

New Criminal Laws kick in

placing crimes against women, children, and the

nation at the forefront. This is

in stark contrast to colonial

era laws, where concerns like

treason and treasury offenses

outweighed the needs of

The Government has held

regular meetings with States

and Union Territories and

they are fully geared up in

terms of technology, capacity

building and awareness

generation to implement the new criminal laws.

BNS has 358 sections (instead

of 511 sections in the IPC). A

total of 20 new crimes have

been added and the

imprisonment sentence has

been increased for 33 of them.

The amount of the fine has

been increased in 83 crimes

and mandatory minimum

ordinary citizens.



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

nding colonial era laws from Monday, three new criminal laws— Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Act (BSA) will come into effect across the country, replacing the British era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. The new laws will bring in a

modern justice system, incorporating provisions such Zero FIR, online as registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes. The new laws in India marks

punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes. a significant shift in priorities,

The penalty of community service has been introduced for six crimes and 19 sections been repealed or have removed from the bill. BNSS has 531 sections (in

place of 484 sections of CrPC). A total of 177 provisions have been changed in the bill, and nine new sections as well as 39 new sub-sections have been added to it. The new act has added 44 new provisions and clarifications. Timelines have been added to 35 sections and audio-video provision has been added at 35 places. A total of 14 sections have been repealed and removed. BSA has 170 provisions (instead of the original 167 provisions), and a total of 24 provisions

have been changed. The new laws have also prioritised the investigations for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. In the new criminal laws, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. Summons can now be served electronically, expediting legal processes, reducing paperwork, and ensuring efficient communication between all parties involved.



PM Modi ki Mann Se Baat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi resumed his monthly radio programme "Mann ki Baat" on Sunday thanking the countrymen for their unwavering faith in the Constitution and the democratic system and participating in the Lok Sabha election 2024 in which over 65 crore of them voted. The radio programme of Modi had been paused since the last broadcast on February 25 due to the elections. Addressing the nation in his

first Mann Ki Baat programme after assuming office for a third term, PM Modi expressed that he missed the conversation with the public since the February broadcast. He thanked people and congratulated the Election Commission and every

person associated with the process as he touched on a host of issues in his 30minute radio address.

The Prime Minister also cheered Indian athletes who will be competing in the Paris Olympics starting next month, and urged people to use "cheer4Bharat" hashtag to motivate them. He said the performance of Indian players in the previous Olympics in Tokyo had won the hearts of every citizen, and the participating athletes have been since whole-heartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics. "If we take all the players together, then all of them

have participated in nearly 900 international competitions. This is a very big number," he said, adding that Indians will get to witness certain things for the first time.

next generation to take over." also

Internationals.

performer for India from his debut 2012 World Cup. Over

Virat and Rohit Sharma ride off into the sunset

RISHABH MALIK MEW DELHI

 $T^{he}_{like a thousand dreams}$ realized, raining down on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma world Cup trophy gleaming under the floodlights of Kensington Oval in Barbados. Virat and Rohit walked up to the microphone to give their victory speeches and a different kind of farewell on a night where billions of emotions were high after the

triumph final. While receiving the Man of the Match award for his crucial innings of 76 of 39 balls, Virat said, "This was my last T20 World Cup, this is exactly what we (Indian Cricket Team) wanted to achieve, now it's time for the

After receiving the medals and awards, Rohit Sharma announced his retirement officially. While addressing the post match conference Sharma said, "That was my last game as well. Honestly I have enjoyed it since the time I started playing this format. There's no better time to say good bye to this format, winning the World Cup is what I wanted." India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja also hung up from

Kohli has always been the star



Rohit Sharma embraces Virat Kohli after India's T20 World Cup 2024 win (X/@ICC)

the years his statistics speaks for himself and whenever the team needed him he performed. The 35-year-old batsman has the recorded for the most number of 1292 runs in T20 World Cup in 35 matches with overall average 58.72 followed by Rohit Sharma who has second most number of runs in World Cup, 1220 in 47 matches with the average of 34.85.

