo-

Pacific," the embassy said. The US and Indian military forces focused on improving shared maritime domain awareness and information sharing, enhancing replenishment and logistics interoperability and improving com-bined air-to-air capabilities, it said.

"Participating units include the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, Carrier Air Wing 11, and the Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye," it said.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt is currently operating with carrier strike group nine after conducting this joint maritime

activity in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

۲ĥe 7th Fleet is the US Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The Indian Navy routinely participates alongside US Navy units in multilateral exercises across the Pacific, including Southwest Asia and littoral Africa

'In addition to the group sail, the Indian Navy is also operating in leadership roles with the US Navy and other allies and partners in the ongoing Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024 exercise in Hawaii," the US readout said.

nation 05

Goa Assembly adjourned twice

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | JULY 16, 2024

As BJP MLA seeks breach of privilege motion for statement on Speaker

PTI 📕 PANAJI

The Goa Assembly was adjourned twice on Monday after a BJP MLA moved a breach of privilege motion against a Congress legislator over the latter's statement about the Speaker. A commotion started on the floor of the House before the Question Hour when the

monsoon session began. BJP MLA Daji Krishna Salkar moved a breach of privilege motion against Congress's Altone D'Costa for making statements against Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar. D'Costa had on Friday told

reporters that the Speaker had rejected his resolution démanding démanding political reservation for the Scheduled Tribes community in the assembly. Salkar on Monday moved the motion, after which Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao questioned how the statement amounted to a breach of privilege. He said, "Nothing stops us

from moving a resolution. How is it a breach of privilege?" Chief N Pramod Minister

Sawant claimed D'Costa's



the pioneer

statement to the media was an insult to the Speaker, and he must tender an apology. When commotion prevailed, Tawadkar initially adjourned the House for half an hour. When the session resumed,

their demand for a breach of privilege motion and the House was again adjourned for half an hour. Talking to reporters, Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai said the disruption of the House by the ruling benches was a systematic move to avoid the Question Hour.

exposed the

Thousands of devotees pull chariots of sibling deities

Thousands of devotees pulled the chariots of sibling deities — Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra — on the 'Bebuda Yatra' or return the 'Bahuda Yatra' or return car festival on Monday. Though the pulling of

chariots was slated to start at 4 pm, it began ahead of the schedule amid chants of 'Jai Jagannath' and beating of cymbals. Devotees start pulling Lord

Balabhdra's Taladwaja' at 3.25 pm and Devi Subhadra's 'Devadalan' at 4 pm. Pulling of Lord Jagannath's chariot Nandighosh' began at 4.15

the ruling benches reiterated

PTI BENGALURU

Sardesai said that he and Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira had tabled a question on the National Education Policy (NEP) that would have State Government.



returning to the Jagannath temple. This journey is known as the 'Bahuda Yatra'. Earlier, the trinity was ceremonially taken to their



respective chariots from the Gundicha Temple of lakhs presence lakhs of

devotees. A total of 180 platoons (1 platoon comprises 30 personnel) of police force and 1,000 officers were deployed to maintain law and order and crowd management during the 'Bahuda Yatra'.

Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Sanjay Kumar said adequate security arrangements have been made and the entire temple town is under CCTV surveillance. Around five lakh people are expected to congregate for the festival.

cameras installed in K'taka Assembly Α

To record arrival, exit time of MLAs.

duration of presence

Artificial Intelligence-enabled cameras with facial recognition technology have now been installed in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly that will record arrival and exit time of members, as well as the duration of their presence in the House. KGF Congress MLA Roopakala

Shashidhar was the first legislator to be recorded by the cameras on arrival at the Assembly for the monsoon

organisations participated in

the plantation drive, officials

According to the Guinness

World Record website, the previous record for the most

saplings planted in 24 hours

was 9,21,730. It was achieved

earlier said.

session, which began today as the new

system became operational. The first MLA to be captured exiting was Tiptur's Shadakshari of Congress. Speaker U T Khader noted that there is a practice of recognising MLAs who come early to the Assembly before the quorum bells are rung and their names are read out in appreciation by the Chair.

"Some senior legislators like Araga Jnanendra, Basangouda Patil Yatnal (of BJP) and some senior Ministers had made a request that some legislators, despite coming a bit late, sit through the proceedings till six or eight (PM), but no one takes note of it and it is an injustice," the Speaker said. He added: "So, for the first time we have installed Artificial Intelligence

(India)

Forest



cameras, which will take note of what time a member arrives and leaves, and for how long he or she was present in the Assembly. Information regarding this comes to the Assembly Secretary's system by the end of the

day. There will be data." According to officials, the initiative is part of the effort to improve attendance of legislators and their participation during the session. Meanwhile, aimed at giving a facelift

to the Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state legislature and secretariat here, gates at the west entrance of the Assembly hall has been renovated in the first phase, replacing iron grilled gates with a large and carved grand rosewood door.It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today along with a plaque having the

preamble of the constitution. The Speaker said: "there is national and international respect for our Vidhana Soudha building. National and international level delegations and tourists come to Vidhana Soudha. It is our duty to make it look good and respectable from both inside and outside. This is the first phase, more work has to be done, I seek your (members) suggestions."

Shah congratulates Indore for setting tree plantation world record



PTI BHOPAL

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has congratulated Indore for setting a Guinness World Record of "the most trees in 24 lanteo team hours" and said Mother Earth is smiling at the city. Chief Madhya Pradesh Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday said that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and MP's economic capital, has now achieved the world record of planting more than 11 lakh saplings in a single day.

MTHE PIONEER dav under PM Shri ASSIERD @narendramodi Ji's campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. They have set an example that will CHANGE OF NAME be followed by millions in the years to come. Mother Earth Shehzad Akhtar, S/o. I, is smiling at Indore," Shah said in post on late Mohammad Saeed Sunday night. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign on June 5 to mark World Environment Day. Under the drive, approximately 140 crore trees will be planted across the country, including 5.5 crore in Madhya Pradesh, which Shah has described as the "lungs of Bharat". Indore, which has been recognised as the country's cleanest city for several years as per the Swachh Survekshan, will see 51 lakh saplings planted during this campaign, as per officials. The plantation drive was carried out at the BSF Academy's Revati Range, which was divided into nine

zones and 100 sub-zones. bv the Assam Besides 2,000 BSF jawans, government's Department at Udalguri on more than 100 NRIs, NCC cadets from 50 schools, a large September 13 and 14, 2023. number of citizens, and members of various social

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to wayward life, stubborn and adamant attitude of our son Sumeet Singh (54) we, his parents, Gurdip Singh (91) and Amrit Kaur (81) r/o B/3/69 SJ Enclave, New Delhi debar and disinheri him from all our owned/acquired assets totally in all respects. All actions and lecisions of Sumeet Singh will be his sole esponsibility. Any one dealing with him will be doing so at his own risk and cost only and we shall have no liability whatsoever in this regard.

Folio No. 0076328, Distinctive No. 94628115 to 94629572 Contact: 9891788588 PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLC NOTICE My client Mr. Subhash Nagi Son of Shri BS Nagi Residence of C-23, Sadhbhavna Society, Ashok Vihar, Phase-4, Delhi-110052 by the way of this Public Notice wants to inform public at Large that Mr. Kshitiz Arora Resident of Ward No. 7 punjabi Colony Gadarpur udham Singh Nagar Uttrakhand Pin code-263152 is disobedient person and he is no more associated with mv client and a set of the set o

LOST AND FOUND

The General Public is hereby

informed that Rakesh Mohan

Suneja S/o Om Parkash Suneja

R/o G-116 Ashok Vihar, Phase-

1, Delhi-110052 has lost its

original Share Certificate of

Trident Ltd. Share Certificate

No. 116022 of 14580 shares,

Akhilesh Tejpal (Advocate) LG-05, Plot No.17C Vardhman Big V Plaza Pitampura, Delhi-110034



PUBLIC NOTICE My client Rahish S/o Idwa Saifi R/o L-I Sunder Nagari, Mandoli Saboli, Delh 110093, currently lived at Khasra No.-3420 Mausam Vihar, Pasonda, Near Nooran Masjid, Ghaziabad-201005 has severed relations and debarred his daughter Razia Saifi from his movable-immovable properties due to her bad behaviour and misconduct. My client will not be responsible for her any acts. RAHUL PARASHAR (ADVOCATE) Ch. No. D-704, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that, Deccan Cements Limited Through Bikram Keshan Prusty, S/o Chakradhar Prusty R/o. C1/804 Asian Games Village Complex Sir Fort New Delh, Mob. 8985998857 Email: bikram@deccan cements.com, has applied for the conversion of afore-said property. The original papers i.e. (J) Allotment-Cum-Demand Letter (2) Possession Letter (3) Site Possession Silp (4) NOC for Electricity and Water Connection, etc. (3) MuttoinLetter (6) All Payment Challans, issued by DDA of abovesaid property has been lost. A FLR to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 27/06/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact. Dy. Director (LAB) H, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that I,SN SHAH PROPMART RIVATE LIMITED. S/D/W/O THROUGH ITS INEHAL SHAH, C- 61, BLOCK C, FRIENDS SNEHAL SHAH, C- 61, BLOCK C, FRIENDS COLONY am the legal owner of PLOT NO. 61,BLOCK-C, FRIENDS COLONY FILE NO. 19 (27)/1967/LAB/ ORIGINAL PERPETUAL LEASE DEED of the above Flat has been lost. An FIR/ NCR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Franch, Delhi vide LR No.:1928084/2, Dated 12-07-2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above address/phone No 9810071861 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming any right, interest, or having any objections with respect to this property can also personally inform/contact me.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE **BICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

	• • • • •		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
Sneha Bhatia/	Property No. B-42/B, Entire First Floor, Block- B, Category- C, Situated at Kalkaji, Nehru Enclave Metro, New Delhi, Delhi- 110019./ July 12, 2024	April 06, 2024 Rs. 28,31,112/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: July 16, 2024 Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank I td Place: Delhi/NCR

Yadav in a post on X shared the Guinness World Records certificate and pictures of receiving it. Earlier on Sunday, Union minister Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and planted a sapling in Indore.

'Congratulations, Indore! The city of Indore has set a surreal world record by planting 12 lakhs saplings in a

Kerala man stuck inside hospital lift for 2 days rescued, 3 staffers suspended

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

59-year-old man was stuck in a lift at the AGovernment Medical College Hospital in the Kerala capital for two days, but the officials responsible for its operation were unaware of the situation until Monday morning, prompting the authorities to initiate disciplinary action against them for their alleged lapses.

Ulloor resident Ravindran Nair, a patient who came for a medical check up, had been stuck inside the lift of the OP Block of the government medical college here since Saturday and was rescued by an operator who had arrived for routine work, police said. He has been admitted to the hospital for a

detailed medical examination. "He (Nair) got into the lift to go to the first floor but claims that the lift came down and did not open. He says he shouted for help, but no one came. His phone was also switched off," police said.

State Health Minister Veena George has ordered a probe into the incident and sought a report in this regard.

A/702, Punjabi Wali Gali, Sanjay Colony, Arthala, Mohan Nagar, Distt Ghaziabad-201007 have changed my name to Shahzad Akhtar for all future purposes.

PD(599)A

R/o

I, Mohammed Aziz, S/o. Mohammad Zafar, R/o. B-45/1, First Floor, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Delhi-110025 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my daughter's (Rakea Aziz) school record as Mohammad Aziz/Mohd Aziz instead of Mohammed Aziz.

been lodge online through Shanti Sewa Nyay Delhi vide LR. No. 684022/2022 on 11.08.2022 Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/ phone above named person at above adoress prione No 9811029912. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Secretary of Chandan Wart CGHS Ltd. Office Plot No. 8 Sector 10 Duratice New Delbi Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, KAMLESH KALRA

W/o Late R. S. Kalra R/o A-30, Press Enclave

Saket New Delhi-110017 has Owner of Flat

No. 163, Chandanwari, CGHS LTD., Plot No 8, Sector-10, Dwarka. The original Documents

viz (1) Allotment Letter, (2) Possession Letter &

Other Documents the said property have been

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, S.M Segh Salahuddin, S/o Mohamed Ibrahim, DDA MIG FLAT NO. 19-D, First Floor, Block-A, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, is the sole owner of above mentioned Flatof vide DDA file no F37(676) 74-LAB(H) MIG The original Documents Pertaining to the 1. Possession Letter, 2. NOC for Water & Electric Connection, 3. Site Possession Slip & Bank Challans. Has been Lost/ Misplaced somewhere and not traceable my best Elforts. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Dehi vide LR No: 1920/767/2024 on 10/07/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9212007565 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB(H) or Director (H)-1. D. Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023. NA, New Delhi-110023.

Kumar Tvagi having address at-181 Kamla Neharu Nagar-Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201002 with RDC Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at C-77, RDC, Rajnagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201001 remains rent due for the last 3 years.

Locker Hired by Mr. Saniay

All the 3 letters earlier sent to Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tyagi calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and the aforementioned is not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Mr.

Sanjay Kumar Tyagi within 90 days from the date of issuance of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done as per the extant process of the bank on October 16. 2024 at around 12:00 PM

Sr. No.

1.

EXTENSION OF SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the Periodicity of run the following Summer Special Trains as per details given below:-

	Train No. & Nam	e	Notified up to	Frequency	Days of Run	Period of Extension
0	2393 Patna JnNew Delhi S	Superfast Spl.	31.07.24	6 Days	(Except Thu)	02.08.24 to 30.09.24
0	2394 New Delhi-Patna Jn	Superfast Spl.	01.08.24	6 Days	(Except Fri)	03.08.24 to 01.10.24
0	2397 Gaya Jn Anand Vil	har (T.) Spl.	31.07.24	6 Days	(Except Sat)	01.08.24 to 30.09.24
0	2398 Anand Vihar (T.) - G	aya Jn. Spl.	01.08.24	6 Days	(Except Sun)	02.08.24 to 01.10.24
	For detailed informa above trains, pl or visit enquiry v	ease call Ra	ilMadad Helpl	ine No. 139 anrail.gov.in	You	fB
	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	0. www.railmad	ailMadad website: ad.indianrailways.gov.in d Railmadad App	Ye	ORTHERN F our Convenience - isit us at : www.nr.india	Our Concern
				WITH A SN		
HEI W m so H ui old	he Authorised ICICI Bank horcement of Security Inter- rith Rule 3 of the Security In entioned below, to repay the aid Notice. aving failed to repay the ar ndersigned has taken symbo n him/her under Section 13 ates. The borrower in particu- ny dealings with the propert	Branch O New Roht Officer under est Act, 2002 d therest (Enforce e amount ment nount, the Not blic possession (4) of the said Jar and the pu y will be subject	ffice: ICICI Bank I tak Road, Karol E the Securitise ement) Rules 2 tioned in the Nor tice is issued to of the property Act read with F blic in general a	imited Plot No. 2 lagh, New Delhi- ation, Reconstrict the powers con 002, issued Den tice within 60 da the borrower ar described below kule 8 of the sai re hereby cautior CICI Bank Limited	Inction of Financi ferred under sect nand Notices to t ys from the date of the public in g t, by exercising po d rules on the be ned not to deal wi d.	Floor, al Assets and ion 13(12) read he borrower(s) of receipt of the eneral that the wers conferred low-mentioned th the property.
N	r. Name of the lo. Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number L. Divya Prakash Tiwari/ Snehil Mishra/	Da Unit No.1902	te of Symbolic , 19th Floor, Tov	Possession	GH- Date of D Notice/A in Dem Notice Decem Rs. 13.89	ber Delhi/

Divya Prakash Tiwari/ Snehil Mishra/ .BNOD00004365180 	Unit No.1902, 19th Floor, Tower No. B-16, Supertech Eco Village-2, Situated at Plot No. GH- 01, Sector 16B, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201305/ July 09, 2024 Shop No-17, Lower Ground Floor, Plot No CS- 2/GH-01, Project Aarza Square-2, Sector-4 Gaur	December 14, 2023 Rs. 13,89,597/- December	Delhi/ NCR Delhi/
/andana Singh/ .BDEL00003910742/	2/GH-01, Project Aarza Square-2, Sector-4 Gaur		Dolbi/
	City, Greater Noida (West), District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ July 09,2024	27, 2023 Rs. 15,63,582/-	NCR
Mamta Rajkumar Gupta/ Raj Kumar Gupta/ .BDEL00002336413	Unit No.1702 17th Floor Tower B7, Eco Village 2 Situated at Plot No GH 01, Sec 16 B, Greater Noida- 201303/ July 09,2024	February 22, 2024 Rs. 21,45,811/-	Delhi/ NCR
Mamta Rajkumar Gupta/ Raj Kumar Gupta/ .BDEL00002336412	Unit No.1603, 16th Floor Tower B-6, ECO Village-2 Situated at Plot No. GH-01 Sector-16 B Greater Noida- 201303/ July 09,2024	February 22, 2024 Rs.19,44,791/-	Delhi/ NCR
Farun Chopra/ Ramesh Kumar Chopra/ Sinni Chopra/ Mahadevan & Co/ .BDEL00002031620	Flat No A-001, Upper Ground Floor, (Without Roof Rights), Tower-A, Type IV, Situated at Residential Group Housing Complex, Plot No- C/GH-3, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001/ July 09,2024	March 26, 2024 Rs. 5,53,938/-	Delhi/ NCR
Meera Aggrawal/ Santosh Kumar/ .BDEL00002018500	Flat & Unit No. LE/D-1207 On The 12th Floor, "Luxuria Estate", Situated at Aditya World City, Sector-6, Off NH-24, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201001/ July 09,2024	February 23, 2024 Rs. 4,56,842/-	Delhi/ NCR
	aj Kumar Gupta/ BDEL00002336413 Jamta Rajkumar Gupta/ aj Kumar Gupta/ BDEL00002336412 arun Chopra/ amesh Kumar Chopra/ Jahadevan & Co/ BDEL00002031620 Jeera Aggrawal/ BDEL00002018500 bove-mentioned borrow	aj Kumar Gupta/ Situated at Plot No GH 01, Sec 16 B, Greater BDEL00002336413 Noida- 201303/ July 09,2024 lamta Rajkumar Gupta/ Unit No.1603, 16th Floor Tower B-6, ECO Village-2 situated at Plot No. GH-01 Sector-16 B Greater Noida- 201303/ July 09,2024 BDEL00002336412 Vinit No.1603, 16th Floor Tower B-6, ECO Village-2 situated at Plot No. GH-01 Sector-16 B Greater Noida- 201303/ July 09,2024 arun Chopra/ Flat No A-001, Upper Ground Floor, (Without Roof amesh Kumar Chopra/ Rights), Tower-A, Type IV, Situated at Residential Group Housing Complex, Plot No- C/GH-3, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001/ July 09,2024 BDEL00002031620 Flat & Unit No. LE/D-1207 On The 12th Floor, BDEL00002031500 Flat & Unit No. LE/D-1207 On The 12th Floor, "Luxuria Estate", Situated at Aditya World City, Sector-6, Off NH-24, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201001/ July 09,2024 bove-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day No Soday No	agi Kumar Gupta/ BDEL00002336413 Situated at Plot No GH 01, Sec 16 B, Greater Noido- 201303/ July 09,2024 22,2024 Rs. 21,45,811/- lamta Rajkumar Gupta/ amta Rajkumar Gupta/ BDEL00002336412 Unit No.1603, 16th Floor Tower B-6, ECO Village-2 Situated at Plot No. GH-01 Sector-16 B Greater Noido- 201303/ July 09,2024 Floebruary 22,2024 Rs.19,44,791/- arun Chopra/ amesh Kumar Chopra/ inni Chopra/ BDEL00002031620 Flat No A-001, Upper Ground Floor, (Without Roof Group Housing Complex, Plot No- C/GH-3, Valibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001/ July 09,2024 March 26,2024 Rs. 5,53,938/- BeL00002031620 Flat & Unit No. LE/D-1207 On The 12th Floor, "Luxuria Estate", Situated at Aditya World City, BDEL00002018500 February 23,2024 Rs. 4,56,842/- 201001/ July 09,2024 bove-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the me mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, or

SYBLY INDUSTRIES LIMITED REGD. OFF. : PAWAN PURI, MURADNAGAR, DISTT. GHAZIABAD (U.P.) CIN: L17111UP1988PLC009594 Phone: 01232-261521, Web: sybly.com, Email: sybly@rediffmail.com

PD(600)A

STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2024 (₹ IN LAKH)

S.	Destinutere	3 months ended	Year ended	3 months ended
No.	Particulars	30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited
1.	Total income from operations	0.00	3.41	0.00
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Exceptional items and tax)	-9.24	-101.39	-14.68
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1.32	-473.08	11.71
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax and Exceptional items)	1.32	-352.24	11.71
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive income (after tax)]	1.32	-352.24	11.71
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹ 10/-)	915.66	915.66	915.66
7.	Other Equity	-	-830.35	-
8.	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
	(a) Basic	0.01	-3.85	0.13
	(b) Diluted	0.01	-3.85	0.13
NOT	ES ·			

NOTES :

Place : Muradnaga Dated : 15.07.2024

The above Unaudited Quarterly financial results as reviewed by the Audit Committee were approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 15.07.2024. The Statutory Auditors have expressed an unqualified and unmodified audit opinion in its Limited Review Report.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website: www.bseindia.com & Company's website: www.sybly.com

SYBLY INDUSTRIES LIMITED Sd/

(Mahesh Chand Mittal) Managing Director DIN : 00284866

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE Locker Hired by Mr. Neeraj Makhija having address at-R-13-61, Raj Nagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201002 with RDC Branch of Kotak Mahin Bank Ltd. situated at C-77, RI Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ut Pradesh -201001, rema inoperative since past 7 Year All the 3 letters earlier sen Mr. Neeraj Makhija call

upon them to operate locker has return unreser and the aforementioned is It is hereby informed t despite this notice, if the s locker is not operated by Neeraj Makhija within 90 d from the date of issuance of notice, break open of the s locker will be done as per extant process of the bank October 16, 2024 at arou

contactable.

12:00 PM.





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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Expectations from the budget

The Union Budget must address infrastructure growth, job creation and clean energy initiatives

The 2024 Union Budget will be presented in the Lok Sabha on July 23rd. This will be the first budget by NDA-3, likely to continue its earlier policies. However, setbacks in the recent elections might lead to course corrections, and some populist measures may be included in the budget by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. As the Union Budget 2024-25 approaches, the Indian economy stands at a pivotal juncture, characterized by robust growth prospects and lingering challenges. The GDP growth forecast remains optimistic, buoyed by a strong recovery in various sectors, particularly manufacturing, services, and technology. However, inflationary pressures, high fiscal deficits, and global economic uncertainties pose significant challenges. The government has made concerted efforts in the past to enhance infrastructure, digitalisation, and clean energy initiatives, reflecting its commitment to sustainable development. Despite these strides, issues like unemployment, income inequality, and rural distress persist, necessitating



targeted fiscal measures. The forthcoming budget is expected to address these concerns, aiming to foster economic resilience, stimulate investment, and ensure inclusive growth for the nation. It is an opportunity to streamline the economy and heal ailing sectors. People's prime concerns remain inflation, which can be dexterously handled with tight fiscal planning. The Union Budget under NDA 3.0 must prioritise infrastructure growth and job creation, aiming to boost manufacturing through public-private partnerships. Changes in personal taxation and pension schemes are also expected, focusing on long-term fiscal sustainability and middle-class relief.

There is significant industry expectation for reforms and incentives to bring them back on track. The real estate sector, a major catalyst for economic growth and a vital provider of employment, urgently needs industry status to access lower-cost financing and tax benefits. High taxes on essential materials like cement and steel, particularly the 28% GST on cement must be addressed to sustain growth. India's electric vehicle (EV) sector stands at a crucial juncture, with high expectations for the upcoming budget. The government should prioritise incentivising firms to use EVs for last-mile delivery operations. Reducing GST rates for renewable energy components from the current 18% to 5% could lower the cost structure for green energy projects, promoting faster adoption across the country. The upcoming budget is expected to focus on employee welfare, formal job creation, reducing compliance complexity, and addressing the skill gap. Job creation and equipping people with desired skills, especially in technology, must be focal points. The budget should allocate more funds to tech infrastructure and resources, preparing students for a tech-driven job market and supporting entrepreneurial growth. Overall, the Budget must provide a definitive direction for India's economic agenda, with a strong emphasis on infrastructure, job creation, clean energy, and comprehensive sectoral reforms.



New army chief follows Zorawar's footsteps



BHOPINDER SINGH

The ancient Duggar region has produced many of India's bravest warriors and earned the highest number of gallantry awards in the annals of the Indian Armed Forces

GENERAL DWIVEDI

ncient Duggar region (land of warrior-Dogras spanning Himachal J&K, Pradesh, and parts of Punjab) has given maximum sacrifice and earned the highest number of gallantry awards in the annals of the Indian Armed Forces. Geographically, they have been the first line of defence against all invading forces. The noble land birthed the likes of King Porus, and the warrior sans pareil, General Zorawar Singh. Unbeknownst to many, the legendary Zorawar's audacious conquests included regions that are now in Pakistan and China like Gilgit-Baltistan, Skardu, Hunza, to even large swathes of Tibet. With such martial traditions, it is the only region in the country that populates not one but four fiery regiments of the Indian Army i.e., Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, Dogra Regiment, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry and Punjab Regiment, besides other arms, and services. But the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles or Jak Rif, has a hallowed place in history and imagination as a proud and direct legatee of those Zorawar's daredevilry traditions. The only 'State Force' of the Princely Dogra Kingdom to be fully amalgamated in the Indian Army, they remain the quintessential 'Gentlemen Soldiers' owing to pedigree, immense dignity, and professional restraint in personal conduct, but unmatched ferocity in battle. In 1947 the 'Saviour of Kashmir', Brigadier Rajendra Singh Jamwal, MVC, and his band of 300 indefatigable warriors held off Pakistani tribals for crucial three days to allow the confabulations and the landing of Indian troops in Srinagar.

The Maharaja and Commander of J&K State forces had ordered, 'Brigadier Rajender Singh is commanded to hold the enemy at Uri at all costs and to the last man" - he did so by paying the "ultimate sacrifice" himself. In another theatre, Brig Sher Jung Thapa, MVC, of the J&K State Forces earned the title of "Hero of okardu . Even the first Param Vir Chakra of India, Maj Somnath Sharma, was from the Duggarregion. Decades later, when the enemy attempted to justifiably proud. As 97 years



cross over yet again, it was the unparalleled heroics of the 13th Jak Rifbattalion, atop the unforgiving heights of the Kargil War that galvanised the nation.

Two combatants from the traditional Duggar catchment areas of Palampur and Bilaspur were to send shivers down the spine of the enemy with their regimental war cries of "Durga Mata ki Jai" as they retook Point 5140. Captain Vikram Batra was to immortalise the moment with his "Yeh dil mange more" spirit and Rifleman (later Subedar Major) Sanjay Kumar would fight to defend their land just as their forefathers did, for

aeons Both won Param Vir Chakra. Even the peace-time equivalent of gallantry, Ashok Chakra, was bestowed on 2/Lt (later Maj Gen) Cyrus Pithwalla of 17thJak Rif, to be the only 'General' officer with the highest gallantry award.It is from this deep fount of distinguished soldiering, that the 30th Chief of Indian Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, takes over the reigns. Commissioned in the 18th Rif battalion, he is the first Army Chief from the decorated

'young', Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (the only General who was commissioned by Commanderin-Chief of J&K State Forces, Maharaja Hari Singh) extended congratulations and recalled the countless regimental sacrifices that, "made the State as crown of newly independent India".

Today, General Dwivedi assumes the responsibility that his regimental forefathers held with much aplomb, elan and professional acumen that befits their motto, Prashata Ranvirta ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY or Valour in battle is Praiseworthy!

THAT HIS The General assumes the mantle time in most challenging REGIMENTAL times, but as the Military tru-FOREFATHERS HELD ism goes, "The harder the conflict, the greater the tri-WITH MUCH umph". With the Indian Army, he takes over the most disci-APLOMB, ELAN AND plined, combat-hardened, and PROFESSIONAL restrained institution of the nation - much like his own ACUMEN THAT regimental ethos.

Regrettably, such a selfless attitude in a selfish world can **BEFITS THEIR** MOTTO, PRASHATA often lead to being 'taken for granted' or lead to institution-RANVIRTA OR diminishments. Transmitting that 'voice' for redressal to the powers-that-be VALOUR IN BATTLE will be his foremost challenge. **IS PRAISEWORTHY!**

i.e., China and Pakistan simultaneously, amongst other operational and staff posts. This makes him a worthy leader. In a movingly reassuring optic that is so typical of the Indian Army and its inimitable ways, the good General took blessings of his family elders, laid a wreath for those who went down fighting at the National War Memorial and then exchanged greetings with religious leaders of all faiths and denominations. Much like the multi-religious and multicastiest denomination of the Duggar land and the combatants-in-arms from his beloved JaK Rif who could be a Sikh like Honorary Captain Sundar Singh (Ashok Chakra), Parsi like Maj Gen Pithwala (Ashok Chakra) or even the martyr from his battalion i.e. 18thJak Rif, Rifleman Arif Khan Pathan, who laid down his life on Indo-Pak Line-of-Control (LoC). Jak Rif's pride is the nation's pride. As regimental patriarch, Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal dotingly noted, "General Upendra Dwivedi is the product of this great Regiment of General Zorawar Singh. You can expect results". (The writer, a military veter-

Regiment. Understandably, people in the Duggar land (especially those from the Jak Rif fraternity) are

to his sing gular credit, ne nas tenanted the most sensitive posts e.g., Army Commander of the Northern Command that dealt with dual nemesis

of Anaaman & Nicoba Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

an, is a former Lt Governor

THE EDITOR LETT

High seas treaty: A crucial step for marine biodiversity protection



DHARAMAPALAN

This treaty represents a significant international effort to protect our oceans, promoting equity and cooperation among nations

he world's oceans, vast and mysterious, are crucial to the health of our planet. They regulate the climate, produce half of the oxygen we breathe, and support a rich tapestry of life that is vital to global biodiversity. Marine ecosystems are incredibly diverse, hosting countless species, many of which remain undiscovered. Protecting this biodiversity is not just an ethical obligation but a practical necessity. Healthy marine ecosystems provide essential services, such as carbon sequestration, which helps mitigate climate change.