The former Indian Captain known for his match winning knocks in T20 World Cup campaigns, his feat came in big matches like 2014 semi

final and final, 2016 Semi Final, and the clash against Pakistan in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG 2022), to which Virat rated his biggest T20 innings of his career.

Rohit whose debut for India was in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 under the leadership of MS Dhoni, from being the middle order batsman to being the opening batsman his journey has been remarkable. He appeared in nine World Cup Campaigns (2007-2024).



General Nwivedi new Army chief

Parliament resumes on RajNEETi

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paper leak case and a decision "in the best interests of students" will be taken at an "appropriate" time. He also slammed the Opposition for stalling Parliament's proceedings over the issue, alleging that it reflected a "flawed mindset" (galat soch).

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he addressed the first episode of Mann ki Baat in his third term. Congres





PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

General Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday here assumed charge as the 30th Army chief. He succeeds General Manoj Pande who retired after more than 40 years of service. Incidentally, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and the new Army chief are classmates. They studied together in class five in Sainik School Rewa, Madhya Pradesh in the 1970s. While they were studying in Class 5A. their roll numbers were 931 and 938

respectively. Official spokesperson of the Defence Minister, A Bharat Bhushan Babu, said in a social media post, "For the first time in Indian Military history, Chiefs of Navy and Army hail from the same school. This rare honour of nurturing two prodigious students, who would go on to lead their respective Services 50 years later, goes to Sainik School, Rewa in Madhya Pradesh." Navy Chief Tripathi took charge on May 1.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Parliament is set to witness heated debates on a range of issues like the NEET paper leak row, the Agnipath initiative and inflation when both the Houses reconvene on Monday. Besides the paper leak matter, the Opposition parties under the INDIA Bloc are also likely to raise the issue of unemployment and the alleged misuse of probing agencies by the NDA Government when Parliament is scheduled to take the debate on the Motion of Thanks of President's Address. The Lok Sabha has allocated 16 hours for the debate on the Motion of Thanks, which will conclude with the reply by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. In the Rajya Sabha, 21 hours have been set aside for the debate and the Prime Minister is likely to reply on Wednesday. Opposition INDIA Bloc members forced adjournment in Lok Sabha when the House was to take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, demanding a dedicated discussion on the NEET issue.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Saniav Singh on Sunday announced that leaders of the INDIA bloc will protest in the Parliament complex on Monday morning against the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged misuse of the CBI and the ED to target Opposition leaders.

"The BJP-led Central Government

and its prime investigating agencies are misusing power. Modi is targeting Opposition parties and filing fake cases. The CBI and the ED have filed false cases and investigations against every Opposition leader, from senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to Mamata Banerjee to DMK leaders. They have arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The ED and the CBI will go against whoever speaks against and does not join the BJP," Singh said at a press conference on Sunday.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday asserted that the Government was in touch with "all stakeholders" in the NEET

and publicity head Pawan Khera questioned why he did not mention NEET, the railway accident or the "infrastructure collapses". He said the Opposition Parliamentarians will keep on protesting until the Government debates on the issue for a resolution that no young minds are affected due to such paper leaks.

NEET-UG was conducted by the NTA on May 5 with around 24 lakh candidates appearing. The results were announced on June 4, but they were followed by allegations of question paper leaks in States such as Bihar, besides other irregularities.

BJP member and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur is set to initiate the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which is to be seconded by first term Lok Sabha member Bansuri Swaraj, the daughter of BJP stalwart late Sushma Swaraj. The debate has already been initiated in the Rajya Sabha by member Sudhanshu Trivedi on Friday but could not proceed due to protests by the Opposition.

Dark clouds hover in the sky above Royal Cenotaphs at Devi Kund Sagar, in Bikaner

Drivers, Mind your Lanes

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Wrong side driving, a big safety menace leading to fatal road accidents, has become more prevalent in the national Capital. The Delhi Traffic Police has booked more than 2,500 violators for driving in the incorrect lane till June 15 this year, 250 per cent higher than the last year.