They also support fisheries that millions of people rely on for food and livelihoods. Yet, the high seas—the areas of the ocean that lie beyond national jurisdictions-remain largely unprotected and poorly managed. The significance of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement comes into the picture here. BBNJ is an international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNC-LOS). The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction



known as the High Seas Treaty, is a significant international treaty aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Areas beyond national jurisdiction cover approximately two-thirds of the ocean's surface and 95% of its

volume. These regions offer invaluable benefits to humanity, including ecological, economic, social, cultural, scientific, and food security advantages. However, they are vulnerable to significant threats such as pollution, overexploitation, and the escalating impacts of climate change. The anticipated rise in human demand for marine resources in the coming decades-for food, minerals, and biotechnologyposes a risk of worsening these issues. These areas cover (BBNJ) Agreement, also nearly half of the Earth's sur- environmental impact assess-

face, yet they lack comprehen-sive legal frameworks to regulate human activities, leaving them vulnerable to overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and the impacts of cli-mate change. The BBNJ Agreement aims to ensure marine biological diversity conservation and sustainable

use in areas beyond national jurisdiction. One of the most commendable aspects of the BBNJ

Agreement is its emphasis on equity. The agreement recognises the differing capacities of developed and developing nations in managing marine resources. It includes provisions for capacity-building

and the trans fer of marine technology, helping to level the playing field and enable all nations to participate effectively in ocean governance. This is vital for ensuring that the benefits of marine resources are shared fairly. The BBNJ Agreement represents a vision of global stewardship where nations come together to protect the shared heritage of our oceans. It establishes mechanisms for creating marine protected areas (MPAs), conducting

ments (EIAs), and sharing marine genetic resources (MGRs) and associated benefits equitably. This holistic approach ensures that conservation efforts are globally coordinated, scientifically informed, and inclusive of all stakeholders. It is a testament to the power of multilateralism in addressing global challenges. While the BBNJ Agreement is a significant step forward, it faces considerable challenges. Ensuring compliance and enforcement in the vast and remote high seas areas will be complex. Effective implementation will require robust monitoring systems, international collaboration, and sufficient funding. Moreover, the agreement must harmonise with existing regional and sectoral bodies to avoid conflicts and duplication of efforts. An

international agreement like the BBNJ Agreement, where countries work together for a common goal, is a beacon of hope for resurrecting our planet from the hardships caused by human activities.

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

ROT IN THE SYSTEM

Madam - It is ridiculous that the central institutions are being pulled in for series of alleged discrepancies in the entrance exams one after other.After NEET exam paper leaks, now its time for UPSC exam. Probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar's issue in Pune, is now on the limelight to raise many doubts regarding the UPSC and its selection process which is lenient towards IAS officers daughters and sons.It seems that the rules were bent in favor of her due to the political influence of her father and the impact of nepotism while clearing her medical examination certificate under OBC, PwBD quota, which was accepted despite it was done by the private hospital with an excuse of COVID-19 and posting

It is highly doubtful that she passed the exam under OBC category by misusing the law and fooled the interview board regarding her credentials which is not supposed to fall under OBC, PwBD quota as her asset worth is 22 crore. Her attitude, lavish life and pomposity on her probation period was unethical and disrespect to such highest post in the government. Perhaps, its just because of such candidates the honest and deserving get deprived of a chance to serve the society and nation building. It raises a red flag whether rules were misused in the past as well under the guise of obtaining OBC certificate by showing disability by the candidates who have had political affiliation and support. One hopes for fair and proper investigation of this matter to wipe out the rot in the system

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar Jalpaiguri

RAUT'S UNCHARITABLE COMMENTS Madam — Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Sanjay Raut now says that Atal Bihari Vajpayee would have imposed emergency the day of emergency as the day of murin a similar situation. Had Vajpayee told Raut that he would have imposed emergency if he had faced a situation of the kind Indira Gandhi faced? The situation was created by Indira Gandhi herself. Justice

Trump dodges the bullet



n the shooting incident in Pennsylvania at a Trump rally, the Ex president fortunately had a narrow escape. History is replete with attempts at assassination of US presidents. In

Court held Indira Gandhi guilty for her electoral malpractices. The Allahabad High Court delivered its judgment on June 12, 1975. The adverse judgment against Indira Gandhi threatened her position as Prime Minister. Top national leaders Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Vajpayee, and many others were arrested when Indira Gandhi had the premonition that her power and position would be in peril. The justification given for imposition of emergency was 'the internal disturbance'. Vajpayee did not indulge in electoral malpractices for facing a situation of the kind Indira Gandhi faced. He never hankered after power. Power came in search of him. The thought of Raut that Vajpayee would have imposed emergency if he had faced similar situation makes a laughing stock. What is wrong if Modi calls

der of the Constitution? K V Seetharamaiah Bengaluru

RESPECT GANDHI'S LEGACY

Madam -- I want to express my deep con-Jagmohan Lal Sinha of Allahabad High cern and disappointment over the recent

fact world over national leaders elsewhere too have been targeted for differing reasons. In the Trump incident, political observers have highlighted increasing and consistent effort at polarisation in the US, fed by hateful political rhetoric in the past few years.

Trump as the serving President would refuse to concede defeat in his bid for re-election in 2020, even after losing it by as many as seven million votes. He not only stuck to a theory of conspiracy to deny him a win but created a partisan following that would recklessly storm into the parliament.

The Pennsylvania incident must carry a larger and universal lesson. As a leader grows tall his onus to public propriety and temperance in speech, becomes exponential. Else it stands to rapidly fray the socio-politic fabric of a nation

R N Narayanan Mumbai

removal of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Doomdooma, Assam. The abrupt decision to dismantle this statue, which stood as a symbol of peace and unity at Gandhi Chowk, has understandably sparked widespread outrage among the community, particularly student leaders and local civil soci-

The statue's removal not only disrespects the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi but also undermines the values of non-violence and harmony that he tirelessly promoted. Such actions can have far-reaching negative impacts on our society, eroding the respect for historical figures who played pivotal roles in shaping our nation. I urge the authorities to reconsider their decision and engage in a dialogue with the community to address their concerns. Restoring the statue or finding a more inclusive solution will help in maintaining social harmony and respecting the sentiments of the people.

Masood Ahmad | Barabanki

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FIRSTCOLUMN MANY REASONS FOR THANKING GOD

God helps us in many ways, and the least we can do is thank Him for His generosity



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

nyone, who has even tried to link with God either by praying or by chanting or by any other spiritual practice, would have bene-Tited in some way. Because God can never be a debtor; He doesn't have to be. After all, He is the controller. I do many spiritual activities, and I am rewarded much beyond my expectations. How do I respond? I thank God profusely. This entitles me to more favours from God because thanking God is a high-class spiritual act. Over a long period of being in the shelter of God, many changes have occurred in my life. I am more peaceful; feel more secure; am 'sukhi' (happy); bad times don't last long; help comes, as required; guidance is generally available; etc. There are multiple reasons to thank God. I will detail a few. The first one has to be God's role in keeping the Creation going for our benefit. There have been many wars. But the world remains intact. Because God is the only entity, who could have prevented an all-out war like a nuclear war, which could have destroyed the world. God keeps the Creation going for His parts (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7). A businessman tries to keep his business going for his children, grandchildren, etc, but doesn't always succeed, because we all are limited; God is not.

God uses good souls, those who possess divine qualities to keep the Creation going. He rewards them in many ways including a better next birth. Shouldn't we thank God for this 'kripa' (grace)?The second reason to thank God profusely is for protecting good souls from demons. Lord Krishna has stated in verse # 16.6, "There are two types of living beings in this world: possessing divine qualities and having demonic qualities. Every person has either the predominance of divine or demonic qualities." Those with a preponderance of demonic qualities remain engaged in cruel acts. (16.4) There is a good percentage of such people. How do good people, i.e. having a preponderance of divine qualities, escape their attention?

God manages that. I cannot imagine living the way I do, i.e. with freedom and escape from being hurt by them. Believe me, I thank my Lord for this great mercy a lot, knowing how vulnerable I am.My third reason to be thankful to God is for bailing me out of all troubles, which make



their painful appearance due to my past bad/sinful acts, mostly in my past lives. I must have, otherwise I wouldn't be giving birth in this dukhalaya. God has promised this to all those who have God's consciousness. The fourth reason to thank God is for acting as karta (doer) in my life. There are five factors for accomplishing any task. These are: the place of action and the doer and many different kinds of instruments and many different efforts and fifth in this connection is the providence only." (18.14) Only God can control all the five. No human being has control over any other factor except being a doer. And when God is the karta, a task gets surely done. God does this kripa on us whenever He feels that it is according to dharma and we deserve it. The fifth reason to thank God, especially by me is for God using me as His nimitta (instrument). I am one of many whom God has chosen. I suspect that all good people get this privilege, as Arjuna was. (11.33) The sixth reason to thank God one and all human beings is His mercy in allowing very simple spiritual practices like praying, naman (obeisance), chanting and, yes, thanking. Once we begin doing them, God is in the picture. He doesn't wait for us to become His devotees; God begins to help us to become one. Because all these acts signal to God our intention to take His shelter. In my case, God has been micromanaging my life for a long time encouraging me to go on with my spiritual activities like writing spiritual texts such as articles and books. All the religions promote this act of thanking God. If we don't thank when we should we are becoming a debtor. I look for opportunities to thank others, and to God of course. He gives me plenty of reasons to be thankful. (The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Prioritising growth and regional development



analys \$ 07

A S MITTA

The first budget by NDA-3 is anticipated to address the demands of stakeholders and states seeking assistance to bridge regional disparities



he NDA-3 government is gearing up to present its first budget on July 23. This budget carries high expectations as it is anticipated to da and is expected to deliver substantially to meet the demands of stakeholders and states seeking assistance. Discussions are underway regarding the reinstatement of special status for states like Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, with demands from Janata Dal (United) and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in exchange for their support for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government. Andhra Pradesh's CM, N. Chandrababu Naidu, has demanded Rs one trillion to support the state's industrial and THE DEMAND FOR infrastructure development. The demand for special category status for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh poses the crucial question of why a similar approach should not be adopted to accelerate and expand the industrial growth of Punjab, a landlocked border state. This expectation arises at a critical time when the state is experiencing a sig-nificant divergence in its industrial activities due to stagnant growth and reduced exports. These circumstances demand new measures to catapult the state to greater heights. In the mid-nineties, neighbouring hill states like Himachal Pradesh reaped the benefits of a central special industrial package, while Punjab faced significant setbacks as many major players expanded and shifted their operations to the hilly states. The geographical disadvantage of being distant from seaports has led to certain investment disadvantages and stagnant growth in the industrial sector. Today, Punjab demands a level playing field to compete on an equal footing, as its key manufacturing industries have the potential to become an 'Engine of Growth.' Punjab inherited a fragile industrial base at the time of India's partition in 1947, which was further eroded with the creation of Haryana in 1966. The 1980s and 1990s were tumultuous due to terrorism and social unrest, impacting industrial growth in the region. Currently, Punjab only accounts for 5% of industrial units in the country, with a 3.6% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in the industrial sector over the last five fiscal years. In contrast,

neighbouring states like Haryana have demonstrated higher growth rates at 5.9%. Punjabis positioned 10th with a score of 58.95 in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) ranking 2023, whereas Haryana holds the 5th position with a score of 63.65. It raises concern that Gujarat has the highest number of 8 districts among the top 25 districts in terms of export share, followed by Maharashtra with 5 districts, Haryana with one, and Punjab with none.

Moreover, in terms of foreign direct investments (FDI), Punjab ranks 12th, having attracted only 0.49% of FDI. This is in stark contrast to neighbouring Haryana, which ranks sixth with FDI equity inflows accounting for 4.17% of the total inflows. The erosion of industry is a pressing crisis in Punjab. Despite efforts by successive governments to attract investments, significant hurdles such as location disadvantage, law and order and frequent protests ersist. One major issue is the

as the second-largest producer of polyester silk, fibre, and cotton yarn. It dominates woollen knitwear (95%) and hosiery (65%) exports, showcasing its strength in the glob-al market. While China holds a dominant position with a 37% share, India is positioned with a 5% share, includis positioned with a 5% share in the global export market, and there is huge potential for expansion in export markets such as the USA, UAE, UK, Germany, France, and Australia.

Ludhiana also commands a remark-able 92% of India's total bicycle parts production and 75% of bicycle production, securing its position as the leading exporter of bicycles from India with an 80% share. While India lags behind China in bicycle exports, there is clear potential to aggressively expand global exports with untapped opportunities in the US, European countries, and Africa as burgeoning bicycle markets. Jalandhar holds a solid 45% share of the total production, with 75% of

The Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme should be thoroughy re-evaluated to ensure it delivers the intended impact on competitive-ness and scale. Monitoring its progress closely is critical.

The slow progress of the PLI scheme, especially in labour-inten-sive sectors like textiles, automobiles, and components, must be addressed urgently. To achieve broader goals such as enhancing exports, attracting significant investments, and generating employment, expanding PLI to new sectors like bicycles and sports goods is imperative to encompass the maximum number of MSMEs.Assertive GST Rationalization: There is an urgent need to rationalize the current GST structure to eliminate the complex hurdles created by multiple tax slabs. Transitioning from the existing structure to a simplified two or three-slab framework and providing exemptions for previously exempted items such as farm imple-

THE CRUCIAL location disadvantage, as Punjab's distance from seaports makes its QUESTION OF industrial operations non-compet-WHY A SIMILAR itive in the global market. Two years ago, CM Bhagwant Maan **APPROACH** announced in the Vision Punjab

SPECIAL

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conclave of ASSOCHAM that SHOULD NOT BE Punjab aims to become the first state ADOPTED TO in the country to own wagons (Punjab on wheels), offering a ACCELERATE AND potential solution to dilute the freight burden. EXPAND THE However, the success of this endeav-

INDUSTRIAL our depends on the support from both the central and state govern-**GROWTH OF** ments. Punjab is an exceptional hub for textile yarn, bicycles, hosiery, PUNJAB, A tractors, automobile components, sports goods, engineering goods, LANDLOCKED and leather. **BORDER STATE**

These industrial clusters possess immense potential and can be further strengthened. Ludhiana proudly leads as the top producer of blended yarn and hosiery, as well

the country's sports goods being exported from the city.

Despite China's dominant position as the largest exporter of sports goods with a share of 42.2%, India's current 0.56% share of global exports signifies the untapped potential for Punjab's growth, with lucrative prospects in the USA, UK, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Colombia, and Argentina. Punjab plays a pivotal role, hosting one-third of total OEMs in the farm equipment segment and serving as the leading tractor manufacturer, contributing one-third to India's production. With a commanding share in exports, Punjab stands tall

as the largest exporter. Despite India's current 2.2% share, the potential for over 2 lakh tractors to be exported in the next 3 years to burgeoning markets such as Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, SAARC, and African nations is undeniable. Wish List: Priority Focus on PLI:

ments is crucial to streamline the system.

Ćritical Focus on Logistics Cost: Competitive and efficient logistics are the foundation for industrial growth. Policy-backed support for state-owned wagons in landlocked border states like Punjab is essential to address the over-freight burden and provide a level playing field manufacturing hubs. Incentivizing labour-intensive and export-oriented industries in the upcoming budget is vital to driving the country's economic growth and employment generation.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman(Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association. Views *expressed are personal)*

Cinema: A potent tool in global politics and cultural diplomacy

n our multipolar world, cinema has become a critical component of soft power, shaping global perceptions through its captivating narratives

ovies have evolved far beyond mere entertainment; they now play a significant role in global politics and cultural relations. Through creative expressions, films harness the ecosystem comprising key stakeholders to nurture and develop soft power dynamics and geopolitical equations. In the realm of geopolitics, movies are more than art; they are potent tools used by countries to showcase their soft power and expand their influence worldwide.

Through their film industries, nations share stories that resonate globally, reflecting their identities and serving as diplomatic instruments. Films offer profound insights into the societal dynamics of different countries, profound



CHAITANYA K PRASAD y impacting international rela-

tions.Today, we live in a multipolar world where power dynamics are fluid, and various stakeholders, perceptions, ideologies, strategies, networks, interfaces, and interactions play a critical role. The challenge we face today is

assembling a complex jigsaw puzzle, where every piece of this puzzle has a vital role to play. Geographical boundaries have blurred exponentially, thanks to globalisation, and management of ideas in a

enhancing communication and ushering in a new era where technology plays a pivotal role in shaping these interactions.

The emergence of the new players can be attributed to the concept of Soft Power dynamics. This idea, coined by Joseph S. Nye, describes the ability to attract and persuade through

culture, political ideals, and policies. In this context, cinema has become an essential component of Soft Power. Cinema, as a medium and platform, acts as a catalyst to position soft power dynamics, decoding perceptions, perspectives and geopolitical stances globally. The portrayal on the big screen infuses fresh thinking into the policy debate dynamics, global issues

global framework, bound by multipolarity and instant communication.

Many films in the past have mirrored multidimensional dynamics and impact on different ecosystems, nations and individuals. Cinema and foreign policy interface reinforces the global appeal of a concept, or idea leading to a dynamic framework for cultural diplomacy. Cinema as a medium has added a new tool to the dynamics of bilateralism, the use of creative tools in the portrayal of a new point of view, ideology and intervention along with better cultural understanding.

Cinema has emerged as a vehicle of Collaboration, Cooperation, Cohesion, Coordination, and Convergence — the 5Cs of cin-



ema. On the global front, cinema breaks barriers, overcomes obstacles, and thrives on the creativity of both old and new players.

It no longer caters solely to Western or Eurocentric narratives but embraces a diverse global perspective, which plays a crucial role in shaping cinema perceptions and adding a soft touch to global power dynamics. The importance of cinema in geopolitics has traditional distribution.

grown significantly over recent years, with governments increasingly funding film projects that reflect their national interests and cultural heritage. Many countries use their film industries as a powerful tool for soft power to shape their global impression.

The impact of movies is greatly amplified by their ğlobal presence, thanks to the rise of streaming services that have revolutionised film distribution, making it easier for films from smaller markets to reach a worldwide audience. Platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu have democratised access to movies from various countries, allowing filmmakers worldwide to showcase their cultural stories without relying on

Cinema transcends power structures by influencing public opinion and shaping international policies through its captivating narratives. Movies serve as platforms for discussions and political analysis, sparking conversations that can drive societal transformation. Filmmakers and actors act as ambassadors with significant sway, using their works to facilitate cultural exchange and international conversations. Cinema has become a platform for new ideas and concepts, driving integration through International Film Festivals. The role of cinema in today's world is incredibly significant. It serves as a diplomatic tool and a compelling medium to communicate ideas through storytelling, influencing international relationships. Beyond its audience, cinema has a far-reaching impact on global leaders, policymakers, and communities worldwide. It acts as an envoy, spreading messages of peace, empathy, and solidarity through engaging stories that mirror the complexities of human life. There is no doubt that cinema now transcends entertainment in contemporary society. Nations are recognising the power of cinema as a tool to promote their agendas and perspectives on the world stage, underscoring its importance in diplomacy.

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; Inputs by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan. Views *are personal)*

world 08



'I'm supposed to be dead'

TRUMP REFLECTS ON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

PTI MILWAUKEE

Donald Trump has said he is "supposed to be dead" after the assassination attempt on him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, calling the incident a "surreal experience?

experience." In one of his first interviews since the incident, the 78-year-old former president told conser-vative US media that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God". "T'm not supposed to be here, I'm supposed to be dead," the former US president said, speaking to the New York Post while en route at the exact right time and in just the right amount," he said, adding that the bullet that grazed his ear could have easily killed him. "I'm supposed to be dead, I'm not supposed to be here," he said. He called the entire inci-dent a "surreal experience." A spectator was killed in the attack, while two other people were seriously injured. The 20-

to Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention starting on Monday which will nominate him as the party's candidate for the

November 5 presidential election. "The most incredible thing was that I hap-pened to not only turn [my head] but to turn at the exact right time and in just the right

year-old gu nman, who also died, has been named as Thomas Matthew Crooks. Trump wore a white bandage that covered his right ear but his aides did not allow any pho-

tographs to be taken, said the Post. "The doctor at the hospital said the Post. "The doctor at the hospital said he never saw anything like this, he called it a miracle," Trump added. "By luck or by God, many peo-ple are saying it's by God I'm still here." Trump also addressed the photos of him rais-ing his fist and saying "Fight!" as he had blood on his face.

on his face. "A lot of people say it's the most iconic photo they've ever seen," Trump said. "They're

to have an iconic picture." Trump told the paper he wanted to keep speaking following the shooting but the Secret Service insisted he go to the hospital.

right and I didn't die. Usually, you have to die

"I just wanted to keep speaking, but I just got shot," he said. Trump also said he appreciat-ed the call he received from President Joe Biden, also expected to be his rival in the elec-tion, according to the Post, calling it "fine" and "warw pice" "very nice."

The paper reported that Trump suggested the campaign between him and Biden, a Democrat, could be more civil from now on.

Many anti-abortion advocates strongly opposed the Trump campaign's rewriting of the platform. But after the shoot-

ing, at least one major religious conservative said he wouldn't

press to reverse the committee's

"More divisiveness would not be healthy," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Perhaps most importantly, Trump will use the convention

to unveil his choice for vice president, which could come as

Republicans believe the pick will take on more importance than it would have otherwise

given the new threats to Trump's life.

His top three contenders are North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Ohio Sen. JD Vance and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio,

all expected to speak this week.

Despite a contentious primary

season, any lingering tensions

appear to have been set aside.

Former rivals Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, the

former United Nations ambas-

sador, are expected to speak at

the convention on Trump's

behalf.

decision.

Biden calls for national unity, says time to 'cool down'

PTI MILWAUKEE

US President Joe Biden on Sunday urged citizens to unite in the hour of crisis when a failed assassination bid was made on his predecessor Donald Trump and said it was time to "cool down" political rhetoric in the country.

In a prime-time national address from the Oval Office, "I want to speak to you tonight about the need for us to lower the temperature in our politics and to remember, while we may disagree, we are not enemies we are neighbours, friends, coworkers, citizens, and most importantly, we are fellow Americans."

Calling for national unity, he said, "We must stand together". "Yesterday's shooting at Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania calls on all of us to take a step back, take stock of where we are and how we go forward from here," he said.

The President spoke for the third time in less than 24 hours after Trump was shot at during an election rally in

Pennsylvania. Biden said the motive of the shooter is not known yet. "We don't know his opinions or affiliations. We don't know whether ha had hale are whether he had help or support or if he communicated with anyone else. Law enforcement professionals, as I speak, are investigating those questions." "A former president was shot and an American citizen killed for simply exercising his freedom to support the candidate of his choosing. We cannot... *ie* must not go down this roa



answer," he said. 'There is no place in America for this kind of violence, for any violence ever. Period. No exceptions. We can't allow this violence to be normalised," he said.

Disagreement is inevitable in American democracy, he observed. "Political rhetoric in this coun-

Political rhetoric in this coun-try has gotten very heated. It's time to cool it down. We all have a responsibility to do that," the President said. "It's part of human nature that politics must never be a little battlefield, or God forbid, a killing field. I believe politics ought to be an arena for peaceought to be an arena for peace-ful debate, to pursue justice and to make decisions guided by the Declaration of

tion," he said. "We stand for an America not and we owe that to ourof extremism of fury, but of selves..... Let's remember we decency and grace. All of us are the United States of now face atomic testing as the election approaches. The higher the stakes, the more fervent

the passions become. This place is an added burden on each of us to ensure that no matter how strong our conviction was never descending into

violence," he added. In a passionate appeal to the nation, Biden said, "Let's remember here in America, all unity is the most elusive of gold goals right now. Nothing is more important for us now. And standing together. We can do this?

"We must be an American democracy. where arguments are made in good faith.... where the rule of law is respected and where decency, dignity and fair play aren't just quaint notions but living breathing realities?

"We owe that to those who Independence in our constitu- come before us, those who gave their life in this country America. There is nothing beyond our capacity. When we do it. Together," Biden said.

Anger and anxiety loom over the Republican convention

AP MILWAUKEE

Donald Trump's campaign chiefs designed the convention opening this week to feature a softer and more optimistic message, focusing on themes that would help a divisive leader expand his appeal among moderate voters and people of colour. Then came a shooting that rat-tled the foundation of

American politics.

Suddenly, the Democrats' tur-moil after the debate, the GOP's potential governing agenda and even Trump's criminal convictions became secondary to fears about political violence and the country's stability. The presumptive Republican nominee and his allies will face the nation during their four-day convention in Milwaukee unquestionably united and ready to "fight", as the blood-ied Trump cried out Saturday while Secret Service agents at his Pennsylvania rally rushed him to safety.

Anger and anxiety are coursing through the party, even as many top Republicans call for calm and a lowering of tensions

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, known for his sunny and optimistic vision of Republican politics, suggested online the attempted assassination had been "aided and abetted by the radical Left and corporate media incessantly calling Trump a threat to democsts or wo



more somber tone during a Sunday appearance on NBC. "We've got to turn the temper-

ature down in this country," Johnson said. "We need leaders of all parties, on both sides, to call that out and make sure that happens so that we can go forward and maintain our free society that we all are blessed to have."

There are no changes yet to the convention programme

In an interview on Sunday, Republican Party chairman Michael Whatley said the convention's programming wouldn't be changed after the shoot-The agenda he said wil

Trump's plans to lift everyday working Americans. We have to be able to lay out vision for where we want to take this country," he said.

Whatley said the central message would have little to do with President Joe Biden's political struggles, Trump's griev-ances about the 2020 election or the ex-president's promises to exact retribution against political enemies.

We are going to have the convention that we have been planning for the last 18 months," he said. "We are a combination of relieved and

Beyond voting to formally give Trump the nomination, elect-ed delegates from across the nation will update the GOP's policy platform for the first time since 2016. The scaled-down platform proposal — just 16 pages with limited specifics on key issues, includ-ing abortion — reflects a desire by the Trump campaign to avoid giving Democrats more material on a key campaign Trump the nomination, electmaterial on a key campaign issue.

The platform approved by a committee last week doesn't include an explicit call for a national abortion ban, two years after the US Supreme and ended a federally guaranteed right to abortion.

Veteran Republican pollster Frank Luntz said the shooting ensured the GOP is united and motivated behind Trump, a dynamic he said will be on display all week in Wisconsin. "Every single Trump support-er will now be a Trump voter," Luntz said. "The average Frump voter i so anory at wh

in America. We've travelled before throughout our history. Violence has never been the Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, another likely convention speaker, offered a

overwhelmingly focused on going to be here and is g kitchen table issues and accept the nomination?

feature more than 100 speakers grateful that the president is Court overturned Roe v. Wade going to be here and is going to

just happened. They were angry before this, and now they're furious."

'Gunman acted alone; being probed as act of domestic terror'

PTI MILWAUKEE

The gunman who shot at former president Donald Trump during an election rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday appears to have acted alone, according to the FBI, which is investigating it as a potential "domestic terrorism" act.

The gunman has been identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks (20)

"At this point in the investigation, it appears that he was a lone actor, but we still have more investigation to go," said Robert Wells, the executive assistant director of the FBI's National Security Branch. The FBI, he said, is investigat

ing this as an assassination attempt," and also as a "potential domestic terrorism act." The counterterrorism division and criminal divisions are working jointly together to determine the motive, he added. The FBI is leading the investigation into the assassination attempt of Trump at an election rally in Pennsylvania. Trump was hit with a bullet that pierced the upper part of his right ear. He is now safe and is continuing with his schedule that includes travelling to Milwaukee to attend the Republican National Convention, which would formally nominate him as the party's presidential nominee

against incumbent Joe Biden.

The shooter may be deceased. but the investigation is very much ongoing. And, because of that, we are limited in what we say at this point," FBI Director Christopher Wray said. "What we witnessed yesterday was nothing short of an attack on democracy and our demo-

cratic process," he told reporters at a news conference in Washington DC. According to an FBI official,

the investigation into the gun-man at Donald Trump's rally Saturday has not yet turned up any mental health issues, threatening posts or other motives, but cautioned it was still early. The shooter, as per FBI, used an AR-style rifle chambered in 5.56mm, a common calibre for such weapons. The New York Times said authorities were scouring the gunman's social media and other property as they sought to determine a motive for the

attack. Biden is likely to address the nation at 8 pm from the Oval Office. He will give "a forceful and needed address to update the nation on the horrifying attack on Donald Trump and the need for every American to come together to not just condemn, but put to an end political violence in this country once and for all," a campaign official told the daily.

Rescuers in Nepal recover 11 bodies

AP KATHMANDU

Rescuers in Nepal have recovered a total of 11 bodies from the Rriver that two buses full of people were swept into by a landslide, officials said Monday

Rescuers found the bodies in different spots along the riverbanks as they searched for the missing buses and some 50 people who were on board

Government administrator Khima Nanda Bhusal said seven bodies were identified and relatives contacted. Three of the dead are Indians and the remaining four are Nepali nationals.

He said four more bodies were also recovered from the river, but because they haven't been identified, it was unclear if they had been on board the buses. "We will continue the search as long as it is needed and have no plans to give up. We will work until all of them are found," he said.

The buses were on the key highway connecting Nepal's capital to southern parts of the country when they were swept away Friday morning near Simaltal, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Kathmandu. Three people were ejected from the buses and were being treated in a nearby hospital.

AP BEIJING

hina and Russia's naval ✓ forces on Sunday kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine.

The Chinese defense ministry said in a brief statement forces from both sides recently patrolled the western and northern Pacific Ocean and that the operation had nothing to do with international and regional situations and didn't target any third party. The exercise, which began in

Days after NATO allies called Beijing a Ukraine war enabler, China, Russia start joint naval drills

Guangdong province on Sunday and is expected to last until mid-July, aimed to demonstrate the capabilities of the navies in addressing security threats and preserving peace and stability globally and regionally, state broad-caster CCTV reported

Saturday, adding it would include anti-missile exercises, sea strikes and air defense. Xinhua News Agency report-ed the Chinese and Russian naval forces carried out on-map military simulation and tactical coordination exercises after the opening ceremony in the

city of Zhanjiang. The joint drills came on the heels of China's latest tensions with NATO allies last week. The sternly worded final communiqué, approved by the 32 NATO members at their summit in Washington, made clear that China is becoming a focus of the military alliance, calling Beijing a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine. The European and North American members and their partners in the Indo-Pacific increasingly see shared security concerns coming from Russia and its Asian supporters, especially China.

In response, China accused NATO of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia. Its foreign

ministry maintained that China has a fair and objective stance on the war in Ukraine. Last week, a US Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol in the Bering Sea also came across several Chinese military ships in international waters but within the US exclusive economic zone, American officials said. Its crew detected three vessels approximately 124 miles (200 kilometers) north of the Amchitka Pass in the Aleutian Islands, which mark a separation and linkage between the North Pacific and the Bering Sea. Later, a fourth ship was spotted approximately 84 miles (135 kilometers) north of the Amukta Pass.