"The statistics reveal that in 2024, the Delhi Traffic Police booked 2,577 violators for driving in the incorrect lane, a significant increase from the 732 challans issued in 2023. This represents an almost 252 per cent rise in prosecutions

over the previous year," a statement by the traffic police stated. The maximum number of challans reported was 572 at the IGI Airport circle.

PTI

According to the officials, the Delhi Traffic Police has observed a significant increase in the number of prosecutions for lane discipline violations during the current year. "In an effort to enhance road safety and reduce traffic congestion, stricter measures have been implemented to ensure that motorists adhere to proper lane driving," an official stated.

colourful way this

how they chose

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Much to the delight of Kerala's Attappadi, their Karthumbi, the colourful handmade umbrellas, are the toast of the country liked by fashion lovers and many others. An initiative launched in 2015 in Kerala's Attappadi, an exclusive region for the tribals, Karthumbi umbrellas have now become a cynosure of all eyes

Karthumbi was launched by Thampu, nonа governmental organization functioning in Attappadi to help the tribals get over the challenges of life.

In fact, Attappadi had reported more than 200 infant deaths during 2013, 2014 and 2015 as a fall out of the State painted the region umbrella manufacturing as a symbol for the fashion



malnutrition and hunger. red with their nocturnal Though the Kerala "adventures' Government tried to cover up Rajendra Prasad, a tribal issue, the tribals pering 32,000 stand activist based in Kochi who is the numbering the founder of Thampu had an witness to these deaths. The answer. Empower the tribal area had no roads, hospitals women by offering them an or schools to speak about. avenue with which they can Moreover the encroachers of supplement their income. forest land from other parts of That's

source of income and that too by working from home. The Thampu initiative resulted in handmade Karthumpi, umbrellas which are without doubt a step ahead of umbrellas manufactured by major companies.

"More than 700 women from the tribal community were trained in umbrella making during 2014 to 2017. Right now around 60 women are in job of umbrella the manufacturing and all of them work from their home, convenor said K A Ramu. He said the response from the customers was overwhelming and the women make Rs 30 for every umbrella crafted by them. The Karthumbi brand of

umbrella has become a status

and many parts of the country. "I make 10 to 20 umbrellas per day and the work is done after completing my other works like the employment guarantee programe. It has helped me to employment buy a scooty too," said Lakshmi Unnikrishnan, a homemaker belonging to Mudugar tribals. Prasad said at the time of launching Karthumbi umbrellas, they used to pay each woman Rs 50 per umbrella. "The Covid 19 pandemic, and the deluge literally put an end to our business. But the determination of the women

conscious women of the State

workers from the tribal communities helped us to

sustain the venture.

seen sliding down with speed and stopped after falling into a deep ravine. The avalanche

their mobile phones.

A huge cloud of snow was

phenomenon,

Sarovar near Kedarnath PNS RUDRAPRAYAG valley. A massive avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar located four kilometre above the Dham Kedarnath in Uttarakhand early Sunday

Avalanche hits Gandhi

morning. This avalanche that occurred near the Chorabari glacier fell into the valley in the same area but there was no loss of life or property. Devotees who went to visit the Kedarnath temple this morning captured the natural which occurred around 5 am, on

occurred in the upper region of the Gandhi Sarovar in Chorabari glacier, below the snow-covered Meru-Sumeru mountain range located at the

upper end of Kedarnath

Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said there was no loss of life or property due to the avalanche. The entire

Gopal Singh Rauthan, an employee of Garhwal Mandal Development Corporation, was present in the temple when the avalanche occurred. There was a lot of curiosity among the devotees who saw this natural phenomenon for about five minutes. Another avalanche occurred in the Chorabari glacier on June 8, Rauthan said.