China's Communist Party begins key meet to stem economic slowdown

PTI BEIJING

China's GDP dipped to 4.7 per cent in the second quarter, the government said on Monday, as the ruling Communist Party began a key meeting stated to be a defining moment for President Xi Jinping's leadership to revive the world's second-largest economy.

The four-day meeting called the 'Third Plenum' is being attended by 376 full and alternate members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee to primarily examine issues related to comprehensively deepening reforms and advancing China's modernisation to work out a course correction for the economy plagued by deepening demographic crisis, sluggish

growth and mounting local government debts.

Kicking off the meeting Xi 71, who is also general secretary of the party, delivered a work report and expounded on a draft decision of the CPC Central Committee on further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernisation, the official media reported.

The meeting, however, began here on a disappointing note for the party leadership as the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced the GDP for the second quarter expanded by 4.7 per cent well below the 5.3 per cent annual pace of growth in the first quarter of the year.

The silver lining for the CPC, which is searching for a new set of reforms to shake off the post-

COVID lockdown blues, the economy posted a five per cent growth in the first half, within the range of the official growth target fixed for the vear.

'The current external environment is complicated, while domestic demand remains insufficient. We still need to consolidate the foundation for economic recovery," the NBS

said on Monday. While the third plenum of the CPC was regarded as important to set the reform agenda for the next decade, the meeting was seen as a defining moment for Xi, who is into the unprecedented third five-year term as the economy was unable to shake off its slowdown mode resulting in a sense of unease about the recovery in the near future.

presided over a host of meetings to set the tone for the key plenum and chart the direction for the nation's future reform highlighting that "the furthering of reform must focus on refining and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and advance modernisation of the country's governance system and governance capacity".

A readout of a key party meeting presided over by Xi in February said: "Reform measures need to be sharply focused, targeting the most pressing problems. Reform efforts must be substantial and impactful."

The event could be the most important "defining moment" of President Xi Jinping's rule since a similar gathering in Ahead of the meeting, Xi 2013 that set out his vision for

reforming the country, a political researcher from Tsinghua University, who requested anonymity, told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

He said the watershed third plenum would be used by the party elite to review achievements under Xi's leadership and lay down plans to hit goals set for 2035, "which will lay the groundwork for the President's grand legacy of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation by 2049"

The plenum is also taking place at a time when China, struggling with various curbs and sanctions from the US and the EU, especially its high-tech products, is trying to assure both foreign business and the private sector at home about the country's economic prospects to

attract investments. Neil Thomas, a fellow for Chinese politics at the Asia Society Policy Institute's Centre for China Analysis, said Xi would use the plenum to advance his existing agenda focused on party control, technological self-reliance, financial de-risking, social welfare, and supply-side industrial policy. But the political challenges of economic pessimism could lead to some very modest 'positive surprises', he told the Post.

The most intriguing new signals ahead of the plenum suggest the possibility of more pro-business policies in hi-tech domains, although Xi does not want to unleash entrepreneurs and markets but rather harness them to develop technology and boost manufacturing, he said.



Pak govt's bid to ban party act of desperation: Imran

he pioneer

PTI ISLAMABAD

ailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Monday reacted sharply to the government's decision to ban the party, saying the move came "out of desperation" and is a "sign of panic" within the federal administration. The Pakistan government announced that it would ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for its alleged involvement in anti-state activities and slap cases against him and two of his senior party colleagues for treason.

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Khan, 71, faces over 200 cases, has been convicted in a few of them, and is currently lodged at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. "The federal government has decided to ban PTI as a political party. Reasons cited by the information minister are the cipher case and the US Congressional Resolution on electoral rigging and politically motivated cases with no merit in sight. The PML-N is shooting its own foot for these reasons," the PTI said in a statement.

The PML-N — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz — is run by Khan's arch rival Nawaz Sharif and is a major coalition partner in the ruling dispensation headed by his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif.

The PML-N is shooting its own foot for these reasons because Khan has been acquitted in a cipher case and the US congressional resolution points out the ordeal a political party has to face over the period of a few months," the PTI statement added.



Senior PTI leader Senator Ali Zafar told Geo News that the federal government was attempting to ban the party "out of desperation" as the Supreme Court had ruled in its favour in the reserved seats case and said that his party would not allow the decision's implementation "even for a second" as it is against the law of the land.

He was referring to the key judgment of the Supreme Court last week that declared that Khan's PTI was eligible for the seats reserved for women and minorities in the national and four provincial assemblies. If allotted thus, the PTI will become the largest party in the National Assembly with 109 seats.

"The government doesn't realise, the UN resolution wasn't a bilateral agreement but an independent observation made by a

charter, Pakistan is a part of. Pakistan is a signatory of the UN and therefore any provocative comments could lead to Pakistan losing its membership," the party added. The PTI statement also pointed out that the Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, who announced the government decision at a press conference, ignored all questions regarding the US and the UN working group observations, "maybe because he's either unaware of its implica-tions or just doesn't have a clue."

"And this is a sign of panic as they have realised the courts can't be threatened and put under pressure. So they will try to move under the cabinet," it said, adding, Since no judge is willing to give in to blackmail or pressure, I have been saying for a while now we are under a soft mar-tial law and this move only proves our point further." The party also issued a longish statement on its X handle.

Khan has already claimed the February 8 general elections to have witnessed the Mother of All Rigging' and called his rivals the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as "mandate thieves.

In the election, both PML-N and PPP individually won fewer seats than 92 won by independent candidates backed by Khan's PTI. The two parties entered into a postpoll alliance under which the PML-N got the prime minister's post and the chief ministership of Punjab province while the PPP got the presidential post and the chief ministership in Sindh province.

KP Sharma Oli sworn in as Nepal's PM for 4th time

PTI 📕 KATHMANDU

P Sharma Oli on Monday K^P Sharma Oli on Monday Was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of provid-ing political stability in the

Himalayan nation. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from

other smaller parties. Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives (HoR) on Friday, leading to the formation

of the new government. Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), Oli was sworn in by President Paudel at Shital Niwas, the main building of Rashtrapati Bhawan at a ceremony that was delayed by more than half an hour.

According to the news portal MyRepublica, the swearing-in ceremony was delayed due to the failure of the Nepali Congress to finalise the names



Outgoing Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (left) congratulates newly-elected Prime Minister Khadga Prassad Oli (right) after the oath of office at the Presidential residence in Kathmandu on Monday. AP/PT

eight, excluding the Prime of its ministers to join the Minister, from the CPN-UML, government amid disputes within the party. two from the Janata Samajwadi Party and one from the

The President also administered oaths to the two Deputy PMs – Prakash Man Singh and Bishnu Paudel – and 19 other ministers. Singh would also look after the Urban Development Ministry while Vishnu Prakash Paudel would look after the Finance Ministry. Arzoo Rana Deuba, wife of Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba is the Foreign Minister in the cabinet.

of Nepal, according to a notice issued by the President's Office. There are 10 cabinet ministers On Friday night, Oli had staked from the Nepali Congress;

"War is mathematics?

his claim to become the next Prime Minister with the backing of NC President Deuba and ing of NC President Deuba and submitted the signatures of 165 House of Representatives (HoR) members — 77 from his Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) party and 88 from the Nepali Congress. (NC) (NC)

Oli will now need to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, which he is likely to secure easily as the minimum number to form a government in the 275-strong HoR is just 138.

Prachanda faced the vote of confidence as earlier last week, Oli's party withdrew its support to that coalition and inked a new seven-point deal with Deuba to form a new coalition government. According to the July 1 deal between NC and CPN-UML, the two parties will lead the government on a rotational basis until the next general elections scheduled for 2027.Oli served as Nepal's prime minister from October 11, 2015, to August 3, 2016 and then, from February 5, 2018, to July 13, 2021. He continued to serve from May 13, 2021, to July 13, 2021.

Pakistan govt files review petition against allotting reserved seats to Imran's party

PTI ISLAMABAD

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party-led government on Monday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its decision to allocate reserved seats to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

A 13-member full court in a key judgment on July 12 ruled that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was eligible for the seats reserved for women and minorities in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies

The case gave a major boost to PTI and its founder Khan while

the government criticised the apex court and decided to chal-

lenge it. Following the ruling, PTI will become the largest party in the National Assembly as its seats will likely soar from 86 to 109, after it gains 23 reserved seats, Pakistani media reports said. In the review petition, the PML-N stated the PTI had not requested for specific seats while the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), which had filed the petition, was

a separate political entity. It further contended that the independent candidates have already joined the Sunni Ittehad Council and as per the

PTI have declared themselves independent in the papers. Γhe PML-N in the review peti-

tion took the stand that the July 12 decision of the Supreme Court regarding specific seats is against the law asking independent members to join a political party within 15 days. It has been argued in the petition that the Constitution and law are clear that independent candidates can join a political party within three days.

It is also mentioned in the petition that the court did not hear the arguments of the parties while giving the decision in favour of the PTI. July 12 decision, the members In this review appeal, it has who were declared as part of been requested that the

Supreme Court should review the decision of the specific seats and suspend the July 12 decision pending the decision

on the review application. The latest development comes as Information Minister Atta Tarar dropped the bombshell about banning the PTI, creating political uncertainty which may further exacerbate the economic situation of the country. Tarar in the controversial move announced the government will ban jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party for its alleged involvement in anti-state activities and slap cases against him and two of his senior party colleagues for treason.

Ukrainian startups create low cost robots to fight Russia

AP NORTHERN UKRAINE

Struggling with manpower shortages, over-whelming odds and uneven internation-al assistance, Ukraine hopes to

find a strategic edge against Russia in an abandoned warehouse or a factory basement. An ecosystem of laboratories in

hundreds of secret workshops is leveraging innovation to create a robot army that Ukraine hopes will kill Russian troops and save its own wounded soldiers and civilians.

Defense startups across Ukraine - about 250 according to industry estimates — are creating the killing machines at secret locations that typically look like rural car repair shops.

Employees at a startup run by entrepreneur Andrii Denysenko can put together an unmanned ground vehicle called the Odyssey in four days at a shed used by the company. Its most important fea-ture is the price tag: USD 35,000, or roughly 10 per cent of the cost

of an imported model. Denvsenko asked that

limits. We understand that we cannot spend One of its drones, the car-sized Odyssey, spun on its axis and kicked up dust as it rumbled a lot of human lives," said Denysenko, who heads the defense startup UkrPrototyp.

forward in a cornfield in the north of the country last month.

// ई-निविदा आमंत्रण //

Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party in

Outgoing Prime Minister

Prachanda was also present at

the ceremony, which was

attended by foreign diplomats

Earlier on Sunday, President

Paudel had appointed Oli as the

new Prime Minister under Article 76-2 of the Constitution

and other dignitaries.

the government.

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड (USCL) द्वारा श्री महाकाल महालोक के बेसमेंट पार्किंग के ऊपर निर्मित कान∕कियोस्क "प्रसादम" (Prasadam) के लिए ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। जिसका विवरण निम्नानसार है । समय सारणी :-

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Anti-terrorism court indicts ex-Pak foreign minister Qureshi in May 9 violence case

PTI LAHORE

n anti-terrorism court here Aon Monday charged top Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a case involving the burning down of a police station during the May 9 violence last year. Oureshi, 68, who was brought to Kot Lakhpat jail here from Adiala jail in Rawalpindi under tight security, has several cases related to May 9 violence, including arson, filed against him at the Shadman police station, Geo News reported.

The court had summoned Qureshi to initiate indictment proceedings against him and ordered him to present witnesses in the next hearing scheduled for July 22.

The indictment of Qureshi came hours before the Pakistan government announced its decision to ban Khan's PTI for its alleged involvement in anti-



state activities

The Lahore police had registered a case against several leaders and activists of the PTI on the charges of attacking and burning down the Shadman police station during the May 9 riots following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan by the Rangers in an alleged corruption case. Besides this case, multiple cases

related to the May 9 violence have been lodged against Qureshi in Lahore alone. Qureshi has been in prison since he and Khan, 71, were sentenced by a Pakistani court to 10 years in jail for violating the Official Secrets Act by making a diplomatic cable public when the PTI founder was in power.

Though the Islamabad High

Court (IHC) on June 3 acquitted Khan and Qureshi in the Cipher case, suspending their 10-year sentence, the two remain in jail as they are named in multiple cases in connection with the May 9 violence across Pakistan.

Qureshi was earlier this year indicted in eight more cases related to the May 9 violence. The May 9 riots were triggered across the country after 71year-old Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the 190-million-pound corruption case. He is currently facing over 200 cases and has been in jail since August last year.

Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations, including the Jinnah House, ISI building in Faisalabad and General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, last year on May 9.

Associated Press not publish details of the location to protect the infrastructure and the people working there.

The site is partitioned into small rooms for welding and body work. That includes making fiberglass cargo beds, spray-painting the vehicles gun-green and fitting basic electronics, battery-powered engines, off-the-shelf cameras and thermal sensors.

The military is assessing dozens of new unmanned air, ground and marine vehicles produced by the no-frills startup sector, whose production methods are far removed from giant Western defense companies

A fourth branch of Ukraine's military — the Unmanned Systems Forces — joined the army, navy and air force in May. Engineers take inspiration from articles in defense magazines or online videos to produce cut-price platforms. Weapons or smart

components can be added later. "We are fighting a huge country,

and they don't have any resource

World's rarest whale may have washed up on NZ beach

The spade-toothed whales are the world's rarest, with no live sightings ever recorded. No one knows how many there are, what they eat, or even where they live in the vast expanse of the southern Pacific Ocean. However, scientists in New Zealand may have finally caught a break

The country's conservation agency said Monday a creature that washed up on a South Island beach this month is believed to be a spade-toothed whale. The fivemeter-long creature, a type of beaked whale, was identified after it washed ashore on Otago beach from its color patterns and the shape of its skull, beak and teeth

"We know very little, practically nothing" about the creatures, Hannah Hendriks, Marine Technical Advisor for the Department of Conservation, told the Associated Press. "This is going to lead to some amazing science and world-first information."

If the cetacean is confirmed to be the elusive spade-toothed whale, it would be the first specimen found in a state that would

permit scientists to dissect it, allowing them to map the relationship of the whale to the few others of the species found, and learn what it eats and perhaps lead to clues about where they live.

Only six other spade-toothed whales have ever been pinpointed, and those found intact on New Zealand's North Island beaches had been buried before DNA testing could verify their identification, Hendriks said, thwarting any chance to study them.

This time, the beached whale was quickly transported to cold storage and researchers will work with local Maori iwi (tribes) to plan how it will be examined, the conservation agency said.

New Zealand's Indigenous people consider whales a taonga — a sacred treasure — of cultural significance. In April, Pacific Indigenous leaders signed a treaty recognizing whales as "legal persons," although such a declaration is not reflected in the laws of participating nations. Nothing is currently known about the

whales' habitat. The creatures deep-dive for food and likely surface so rarely that it has been impossible to narrow their loca-



tion further than the southern Pacific Ocean, home to some of the world's deepest ocean trenches, Hendriks said. "It's very hard to do research on marine mammals if you don't see them at sea," she said. "It's a bit of a needle in a haystack. You don't know where to look.

The conservation agency said the genetic testing to confirm the whale's identification could take months.

It took "many years and a mammoth amount of effort by researchers and local people" to identify the "incredibly cryptic" mammals, Kirsten Young, a senior lec-

turer at the University of Exeter who has studied spade-toothed whales, said in emailed remarks.

The fresh discovery "makes me wonder - how many are out in the deep ocean

and how do they live?" Young said. The first spade-toothed whale bones were found in 1872 on New Zealand's Pitt Island. Another discovery was made at an offshore island in the 1950s, and the bones of a third were found on Chile's Robinson Crusoe Island in 1986. DNA sequencing in 2002 proved that all three specimens were of the same species — and that it was

one distinct from other beaked whales. Researchers studying the mammal couldn't confirm if the species went extinct. Then in 2010, two, whole, spade-toothed whales, both dead, washed up on a New Zealand beach. Firstly mistaken for one of New Zealand's 13 other more common types of beaked whale, tissue samples taken after they were buried - revealed them as the enigmatic species.

New Zealand is a whale-stranding hotspot, with more than 5,000 episodes recorded since 1840, according to the Department of Conservation.

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NA/12/24135/2023/35653 Dated CHD :- 7/15/2024

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प्रदेश क ई-निविदा पोर्टल https://mptenders.gov.in पर ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

प्रत्येक दुकान की निविदा के लिए पृथक-पृथक आवेदन प्रस्तुत किये जायेगें।

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड

	Notice Inviting Tender	www.verka.coo
eal	ed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following iter	ms:-
	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
	 For Verka Mohail Dairy a) Hiring of Insulated & Refrigerated vehicles with different capacities for supply of Verka milk and milk products. 	65 No's (no. of vehicles may increased or decreased)
	 b) Outsourcing the activities related to city supply :- Demand, Dispatch & Milk Supply Helpers. Security Personnels, BCC and Accounts personnels 	Annual Annual
	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Repair of 04 TPH husk feed boiler (replacement of shell and water valve tubes) including material and supply of ID fan complete in all respects.	01 Complete job
	 For Verka Jalandhar Dairy a) Annual Rate Contract for the supply of Nitric Acid b) Outsourcing of housekeeping activities of Old Dairy and New Dairy at Verka Jalandhar Dairy. c) Annual Labour Contract for packing of milk & milk products in different pack sizes. d) Hiring of refrigerated vehicles for supply of frozen (like ice cream,table butter, cheese etc.) and Ambient Verka products in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Milkshed area. 	Annual
	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Outsourcing of Milk Booth at Park back side main shopping centre sector 32-A, Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana. b) Outsourcing of Verka Milk Bar at:- Macchiwara Kamalpura	Three Years
	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) e-tenders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of :- • 125 KVA DG set for Milk Chilling Centre Mehta. • 100 KVA DG set for Milk Chilling Centre Fatehgarh Churian. b) Sealed Tenders for Sale of :-	01 No.
	 Tata 407 (Model 1994) vehicle at Verka Amritsar dairy. Tata 709 (Model 1997) vehicle at Verka Amritsar dairy. Ambassador Car (Model 2010) vehicle at verka Amritsar dairy. 	Complete job.
	For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Loading/ Unloading of Verka Milk & Milk Products, Corrugated Boxes, SMP bags etc.	01.09.2024 to 31.08.2025

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Sciences provides end-to-end

services across the drug

discovery, development, and

manufacturing value chain,

for small molecule new

chemical entities (NCE), to

innovator companies and

According to a F&S report,

India CRDMO market

manufacturing organization)

was amongst the fastest

growing markets in APAC

over 2018-2023. This growth

is expected to continue, with

the Indian market projected

to grow by 14 per cent between 2023 and 2028

reaching an estimated value of USD 14.1 billion in 2028.

Kotak Mahindra Capital

Company Ltd, IIFL Securities

Ltd, Jefferies India Private Ltd

and Morgan Stanley India

Company Private Ltd have

been appointed as merchant

biotechnology firms.

pharmaceutical

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Sai Life Sciences files



WPI inflation surges to 16-month high in June

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation in the country surged to a 16-month high of 3.36 per cent in June on account of rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables and manufactured items.

fourth This was the consecutive month when witnessed inflation an upward journey. The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 2.61 per cent in May. It was (-) 4.18 per cent in June 2023.

Wholesale inflation had touched a high of 3.85 per cent in February 2023. "Positive rate of inflation in

June, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Monday.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose 10.87 per cent in June, as against 9.82 per cent in Mav.



from 32.42 per cent in May. major segments except fuel and power, ICRA Chief Onion inflation was at 93.35 per cent, while potato was Economist Aditi Nayar said. Looking ahead, she said, the 66.37 per cent in the month headline WPI inflation is under review. Pulses inflation expected to dip to about 2 rose 21.64 per cent in June. per cent in July 2024, driven During the month, inflation in other food items like fruits by a favourable base, as well as some cooling in global stood at 10.14 per cent, commodity prices. cereals at 9.27 per cent, and With regard to oil prices, milk at 3.37 per cent.

The upmove in the WPI she said, the average price Inflation in vegetables was inflation in June 2024 was of the Indian basket of 38.76 per cent during June, up broad-based, driven by all the crude oil has been quite

volatile in July 2024 so far, on the back of supplymismatches, demand witnessing a month-on-month rise (USD 86.6/bbl up to July 11). Higher crude oil prices

might exert an upward pressure to the headline WPI inflation in the ongoing month, she added. In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.03 per cent, marginally lower than 1.35 per cent in May.

However, price rise in crude petroleum & Natural gas was in double digit at 12.55 per cent during the month. In manufactured products, inflation was at 1.43 per cent in June, higher than 0.78 per cent in May.

The rise in June WPI was in line with the retail inflation data for the month. Retail inflation rose to a four-month high of 5.1 per cent in June, data released last week showed.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing the monetary policy.





Barthwal said going by the

current trend, the country's

total exports of goods and

services may cross USD 800

During the first quarter of

billion this fiscal.

added.

PTI NEW DELHI

Tndia's merchandise exports Lin June increased 2.56 per cent to USD 35.2 billion from USD 34.32 billion in the yearago month, according to government data released on Monday.

Imports rose by about 5 per cent to USD 56.18 billion in June against USD 53.51 billion a year ago. The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, 23.78 billion.

during the month under review stood at USD 20.98 billion. Commerce Secretary Sunil cent to USD 172.23 billion.

IPO papers with Sebi PTI 📕 NEW DELHI Private equity major TPG Capital-backed Sai Life

Sciences has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The company's proposed IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 6.15 crore shares by

promoter, investor shareholders and other shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Under the OFS, one of the promoter entities -- Sai Quest Syn Pvt Ltd -- and investor shareholders -- TPG Asia VII SF Pte Ltd, HBM Private Equity India -- will partly offload their respective stakes.

2024-25, the exports of goods and services stood at about USD 200 billion, he At present, Sai Quest Syn holds 5.61 per cent stake in the company, TPG owns India's merchandise exports rose by 9.1 per cent to USD 39.69 per cent shareholding and HBM Private Equity 38.13 billion in May, even as India has 5.5 per cent stake. the trade deficit widened to a Of the IPO proceeds, funds to the tune of Rs 600 crore will seven-month high of USD be used for debt payment and a portion will be used for Exports during April-June this fiscal increased 5.84 per cent to USD 109.96 billion, corporate general purposes, the draft papers filed on Friday showed.

bankers to manage the company's IPO. The Hyderabad-based Sai Life

exacerbated the crisis", an

"With mills facing liquidity

delayed, hindering their

ability to purchase fresh jute from farmers. This has

to

Automobile retail

are getting

industry stakeholder said.

ssues, payments suppliers are

PTI NEW DELHI

Monday.

FY24.

Hindustan Zinc contributes ₹13,195 cr to exchequer in FY24 PTI 📕 KOLKATA

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Monday said it has contributed Rs 13,195 crore to the exchequer in the last financial year, representing about 46 per cent of its total revenues

In FY 2023-24, Hindustan Zinc's total contribution to the exchequer stood at Rs 13,195 crores, the Vedanta group firm said in a regulatory filing. With this, HZL's cumulative

contribution to the exchequer over the past five years stood at Rs 77,803 crore.

"As our businesses grow, so will these numbers. At Hindustan Zinc, we are committed to continuing to do business with a purpose in underlines Hindustan Zinc's a manner that is sustainable, commitment to the state's



transparent and creates value for all our stakeholders," Hindustan Zinc Chairperson Priya Agarwal Hebbar said. Over the past five years, that company has consistently contributed an average of approximately Rs 3,250 crore per year to Rajasthan in the form of royalties, contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), and other levies. "This substantial contribution



either directly by mills or through third parties, have adversely impacted the industry and farmers. In a letter to the textile minister, the Jute Balers'

Association has raised concerns over the "unregulated import of raw jute" from the neighbouring country and "low orders" for mills have led to a severe payment crisis for domestic raw jute suppliers. Indian Jute Mills Association

18,008 crore as corporate dividend and Rs 26,384 crore has also raised concerns over Hindustan Zinc Limited, a the issue and sought Vedanta Group company, is intervention from the central the world's second-largest and state governments to tide over the crisis. third-largest silver

A meeting between the industry stakeholders and the

ministry is expected later on Monday, an official said.

The balers' association, which has been serving the sector for over 115 years, outlined the critical issues threatening the industry's survival. "Despite a bumper crop year

in 2023-24, where domestic supply was sufficient, mills have continued to import large quantities of raw jute from Bangladesh. In June 2024 alone, 73,000 bales, or 22 per cent of the total 3,34,000 bales, were bales, Jute Balers' imported," Association secretary Pulak Jha said in the letter.

There is an opening stock of 3 million bales of raw jute for



senior Om Prakash Soni told PTI.

Prices of the golden fibre fell below Rs 5,000 per the quintal, while minimum support price (MSP) is Rs 5,335 per quintal for the 2024-25 season, he said. There has been a bar on the

use of imported jute in

created a vicious cycle, where mills are obligated to buy MSP-linked jute, which reduces their market purchases, further depressing prices and pushing more farmers towards MSP dependency. "Already six mills are closed. The current dues are about Rs 1,400 crore of which Rs 400 crore is legacy dues from the mills," Soni said explaining the current situation.

The association called for a rigorous crackdown on illegal jute imports and a reaffirmation commitment to lawful

practices. The future of millions of livelihoods is at stake," the said, letter urging immediate government intervention to curb the menace of "unregulated imports" and address the issue of reduced orders

Association functionary

the jute season as of July 1, 2024, and the new crop is also around the corner. These factors caused prices

Cardiac ward | Induction ceremony

the

producer

company said.

the

levies.

of royalties, contributions to

Foundation (DMF), and other

In the past five years, the company said it has paid Rs

16,350 crore in government royalties, Rs 10,100 crore as

corporate income tax, Rs

integrated zinc producer and

as indirect taxes.

Mineral

District

inaugurated PNS NEW RAIPUR

In a significant step to help children born with congenital heart diseases from economically weaker sections of society, REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, inaugurated the "REC Gift of Life-Cardiac Ward" at the state-of-the-art Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in New Raipur.

Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director, REC Ltd inaugurated the "REC Gift of Life- Cardiac Ward" in presence of distinguished guests, hospital management, doctors medical staff, patients and their family members, and senior officials from REC

for 2024 freshers held

PNS CHENNA

Tt was a field day for first year students of Allied Health Sciences and Health Sciences Colleges when they received a warm welcome during an induction ceremony at Kattankulathur near Chennai today. N Ram, Director, The Hindu

Group said learning always is a must to stay updated in one's field of study. Skills have to be constantly upgraded. He was the chief guest at the ceremony held at Dr T P Ganesan Auditorium on SRMIST premises Kattankulathur at near Chennai. They must also have good conduct and humbleness, as these are very essential while interacting with the patients, he said.



Showering praises on SRMIST, N Ram said the institution has a very robust entrance exam system designed to intake students into various courses. The entrance exam can be said to be an ideal one as it is designed taking into view all streams in school education in India. 'Colleges of Allied Health Sciences and Health Sciences

have over 100 courses and have an enrolment of 1500 students

Govt aims to cover 25% of kharif paddy area with climate-resilient seeds

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tn a bid to combat the growing challenges posed by climate change, government is targeting to bring 25 per cent of the total kharif paddy area under climate-resilient seeds, a senior agriculture ministry official said on Monday.

The move comes as erratic rainfall patterns have become increasingly common in recent threatening vears, rice production in the country. India, the world's secondlargest rice producer after China, cultivates paddy on over 410 lakh hectares during the kharif season.

Speaking on the sidelines of ICAR's 96th Foundation and Technology Day celebrations, ICAR Director General



Himanshu Pathak said, "While we have achieved 75 per cent coverage of climate-resilient seeds in wheat cultivation, the adoption in paddy is still limited."

Pathak revealed that ICAR has developed paddy seeds resistant to drought and lodging. These seeds were sown in 16 per cent of the total paddy area during the 2023 kharif season.

"For the ongoing kharif season, we aim to increase this

sales up 9% in coverage to 25 per cent," he added. April-June: FADA

The push for climate-resilient seeds comes at a crucial time. Research studies indicate that climate change could reduce rice yields in India by 3-5 per cent under a medium emissions scenario, and up to 31.3 per cent by 2030 under high emissions.

estimated India's rice production for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) stands at 136.7 million tonne. The top rice-producing states include West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

Pathak attributed the record wheat output of 112.9 million tonne in 2023-24 to the widespread use of climate-8,97,361 units a year ago. resistant seeds, despite weather aberrations



promising, largely due to the emerging performance in rural areas, although these are early trends," Singhania said.

The segment also faced

significant challenges from

extreme heat and the election

period, resulting in 13 per cent reduction in walk-ins in the showrooms during May

Three-wheeler sales rose 11.36 per cent to 2,72,691

units in the first quarter from 2,44,878 units in the same

and June, he stated.

"Despite strong bookings and customer flow, high competition, excess supply and discounting presented challenges for sustained growth in the PV segment," FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement. Dealers reported significant impacts from elections, extreme heat and market liquidity issues, he noted. The extreme heat led to 18 per cent drop in showroom

walk-ins in May, with inventory levels reaching an all-time high of 62-67 days by the end of June, Singhania The two countries are also said.

availability and substantial aimed discounts at stimulating demand, market sentiment remains subdued due to the extreme heat and delayed monsoons, resulting in 15 per cent fewer walkins," he added.

up 12.56 per cent as compared with 40,46,169 units in the year-ago period. "The recovery in the twowheeler segment is

period last fiscal. Commercial vehicle retail sales witnessed marginal increase at 2,46,513 units as against 2,44,834 units earlier. "Commercial vehicle vehicle segment experienced a slowdown due to the elections and a pause in infrastructure projects. In April, elections dampened sentiment, causing delays in expansion Additionally, plans. limited

financing options and regional challenges, such as water scarcity, further impacted performance," inpacted performance," Singhania said.

Tractor retail sales declined 12.44 per cent to 1,97,719 units from 2,25,818 units a year ago.