Rudraprayag District Disaster area, including the Kedarnath valley, is safe, Rajwar said.



RANCHI I MONDAY I JULY 1, 2024

jharkhand 02

Business organizations, industries, companies should follow the new minimum wage law: Dr Ajoy Kumar

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PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

r. Ajoy Kumar, a member of the Congress Working Committee and former Jamshedpur MP and IPS officer, emphasized on the enforcement of the new minimum wage law, which the Jharkhand government implemented in March this year.

Dr. Kumar opened the session by highlighting the urgency of adhering to the Minimum Wage Increase Act 2024, which came into effect on March 11, 2024. This act was enacted in response to the rising inflation and the increasing cost of living, aiming to ensure that workers across the state receive fair compensation for their labor.

Dr. Ajoy emphasized that the Jharkhand government has taken a significant step by notifying the increase in minimum wages. However, he stressed that the true success of this legislation lies in its implementation and compliance by all business entities, irrespective of their size. "Small and big business organizations, industries, and companies should follow the new minimum wage law," he asserted.

Dr. Ajoy revealed that he has already engaged in discussions with Honorable Chief Minister Champai ji regarding the monitoring and enforcement of this law. He pointed out that strict measures should be in place to ensure that all employers comply



with the new wage standards. Those who are not following the new minimum wage laws should be instructed to immediately start paying minimum wages to our workers according to the new minimum wage notification," Dr. Ajoy stated.

Addressing the plight of workers, Dr. Ajoy urged them to be aware of their rights under this new law. He encouraged workers who are not receiving the mandated minimum wages to lodge formal complaints. "If our workers are not getting minimum wages, then in such a case the workers can make a written complaint to the Labor Commissioner's Office of their area," he informed.

The Labor Commissioner's Office plays a crucial role in

the enforcement of this law. Dr. Ajoy called for the office to be vigilant and proactive in addressing complaints from workers. He also urged the office to conduct regular inspections and audits of businesses to ensure compliance with the new wage standards

Dr. Ajoy highlighted the positive impact that the increase in minimum wages would have on the local economy. By ensuring fair wages, the law aims to improve the living standards of workers, reduce poverty, and stimulate economic growth. "This increase is not just about wages; it's about dignity, fairness, and justice for our workers," he said.

In his concluding remarks,

Dr. Ajoy made a heartfelt appeal to all employers in Jharkhand. He urged them to recognize the importance of the new wage law and to act in accordance with it. "Paying fair wages is not just a legal obligation; it is a moral duty towards the workforce that drives our economy," he emphasized.

Dr. Ajoy called upon the media to play a pivotal role in spreading awareness about the new minimum wage law. He requested the press to highlight the provisions of the law, the rights of the workers, and the avenues available for redressal of grievances. "The media's role in this regard is crucial for ensuring that the message reaches every corner of our state," he said.

CHC Harihurganj plays foul with anti venom serum vials : Civil surgeon

PNS : DALTONGANJ

■ he community health center of Harihurganj is in the news for extreme wrong reasons.

Here on Saturday civil surgeon Dr Anil Kumar made a surprise inspection. What he saw there baf-

fled him most making him wonder if a doctor or for that matter any paramedic may be so ignorant so as not to keep anti venom serum vials in proper way and manner

Dr Anil Kumar told this correspondent that "I saw scores of the anti venom serum vials kept on the top of the steel almirah. It's never a place to keep any

PNS : LOHARDAGA

Manoj Kumar Gupta etc.

Civil surgeon Palamu Dr Anil Kumar (wearing hat) deciphering one anti venom serum vial at the CHC Harihurganj on Saturday photo by PNS

injectible or tablets even what to talk about antidote to snake bites." These vials were there on

the top of the almirah for weeks and months added Dr Anil Kumar. These vials

serum vials be kept away from exposure to excessive heat. It should be in lesser cool area within the fridge.

Again it is not to freeze. Here at the CHC Harihurganj these vials were made exposed to higher temperatures

On being asked if the lot of 186 vials so exposed to excessive heat would be discarded civil surgeon said "We would inform the senior health officials in Ranchi. We will wait for the directives in this regard.' However he said as of

now we would rush in 30 vials of the anti venom serum here at the CHC

than 600 rupees. Again it's minimum 10 vials for 1 snake bite victim.

Dr Anil Kumar said we have seen cases where 50 vials of anti venom serum have been used with severe or critical snake bite victims. The vials at the CHC Harihurganj that were found to be exposed to the excessive heat was a combo pack which means one vial was common for bite by either cobra, common karait, russell viper or saw scaled viper. Those responsible for

mismanagement to the upkeep of the anti venom serum vials will have to explain their conduct asserted the civil surgeon.

PM Kusum Yojana: 1107 applications received against the target of 573 for the scheme

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In the meeting held at the Auditorium, Collectorate Jamshedpur, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal reviewed the applications received and the progress of PM-Kusum Yojana in the district. Against the target of 573, 1107 verified applications have been received from the blocks for this scheme, which aims to provide solar pump sets to farm-ers on subsidy for irrigation. The District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner directed the District Agriculture Officer to cover the eligible beneficiaries under the scheme after examining all the applications.

On this occasion, the District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner said that there are immense possibilities in the agricultural sector in the district, but due to a lack of adequate irrigation facilities, farmers are not able to farm properly. In such

a situation, this scheme will be very effective, as it will provide electricity for irrigation and meet daily needs. Farmers will no longer have to depend on rainwater for farming and can produce Rabi and Kharif crops, as well as vegetables, flowers, and other products in their fields every year. Farmers will greatly benefit from the scheme, as they will be relieved from the high costs of fuel and electricity, reducing their agricultural expens-

income. To avail of the benefits of the scheme, farmers will need to provide an identity card, residential certificate, land receipt, and a dec-laration attested by a notary. Only one person in a family will be eligible for the The District Agriculture Officer stated that those farmers whose applications have been approved should ensure to make their contributions by

es and increasing their

BJP Chas Nagar workers tune to Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' PNS : BOKARO

On the 111th broadcast of

scheme. visiting the online portal.

GARHWA Under the joint aegis of Emergency Care and Amrit Care In the connection of death of Hospital, a blood donation camp was organized at the hospital a youth by snake bite in Majhiaon of the district, the located in Patratoli on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by jointly lighting the lamp by Dr. Dilip Khair, Dr. Sanal Sanu,

police have registered an FIR against Dr. Raju Kumar Das, a doctor of CHC Majhiaon. On the application of the father of the deceased, the FIR has been registered under section of 304 and 166 IPC.

were exposed to high tem-

underwent in April, May and

The civil surgeon said the

25 or 26 days in June too.

Palamu

peratures that

Other hand, IMA and Jhasa have opposed the FIR and have warned of agitation According to the police sources, on the late evening of 27 June 2024, the snake had bitten to the, resident of Gaheri village located in ward number four of Nagar Panchayat under Majhiaon police station area on Thursday night. He was taken to CHC Majhiaon. According to the relatives of the deceased, Dr. Raju Kumar Das, who was on duty at CHC on that day then, did not provide proper treatment to him despite anti-venom injection being available in the hospital and referred him from there. While he died while being taken outside for treatment. After this, after getting his body after postmortem , the relatives of the deceased reached CHC Majhiaon on 28 June 2024 created a ruckus and demanding action against the doctor and blocked the road. Later, on the application of the deceased's father Paras Nath Mehta, a case has been registered against CHC doctor Dr. Raju Kumar Das in

common knowledge and sense is to have anti venom Harihurganj. Each vial is worth more NITYANAND DUBEY





donation. We also need to come forward for road safety. Secretary Deshraj appealed to organize blood donation camps in every hospital. HR Head Sajal Kumar said that blood donation is a great act of giving life to others. Dr. Dilip Khair, Sanal Sanu and Kumar Suman Sahu appreciated the work of emergency care. Program Coordinator Nikhil Burman said that whenever anyone needed blood, the organization has fulfilled its responsibility. Umesh Kumar, Saddam Ansari, Sheela Lakra, Shamshad Ansari, Shravan Thakur Swati, Ameesha, Usha, Alfat Ansari, Parvati, Nidhi Kumari etc. were present on the occasion.