Next round of talks for proposed trade, investments agreement between India, EU likely in September

of

PTI NEW DELHI

 $S^{enior\ officials\ of\ India\ and}_{the\ 27-nation\ European}$ Union (EU) are expected to hold the next round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement, which aims at boosting commerce and investments, in September, an official said.

in the Joint Secretary Department of Commerce Darpan Jain said that the eighth round of talks was concluded on June 28. He said that discussions were held on all 21 chapters in the meeting and progress was made in number of areas such as government procurement, digital trade, goods, and market access. "We plan to hold more inter-

sessional meetings in July and August and we intend to have another round (of talks) in the last week of September," Jain told reporters here. On June 17, 2022, India and the EU formally resumed negotiations on the proposed agreement, after a gap of over eight years. They are negotiating Trade and Investment Agreement, and a pact on Geographical Indications (GI). started India had

negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both such as government sides failed to reach an procurement, digital trade, agreement on key issues, including customs duties on

automobiles and spirits and movement the professionals

The trade agreement with the EU would help India further expand and diversify its exports of goods and services, including securing the value chains.

India's merchandise exports to EU member countries have increased to USD 75.92 billion in 2023-24 from USD 74.83 billion in 2022-23. Imports also rose to USD 59.38 billion in 2023-24 from USD 61 billion in 2022-23. The EU accounts for over 17 per cent of India's total exports and about 8.8 per cent of the country's total imports.

Talking about the proposed that worked for both sides.

trade pact with the UK, another official said that with the new government taking charge in Britain, the two countries will take forward the negotiations.

The official said the new government in the UK will

look into the agreement. The India-UK talks for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) began in January 2022. The 14th round of talks stalled as the two nations stepped into their general election cycles. newly-elected Britain's Minister Prime Keir Starmer spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently and said he stood ready to conclude an FTA

The two leaders agreed to more opportunities for UK work towards the early services in Indian markets conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-UK FTA. There are pending issues in both the goods and services

sectors. The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty.

is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as scotch whiskey, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain

segments like

services,

telecommunications, legal and financial services (banking and insurance).

"Despite improved product

Two-wheeler retails stood at 45,54,255 units in April-June,

negotiating a bilateral investment treaty (BIT). There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods. investments and intellectual property rights. The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 21.34 billion in

in

On the other hand, the UK 2023-24 from USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23. The Labour Party's election manifesto for the recent

confectionary items. polls also committed to Britain is also looking for clinching the deal.

sports 11

ARGENTINA WINS RECORD 16TH COPA AMERICA TITLE, BEATS COLOMBIA 1-0 AFTER MESSI GETS HURT

AP MIAMI GARDENS (USA)

rgentina won its second straight Copa America championship, A copa America champonismp, overcoming Lionel Messi's second-half leg injury to beat Colombia 1-0 on Lautaro Martínez's 112th-minute goal.

Messi appeared to sustain a noncontact injury while running and falling in the 64th minute and covered his face with his hands as he sat on the bench and sobbed on Sunday night.

Martínez later ran to that bench to hug his captain after the goal that propelled Argentina to its record 16th Copa title. In a match that started 1 hour, 22 minutes late because of crowd trouble minutes late because of crowd trouble at Hard Rock Stadium, Argentina won its third straight major title following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup and matched Spain, which won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships around the 2010 World Cup World Cup.

Argentina also stopped Colombia's 28game unbeaten streak dating to a February 2022 loss to the Albiceleste. Martínez entered in the 97th minute and scored from Giovani Lo Celso's perfect through pass. Just inside the penalty area, Martínez sent a rightfoot shot through the upraised arms of sliding goalkeeper Camilo Vargas for his 29th international goal, his tournament-high fifth.

Making his 39th and possibly last Copa America appearance at age 37, Messi had one goal in the tournament. He went down after an ankle was stepped on in the first half but remained in the game.



The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner looked to the bench as soon as he fell to the field in the second half, appearing to know his tournament was over. He took off his right boot as he walked off and slammed it frustration, and his ankle appeared to swell

The start was delayed from 8 p.M. EDT to 9:22 p.M. Because of crowd control issues outside the stadium, including troves of fans breaching security gates at a venue to be used for

the 2026 World Cup. Days after Uruguay players were involved in a brawl with Colombia fans following their semifinal match in Charlotte, North Carolina, video showed fans climbing fences and railings to get inside the championship match, with officials unable to keep track of who had purchased tickets and who didn't. Colombia was more aggressive and forced goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez to make four saves in the first half, but Argentina began to threaten more in

the second.

Nicolás Tagliafico thought he scored in the 75th minute but was ruled offside. Nicolás González, who replaced Messi. Was stopped by Vargas in the 95th minute.

Numerous players lost their footing during the second half of Sunday's match. The grass was heavily watered with sprinklers following the halftime performance by Colombian pop star Shakira, which caused an extended halftime break

England's Harry Kane and Spain's Dani Olmo end Euro 2024 in 6-way tie for Golden Boot top scorer

AP 📕 BERLIN

England striker Harry Kane Efinished Euro 2024 in a sixway tie for the Golden Boot top scorer as his team lost the final 2-1 to Spain. It was another individual accolade for a player yet to win a major trophy for

club or country. Kane ended the tournament tied on three goals with Spain midfielder Dani Olmo, Germany midfielder Jamal Musiala, Netherlands forward Cody Gakpo, Slovakia winger Ivan Schranz and Georgia striker Georges Mikautadze.

Kane has now been a runner-up in back-to-back European Championship finals after England's loss to Italy three years ago, and a runner-up in one Champions League final and two English League Cups. He's won a string of individual awards, including Bundesliga top scorer last sea Munich, but the German club had its first season without a trophy since 2012. "It's an opportunity missed. It's not easy to get to these finals," Kane told British broadcaster ITV of England's loss to Spain. "It takes unbelievable resilience and character to get to where we are but ultimately you take the opportunity when it comes and we haven't done it again. It's extremely painful, it's going to hurt for a long, long time." Kane is one of four men's players to have been top scorer at both a European Championship and a World Cup, something he achieved in 2018.



from

to was

recent

Championship,

Guéhi's header off the line to change tournaments. At the last men's keep his team in the lead late European Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo "I told him that he is my top

on

and Czech striker Patrik Schick scorer because his save counts as a goal for me," goalkeeper both had five goals but was our Rona Simón said planned defense for him to protect that post, but he remembered to do just that and cleared it off the line. It was incredible. For Olmo, being joint top scorer at Euro 2024 is a three goals. moment in the spotlight for a player who has faced repeated injury setbacks. He took an unorthodox path to the top of European soccer, leaving Barcelona's renowned youth academy at the age of 16 in 2014 and making his pro debut with Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb. He's played in Germany with Leipzig since 2019.



Kate, the Princess of Wales, handed Carlos Alcaraz the champion's trophy after the Wimbledon men's final at the All England Club in only her second public appearance since announcing she was diagnosed with cancer.

Kate, wife of heir to the throne Prince William, was greeted by a standing ovation when she arrived in the Royal Box at Centre Court on Sunday to watch Alcaraz's victory over Novak Djokovic. After leaving the court following the trophy ceremony, the princess and Alcaraz had a conversation in a room inside the tournament's main stadium. "You played so well," Kate told

him. "Enjoy the win." med the Farlier K ate - wearing dress, one of Wimbledon's offiwinner because he had an assist and Schick had none. cial colors - went from the Under the old system. Olmo stands down to the playing surface to present the trophies, part would have won the tiebreaker of her duties as patron of the All with two assists, the most among the players tied on England Club, which hosts the annual tournament. The last time that three goals She shook hands with some of the ball kids who worked at the proved enough to win the Golden Boot was at Euro 2012, tournament, then exchanged when Spain's Fernando Torres words with both players and took the prize. At the time, the applauded for Alcaraz after givtiebreaker was which player ing him the winner's trophy for had played the fewest minutes. the second year in a row. "It was, of course, a privilege to If that had applied at Euro 2024, the award would have be in her presence again. I've said gone to Slovakia's Schranz. UEFA named Spain midfielder to her that it is very nice to see her in good health; she seems to be in good health," Djokovic said Rodri its player of the at his postmatch news conference.



try, but also for Wimbledon. Kate and her 9-year-old daugh

ter, Princess Charlotte, got to the site of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament in southwest London in a motorcade about a half-hour before the final was scheduled to begin. They went to a terrace at the club that is connected to the main stadium by a pedestrian walkway and greeted several people, including 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu and other

young British tennis players. in the Roval ox for th Lamine Yamal, the prodigy final were Kate's sister, Pippa Matthews, actors Tom Cruise and Benedict Cumberbatch and several past Wimbledon champions, including Rod Laver, Andre Agassi and Stefan Edberg. Since 2016, Kate has been the patron of the All England Club. She did not attend Saturday when Barbora Krejcikova defeated Jasmine Paolini for the women's title. Kate revealed in March that she has an unspecified form of cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy. Her lone public appearance since then had been attending last month's birthday parade for King Charles IIÍ. Before that event, she released a statement saying she was "making good progress" but still had "good days and bad days."



Spain wins record fourth European Championship title by inflicting another painful loss on England

"My parents have suffered a lot to get here. They are the ones who have suffered the most

and they have instilled this sort of respect and loyalty in me," he said. "I'm really happy

because we are making

Unlike his brother Inaki, who

is a Ghana international, Nico

chose to play for Spain and

will now be regarded as a

Spain is back as a major player

in senior soccer after winning

both the Women's World Cup

League in 2023. Since 2001, Spanish men's

consecutive major finals in

club and international soccer.

nobody can hang with us,'

Spain won all seven games at

this European Championship

an unprecedented feat - and

broke the record for goals

scored in a single tournament,

There were joyous scenes after

on by jubilant teammates after

"I said before the tournament,

have won

23

national hero there.

2024

history

teams

with 15.

Williams said.

AP BERLIN

 $S_{\text{soccer for a record fourth}}^{\text{pain is the king of European}}_{\text{soccer for a record fourth}}$ agonizing near-miss in the team's decades-long tale of underachievement.

Completing a tournament the team dominated from start to finish, Spain beat England 2-1 in the European Championship final on Sunday with Mikel Oyarzabal the unlikely match-winner in the 86th minute.

the 86th minute. Oyarzabal, a backup striker who came on as a substitute for captain Alvaro Morata, slid in to poke home a left-wing cross by Marc Cucurella, just when the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion seemed destined for extra time - also against England - and the men's UEFA Nations

destined for extra time. England, the birthplace of soccer, is still without a major title in the men's game since winning the 1966 World Cup and its players watched on forlornly as Morata raised aloft the silver trophy to backdrop of confetti and fireworks inside the stadium built for the 1936 Olympics.

Add 2024 to the titles won by Spain in 1964, 2008 and 2012. "Here we are, champions of Europe," said Nico Williams, whose opening goal for Spain in the 47th minute was canceled out by England the final whistle, with defender Dani Carvajal piled substitute Cole Palmer in the 73rd. "We are thrilled and hope this can keep going and slumping to the ground. Spain we can go for the (2026) World coach Luis de la Fuente was

through the Sahara desert. "I believe there is a historical a great sporting day for the nation, with Carlos Alcaraz change, we are really grateful," said Williams, the player of the winning the Wimbledon men's singles title for a second match with his darting runs and his second goal of Euro straight year hours before the Euro 2024 final.

As for England, the men's team has now lost back-toback Euro finals - it was defeated in a penalty shootout by Italy on home soil in the final in 2021 - and this was another painful loss for a team that will have gone six decades without a major title by the next World Cup.

England's women have been more successful, though, winning the European Championship in 2021 and reaching the World Cup final

two years later. "This time it just wasn't meant to be," Prince William, who attended the final alongside other dignitaries including Spain's King Felipe, wrote on social media. "We're all still so

proud of you." It was the fourth straight game that the English came from behind since the group stage, but their resilience wasn't rewarded this time.

A team that has produced big moments when it really mattered at Euro 2024 -including Jude Bellingham's 95th-minute overhead kick against Slovakia in the round of 16 - couldn't deliver another one, with Spain midfielder Dani Olmo clearing the ball off the line at a corner in the

89th minute. "It has been a have done extremely well to get here, but ultimately we are going to be judged on this game," England captain Harry Kane said.

Olmo's main contribution to Spain's win in the final was defensive, as he cleared Marc

tournament and Spain forward UEFA allowed multiple players to share the Euro 2024 top Lamine Yamal, who turned 17 scorer award if they scored the on Saturday, was the young same number of goals, in a player of the tournament.

"That's obviously very positive news for everyone in this coun-

who turned 17 on Saturday and is the youngest player to have appeared at a European Championship, set up Williams' goal with an inside run before passing across the face of the area. The two wingers have become the poster boys of an exciting, multicultural team that reflects Spain's changing demographics.

Yamal's mother is from Equatorial Guinea and his father is from Morocco, while the 22-year-old Williams has Ghanaian parents who made the long journey to Europe looking for a better life. To make it to Spain, they had to ride on the back of a crowded truck and walk barefoot

hrown into the air by his players. Both Cucurella and Yamal led Spain's players in jumping over the advertising boards to reach the red-andyellow-clad Spanish fans in the stadium's east end.

'This is the best (birthday) gift I could have asked for," Yamal said. "It is a dream come true." After getting his medal, the teenager turned and shook his fist in celebration, stuck his tongue out and showed off a beaming grin. By then, Yamal and his team mates were wearing Spain jerseys with "Kings of Europe" and the number "4" on the back. Meanwhile, fans who had

train abroad, while only one camp

"We have been getting the best of

was organised for golf.

watched the game on a big screen in Madrid celebrated wildly, chanting "champions, champions" in Spanish. It was not any consolation.

"It's extremely painful," he added. "It's going to hurt for a long, long time.'

England coach Gareth Southgate, who has been in charge for eight years and also led the team to the World Cup semifinals in 2018, said it wasn't the time to make a decision on his future. His contract expires in December. "Most of this squad are going to be around not just for the World Cup but the next Euros as well," Southgate said. Southgate said. "There's a lot to look forward to but at this moment that's

Athletics biggest gainer in Govt funding for Paris Olympics preparations

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

One Olympic medal is all it takes to raise the profile of a sport and if the colour happens to be gold, it is just icing on the cake.

Ask the practitioners of track-andfield disciplines in India, who were the biggest beneficiaries of government funding in this Olympic cycle after javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's top finish in the Tokyo edition three years ago.

According to official data from the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), which is available with PTI, the government has spent a whopping Rs 96.08 crore for athletics.

It's the biggest chunk in the close to Rs 470 crore which has been spent on India's preparation for the Games this time across 16 disciplines. In the previous Olympic cycle, athletics received Rs 5.38 crore from TOPS funds.

A strong 28-member contingent, led by Chopra, will represent Indian athletics at the Paris Games starting July 26 where the country's overall representation will stand at 118. The full details of the funding for Tokyo preparations are sketchy but sources say the expenditure this 3.78 crore) and judo (Rs 6.3 crore)

time is substantially higher keeping in mind higher expectations after the seven medals achieved last time The country's shuttlers were the second biggest gainers, receiving Rs 72.02 crore followed by boxing (Rs 60.93 crore) and shooting (Rs 60.42 crore)

India secured a total of five badminton quotas for Paris, which includes two-time medallist PV Sindhu (women's singles), HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen (men's singles), Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (men's doubles) and Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto (women's doubles).

Hockey, in which the bronzemedallist Indian men's team will compete to match or better the Tokyo performance, received funding of Rs 41.29 crore in the last three years, while archery got Rs 39.18 crore from the government. The wrestlers received Rs 37.80 crore funding, while weightlifting got Rs 26.98 crore.