Blood donation camp

Hospital Manager Kumar Suman Sahu, Vice President of

Emergency Care Jai Prakash Sharma, Secretary Deshraj Goyal,

HR Head Sajal Kumar, Program Co-ordinator Nikhil Burman,

tion camp were given a helmet each to ensure compliance with

road safety and traffic rules. On the spot, Vice President Jai

Prakash Sharma greeted social worker Manoj Kumar Gupta,

who had donated blood 33 times, and said that with blood

Did it. All the people who donated blood in the blood dona-





Majhiaon police station.

Majhiaon police station in-charge Akash Kumar has confirmed the FIR and said that an FIR has been registered under Section 304 and 166 of the IPC on the application of the deceased's father Paras Nath Mehta. Further investigation is underway.

On the other hand, IMA and Jhasa held a joint meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of IMA President Dr. Nandkishore Rajak. The doctors present in the meeting opposed the FIR lodged against CHC Majhiaon doctor Dr. Raju Kumar Das in Majhiaon police station. It was decided to meet the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police regarding the said matter. Also, the doctors have warned of agitation if action is not taken within 24 hours.

The doctors said that if FIRs continue to be lodged like this, doctors will not be able to work in the coming days. Incidents of assault on

doctors are happening every day in the district. If this situation remains, the doctors will go on an indefinite strike. IMA's Garhwa district unit president Dr. Nandkishore Rajak said that the Supreme Court has said in a decision that a complaint against any doctor cannot be considered until the negligence of the accused doctor is confirmed through investigation by a competent doctor. Action can be taken against that doctor only after taking the opinion of expert doctors. The Supreme Court has also warned in its decision that it is illegal to harass or arrest a

doctor unless the facts clearly fall within the prescribed criteria. Jhasa's Garhwa district unit secretary Dr. T Piyush, Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. RNS Diwakar, Dr. Arshad Ansari, Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, Dr. Kush Kumar, Dr. Snehlata Raj, Dr. Maheru Yamani, Dr. Ravi Kumar etc. were present in the meeting.

Modi's popular radio program 'Mann Ki Baat,' BJP workers from Chas Nagar North listened attentively at their respective booths. The session was attended by Chas Nagar North President Pannalal Kandu and City In-Charge cum District General Secretary Sanjay Tyagi at booth number 392.

Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation through All India Radio, expressing gratitude to the citizens for their faith in democratic systems. He highlighted the significance of June 30 as 'Hul Diwas,' commemorating the indomitable courage of Sidho and Kanhu, who resisted British oppression in 1855 by mobilizing thousands of Santhals in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana. Modi honored their supreme sacrifice, noting that their legacy con-



tinues to inspire.

Modi also mentioned the special campaign launched on World Environment Day, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name). He urged people to plant a tree in honor of their mothers or in their memory. The Prime Minister expressed delight at seeing individuals share photos of planting trees with their mothers or their mothers' pic tures on social media.

In his address, Modi emphasized the unprecedented expansion of forest cover in India over the past decade. He also mentioned the creation of over 60,000 'Amrit Sarovars' (immortal lakes) across the country during the Mahotsay 'Amrit celebrations.

Farewell for retiring employees of BSL

LOSS OF SENSATION ON FACE, SWELLING SYMPTOMS OF SINUS CANCER



DR. MITALI DANDEKAR LALL: RANCHI

Sinus cancer is a rare cancer of ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) area of body. Means, few people are affected with this ailment in sinus. But if someone gets this disease in sinus, it is necessary to get treatment early. Because vital organ like brain and eyes are near the sinus. So there is chance to spread cancer nearer organ. If it happens, our life is on threat. So early detection and early treatment is necessary. An ENT Cancer surgeon from Patna, Dr. Mitali lall Dandekar says, "Many times symptoms of sinus cancer are like sinus. So sufferer doesn't take it

seriously. The symptoms are typical, as; continuous nose block of one side, bleeding from one side of nose, feeling like lump or ulcer on palate etc. If it happens regularly then we must take advice of ENT surgeon. So that problem may be recognized early. ENT Cancer surgeon Dr. Mitali shed light on the type of sinus and told, there are four types of sinus: maxillary sinus, ethmoid sinus, frontal sinus and sphenoid sinus. Maxillary sinus is close to the throat and palate. If there is cancer in it then there is no sensation when the face is touched and there may be swelling in palate also. Ethmoid sinus is close to the

eyes. If there is cancer in this area of sinus then swelling may be side by side the eyes. Frontal sinus and sphenoid sinus are close to the brain. Cancer of this section of sinus is rarest.

While Dr Mitali Dandekar was asked about the causes for sinus, she said. "Till now no cause can be indentified responsible for the sinus cancer. Many types of cancer can provoke cancer in sinus. Since cause of sinus cancer has not been identified, prevention has also not been decided by experts.

DR. MITALI DANDEKAR LALL. IS AN ENT CANCER SURGEON BASED IN PATNA

PNS : BOKARO

A farewell ceremony was held for the employees retiring from Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) in June 2024. The event took place in the main auditorium of the Learning & Development Department under the leadership of General Manager (HR Services) Soni Kumari. Chief General Manager (C & IT) I.

Bankira was the chief guest at the ceremony. The event began with Assistant General Manager (HR) Dr. Nanda Priyadarshini welcoming the guests and providing information related to final settlement and Maitri Bhavan to the retiring employees. HR Manager Kalpana presented the biodata of each retiring employee. Chief General Manager (C & IT)

I. Bankira congratulated the retirees for their dedicated service and wished them a happy life ahead. He also presented them with service certificates and gifts. A total of 7 executives and 17 non-executives are retiring from BSL in June 2024. The program was conducted by Dr. Nanda Priyadarshini, Assistant General Manager (HR).



jharkhand 03

Posters supporting Hemant emerges in Ranchi post bail release The posters carrying message Hul Johar... Satyamev Jayate and Hemant is Here!

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ROSHAN KUMAR : RANCHI

osters and banners have been put up by Iharkhand Mukti Jharkhand Morcha at major roundabouts and intersections in Capital, which has become talk of town. The poster carrying picture of Hemant Soren with grown beard and hair, and Hul written... Johar... Satyamev Jayate! Another poster has been put up at roundabouts which in Hemant Soren is seen in clean shave and it is written on it that the game of conspiracies

is over, our Hemant is here. Two days back former Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren has come out after getting bail from Jharkhand High Court. After coming out of jail after 5

saying that he was kept in jail by making a fabricated story but ultimately the truth won. Hemant Soren was arrested by Central probe agency-Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged land scam case after a long interrogation on

January 31. On last Friday, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Hemant Soren was released from jail after he was granted bail by Jharkhand High Court in a money laundering case linked to a land scam.

The verdict follows the court's decision to reserve the order on June 13 regarding Soren's bail application. The ruling was made by a

single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay. The



Bench held: The overall conspectus of the case based on broad probabilities does not specifically or indirectly assign the petitioner to be involved in the acquisition and possession as well as concealment of 8.86 acres of land at Shanti Nagar, Baragain, Ranchi connected to the "proceeds of crime". None of the registers/revenue records bare the imprint of the direct involvement of the petitioner in the acquisition and possession of the said land.