Equestrian received the least financial support -- little more than Rs 95 lakh, while tennis got Rs 1.67 crore, followed by golf (Rs 1.74 crore), rowing (Rs 3.89 crore), swimming (Rs 3.9 crore), sailing (Rs



The Indian table tennis team, which precise will be spearheaded by star paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal, who will be India's joint flag-bearer along with Sindhu during the opening ceremony, got a funding of Rs 12.92 crore from the government. According to the official data, in

terms of foreign exposure trips, the country's shuttlers received the maximum support, 81 trips to be The shooters got 45 foreign exposure trips, followed by tennis (40), athletics (31), table tennis (28), wrestling (27), archery (24), boxing (23), sailing (22), hockey (18), judo

15), golf (12) and swimming (11). The funding by the government has been done in three categories --Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC) Senior Paris

Cycle, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Elaborating on the process, a SAI source told PTI that it kicks in after

proposals are received from the athletes and respective national federations. Besides, an athlete or a sport's

We have been getting the best of facilities provided to us at SAI, Bengaluru, from food to accommodation to gym and other training facilities. We have been based here for a long time. We are also getting plenty of foreign exposure trips," a Paris-bound hockey player said. In terms of individual or sportperformance is also monitored and In terms of individual or sportanalysed over a period of time.

"The athletes who are interested in specific expenditure, the Indian men's hockey team got the highest government support for their of Rs 41.81 crore, which includes 76 preparations for major events send their proposals to SAI, which puts national camps and 19 foreign those proposals in front of Mission exposure trips. Olympic Cell and after serious deliberations and debate, they are Chopra is second on the list with Rs

5.72 crore, spent towards assistance for hiring current foreign coach Dr Klaus Bartonietz, assistance towards pre-Olympic camp in Europe, and competition in Europe, USA and South Africa.

Men's doubles badminton pair of Satwik and Chirag received Rs 5.62 crore for assistance towards appointment and extension of tenure of their coach Mathias Boe, hiring of video analyst and assistance for sparring partners.

Sindhu got Rs 3.13 crore, mainly towards hiring of current foreign coach Agus Dwi Santoso, and training at Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule (LSVS) in Saarbrucken, Germany for 36 days.

Besides she also got assistance towards 17 foreign exposure trips through TOPS for her personal support staff, appointment of former foreign coaches Mohd Hafiz and Park Tae Sang. Tokyo silver-medallist weightlifter

Mirabai Chanu received Rs 2.74 crore.



REMEMBER THEIR FACES: KOHLI SAYS GOOD LUCK TO INDIA'S OLYMPIC-BOUND ATHLETES

ndian cricket's reigning superstar Virat Kohli has urged the nation to get behind its Ölympic-bound contingent, asking the fans to join him in supporting the athletes as "they inch closer to the podium with dogged determination" in the quadrennial showpiece starting July 26 in Paris.

In a little over a minute long video post on social media, featuring some Paris-bound athletes like javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and boxing hope Nishant Dev, Kohli said it is time for India to be recognised as a global sporting powerhouse.

"There was a time when the world could only think of India as a land of snake charmers and elephants. Over time, that has changed. Today we are known to the world as the largest democracy, a global tech hub," he said

"We are known for cricket and Bollywood, for start-up unicorns and as the fastest growing economy in the world. So, what is the next big thing



more gold, more silver and more bronze," he added.

for this great nation? Well, that will be He then went on to address Indian would be aiming to better the sports fans, asking them to support country's best ever performance of from Chopra, who scripted history the 118-strong group of athletes, who seven medals achieved in the previous with his javelin throw gold in Tokyo.

Games in Tokyo

"Our brothers and sisters are headed to Paris, hungry for medals. A billion of us will be watching them nervous and excited as our athletes set foot in the tracks and fields and courts and rings

rings. "Every neighbourhood, every corner of India will hear a chorus of voices chanting 'India, India, India'. Join me in remembering their faces as they inch closer to the podium with the dogged determination of waving the Tiranga with pride. Jai Hind and good luck India," Kohli, who is currently in London on a break after India's T20 World Cup triumph in the West World Cup triumph in the West Indies last month, said in his

monologue. Most of the Indian competitors are currently training abroad and will head to the French capital from their respective bases.

India's medal hopes will rest on shooting, badminton, wrestling, and boxing aside from the expectations of a second successive podium finish from Chopra, who scripted history



It is good thing that everyone performing: Gill on competition for openers' slots

PTI HARARE

The competition for the openers' slots has intensified following India's T20I series win in Zimbabwe and for contender Shubman Gill, that can only be a "good thing"

Gill, who is expected to open alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal in the three T20Is in Sri Lanka later this month, was the leading run getter in the five-match series in Harare. He was not part of the T20 World Cup squad in the USA and the Caribbean.

For the major part of the series, India played as many as four openers in the playing eleven and all of them did well including Gill, Jaiswal, Abhishek Sharma and Ruturaj Cailwad Gaikwad.

Gill captained India's second string team and played as an opener in all the five matches with Jaiswal joining him at the top from the third game onwards.

For the first two games, he opened with Punjab teammate Abhishek Sharma who scored a hundred and a fifty in his debut series. Among the four openers, Gill had the lowest strike rate, 125.92, compared to Jaiswal's 165.88, Gaikwad's 158.33 and Abhishek's 174.64. "It's a good thing that everyone's performing. It shows that everyone is hungry and nobody is ready to take it easy. For any country or board, that's always a good thing," said Gill on Sunday referring to

the openers. Following the retirement of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from T20Is, the selectors will have a problem of plenty when it comes to picking the openers for the Sri Lanka series. the "Anyone who got

opportunity grabbed it with both hands. The openers to bowlers to all-rounders to spinners, everyone made a mark and I think the selectors have now seen everything and it's up to them to name the squad for the next series," he said after India's 4-1 series win

over Zimbabwe. On captaining the team through the series, Gill said he enjoyed every bit of the challenge.

"One thing about captaincy I feel is how much confidence you can show in your players. I try to do that and make them believe that if you try and execute the plans, the results will always follow," Gill said.

"After losing the first match, we were under a bit of pressure. It's not easy to play back to back games and the series was planned in a way that there were two back-to-back games,

a couple of days rest and then again back-to-back games. "It's never easy playing a series like that but I think the way we

came back after losing the first T20I was really remarkable." India bounced back to win the series 4-1 after losing the

opener. "Seeing everyone hungry and so quickly adapting to the situation and assessing the conditions was truly spectacular to watch," said Gill. With the ball moving around in the powerplay, the opener thought it was important to be a little cautious early in the

innings. "I think, as per the conditions of the wicket, there were some challenging conditions, especially in the powerplay, the ball was always doing something or the other. As an opening batter, my focus was to see out 4-5 overs and not concede any wicket," he added.

Our planning is that he will not be there in Rohit says he will continue to play Tests and Pakistan: Bailey on Warner in Champions Trophy

PTI SYDNEY

Australian national selector George Bailey has said that the national team plans to move on from the recently-retired David Warner despite the southpaw's desire to be considered for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year.

The 37-year-old Warner retired from international cricket following the T20 World Cup in the Americas last month, where the Aussies failed to progress beyond the Super 8 stage. However, he had insisted that he will keep the door open for a return for the Champions Trophy, a One-Day International format ICC event.

"Our understanding is that David is retired, and [he] should be commended on what has been an incredible career across all three formats. Certainly, our planning is that he won't be there in Pakistan,' Bailey was quoted as saying by ESPNCricinfo.

Warner had a decent run during the T20 World Cup, finishing as the side's

second-highest run-scorer, after Travis Head

On his remarks on making a comeback during the Champions Trophy, Bailey said that Warner might be "stirring the pot",



with the team planning "to transition to Ι some different players". when Bull's You never know

joking...think he's just stirring the pot a bit. He's had a wonderful career, can't celebrate it enough, and think as time goes

by, his legacy of what he has done for Australia and we reflect back on that, the legend of a player is only going to continue to grow," added Bailey.

"But, as far as this team goes and the journey to transition to some different players, in his case across all three formats, it's going to be exciting.'

The Australians will have a young squad during their upcoming tour of the United Kingdom, which includes limited-overs meetings against

limited-overs meetings against Scotland and England. With the likes of Matthew Wade, Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell missing out, Bailey said the Kangaroos might see a more youthful squad going forward, with an eye on the next T20 World Cup in 2026 2026

"I don't think there's anyone who's not there that we've put a line through permanently besides David (Warner). This is the way we are going with this squad," he continued. "The next T20 World Cup is 2026, so

imagine there may be some more changes than what we are seeing in this squad. But specifically, to those guys (Starc and Maxwell), no we haven't had any conversations about where they think their T20 journey may finish



PTI DALLAS (USA)

India captain Rohit Sharma says he will continue to play Test and ODI cricket "at least for a while" after ending his T20 international career with a World Cup win last month. Rohit has been on a break since the title win in the West Indies and is set to miss the limited-

overs tour of Sri Lanka later this month, which includes three ODIs. "I just said it. I don't look that far ahead. So clearly, you will

be seeing me play at least for a from 159 matches, having while," the 37-year-old said at an event here on Sunday night. fifties.

after announcing his T20 retirement after the final in the West Indies in which India defeated South Africa by seven

Earlier this month, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had confirmed that Rohit will captain India in the ongoing World Test Championship cycle and the Champions Trophy next year in February-March.

Rohit had led India in the 2022 T20 World Cup where the team was ousted in the semifinals by eventual champions England.

A year later, India reached the final of the 50-over World Cup at home under his leadership, but succumbed to Australia in the summit clash at Ahmedabad

Rohit left T20Is with 4231 runs

ODIs at least for a while His statement was reiteration of a position he made clear runs.

limited-overs cricket tour to England and Scotland

World Cup-winning skipper Pat Cummins will be rested for Australia's upcoming limited-overs tour to Britain and Mitchell Starc will miss the Twenty20 portion of the trip as part of a workload management program.

Australia is scheduled to play three T20s against Scotland and five one-day internationals against England in September. Cricket Australia said Cummins' absence was part of a "preplanned, long-term load management strategy" as part of preparations for the Champions

Trophy next year. Mitchell Marsh, who led Australia at the recent T20 World Cup in the United States and Caribbean, will be captain for the tour.

Veteran opener David Warner has retired and wicketkeeper Matthew Wade wasn't selected, with selectors looking at the future.

Young batter Jake Fraser-McGurk was included in both the ODI and T20 squads after being a designated traveling reserve for the T20 World Cup. "This tour gives us a great opportunity to bring in some new players in the absence of David Warner and Matthew Wade, as well as giving some senior players time to prepare for the home summer and a busy first half of next year," George Bailey, Australia's selection chairman, said. The likes of Fraser-McGurk,

Spencer Johnson, Xavier Bartlett and Aaron Hardie "are exciting



prospects to join the likes of Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis and Josh Inglis in the white ball setup," Bailey said. "With the Champions Trophy next year ... There has been a lot of planning invested into these next six months. That has included gradual inte-

gration of new players into our white ball squads who have earned international opportunities via excellent form.

Australia is the World Cup champion in the 50-over format and holder of the World Test Championship title, but didn't reach the semifinals of the T20

World Cup. **T20 squad:** Mitch Marsh (cap-tain), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa. **ODI squad:** Mitch Marsh (captain), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

Cummins to miss Australia's Mental conditioning camp ahead of Paris Olympics will help India handle pressure better: Abhishek

PTI NEW DELHI

Indian men's hockey team forward Abhishek feels the mental conditioning camp the players underwent at renowned adventurer Mike Horn's base in Switzerland ahead of the Paris Olympics has helped them prepare for highpressure situations.

The Indian team has completed a three-day mental conditioning camp at Horn's base and are slated to play a few practice matches in the Netherlands before making their way to Paris Games. The expectations from the team will be high after India's bronze medal win at Tokyo Olympics. India will start their Paris Olympics campaign against New Zealand in their first Pool B match. "After months of focusing on the physical aspect of the game, this camp is exactly what we needed," Abhishek said in a Hockey India release. "The team has been spending time



connecting on and off the field, improving our bond and learning to handle high-pressure situations better," he said. Abhishek, who has played 74 matches

for India since his international debut in 2022, is set for his maiden appearance at the Olympics. "Ever since I was 14, it has been my dream to play for India in the Olympics." Abhishek asserted that he is someone who doesn't buckle under pressure. "The pressure in big tournaments doesn't deter me or change my approach. I just try to execute on the pitch," he said.

For Abhishek, playing for India in the Olympics will be an achievement which is far beyond what his family had thought.

"When I started doing well in hockey, the most we expected was a government job. Seeing me reach this level is thrilling for them. My brother, especially, has always been my biggest supporter," he said.

Indian cricket has lot of depth but transition should be gradual: Vikram Rathour

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Outgoing batting coach Vikram Rathour knows that a tough transition period awaits India in the near future but having worked with the available talent pool, he feels the side is well-equipped to handle the phase provided it unfolds in a "controlled and gradual manner".

While Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will still play ODIs and Tests for now, India will have to grapple with the transition phase in another couple of years when they move towards the last phase of their respective careers?

"It is never going to be easy to replace people of Rohit and Virat's calibre," Rathour, also a former selector, told PTI in an exclusive interview. "The recently-concluded series

against Zimbabwe (on Sunday)

gave us some glimpse into how the T20 team will look like in future. But we still have a few years in Test and ODI cricket to get to that point," said one of the key members of Rahul Dravid's coaching team. Having served as both national

selector and one of the coaches of the senior team, Rathour has an inside view of Indian cricket's talent pool and he finds it reassuring.

"I won't be too concerned about it. We have a lot of depth in Indian cricket. There are lots of very talented and skilful players who are coming through the system. The only thing we need to make sure is the transition is done in a controlled manner. It needs to be gradual.

He feels that by the time, Rohit and Kohli bid adieu to all formats, the younger stars would be well-settled, forming



the nucleus for the next 10 years.

"I am hoping that by then, players like Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Yashasavi Jaiswal, Dhruy Jurel to name a would establish few, themselves and will make the

transition smooth. "In ODIs also, we have experienced players like

Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya to take over," Rathour said in a confident analysis.

Just as Kohli and Rohit carried India's batting on their shoulders for more than a decade, the next decade could well belong to Gill and Jaiswal. "There are many exciting

players coming through but

these two are equipped to play all three formats for a long time. They are going to be the backbone of Indian batting in years to come," the former Punjab skipper said.

Rathour was a good sounding board for Dravid in the last three years and when he says that Rinku Singh would make a good Test batter, the statement does carry weight. "When I see him (Rinku) bat in

"When I see him (Rinku) bat in nets, I can't find any technical reasons why Rinku cannot be a successful Test batter. I understand he has made his name as a terrific finisher in T20 cricket but if you look at his first-class record, he is

averaging in high 50s. "He (Rinku) is also blessed with a very calm temperament. So all these factors indicate that if given an opportunity, he can develop into a Test cricketer," Rathour said.

"ALWAYS TOLD VIRAT TO BELIEVE IN HIS **METHODS**": One question that Rathour would face at every second press conference during his tenure was Kohli's extended lean patch after the 2019 World Cup and he maintained it was a "phase that everyone has to go through". "There were no technical issues that we worked on specifically during this phase. The constant messaging to him was

constant messaging to nim was to keep working hard and believe in his methods. Eventually he came back stronger and an even better player," he said. **RAHUL GAVE US SPACE AND HONEST FEEDBACK**" **Rathour** and Dravid made

Rathour and Dravid made

their Test debuts in the same series against England in 1996 and have played against each other in domestic cricket even before that.

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