The claim of the Enforcement Directorate that its timely action had prevented the illegal acquisition of the land by forging and manipulating the records seems to be an ambiguous statement when considered in the backdrop of the allega-

tion that the land was already acquired and possessed by the petitioner as per some of the statements recorded u/s 50 PMLA, 2002 and that too from the year 2010 onwards, it added.

Soren resigned as chief minister on January 31, minutes before he was arrested by the federal agency, and passed on the baton to Champai Soren. As he languished in jail, his party won three Lok Sabha seats this year, two more than its tally in 2019; its partner, the Congress, won two. The BJPled NDA won nine of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state, three less than 2019. All the five seats won by the JMM-Congress combine in the state this time are reserved for scheduled tribes. Similar type

of posters were put up across the state Capital in the Month of February when he was arrested by ED in money laundering scam. Posters was pasted at the squares and intersections of Ranchi and it was written on it that Jharkhand will not bow down. The entire city of Ranchi was adorned with proclaiming posters Jharkhand Jhukega Nahin (Jharkhand Will Not Bow Down) following the impris-onment of former Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The posters, featuring images of Hemant Soren along with Chief Minister Champai Soren, JMM chief Shibu and notable Soren, Jharkhand martyrs, have sparked discussions across the region.

Hemant declares rebellion against 'Manuvadi' forces CM Champai Soren remembers the contribution of Santhal freedom fighters

PNS : RANCHI

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday declared a rebellion against feudal forces, asserting that the opposition INDIA bloc will drive out the BJP from across the country.

Soren, addressing a rally here on the occasion of 'Hul Diwas' at Bhognadih in Sahibganj district, claimed that the saffron party has turned jittery after his release from jail and its leaders are conspiring against him again.

At the Bhognadih, Chief Minister Champai Soren was also present. Addressing the gathering he said that on this day (Hul Diwas) in 1855, the tribals under the leadership of Amar Veer Shaheed Sido Kanhu from Bhognadih raised the slogan against injustice, exploitation and British rule. Today the whole country is paying homage to these great heroes. All of us should take inspiration from the history, struggle and sacrifice of our Amar Shaheed Sido Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav and Phoolo-Jhano and pledge to strengthen our society and state. Developing Jharkhand in accordance with their

ideals will be a true tribute to them. The Chief Minister said days since we came out of



that Jharkhand is the land of heroes and martyrs. Many great heroes have emerged from every corner of this conspiring how to trap me state, who did not accept again injustice, exploitation and slavery. They fought a long struggle to protect their language, culture, tradition, civilization and water, forest and land. They shook the roots of the British by rebelling against the British rule. They were martyred while remaining firm on their resolve. The result of the sacrifice of these ancestors is that today the tribals and natives are safe. Meanwhile, targeting the opposition, Hemant Soren here in lakhs said that it has been only two But

Mahagathbandhan has

jail. There is panic among opposition camp. Now senior leaders of Saffron party are

Hemant Soren said that today I will not say much special on Hul Diwas. This is my first time coming out of the house after being released from jail after the last 5 months. Where today I have reached on Hul Diwas and it is a coincidence that we have been celebrating this Hul Diwas for centuries, but today it is an inspiration day for me, for our Jharkhand residents, tribal-natives. On this day every year we gather today, the

decided to do a 'Hul Kranti' against the situation that has arisen in the country and the opposition has gathered. We have resolved that we will uproot the roots of these feudal and Manuvadi people from the state and the country. The leaders of the Mahagathbandhan were implicated on various false issues. These people did not spare anyone, be it Rahul Gandhi, Kejriwal or Hemant Soren. They implicated them in fabricated stories, fake cases for which there is no evidence and sent them to jail. They will put those who oppose them in jail. They will go to any extent. But they do not know that Jharkhand is a land that is completely

soaked in blood. This is the land of martyrs, on one side there is Sidhu-Kanhu, on the other side there is Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Chand Bhairav and on the other side there is Nilambar-Pitambar. How can they scare us?

We have worked in the last 4 years and have worked to take it to its conclusion We have reached every village and panchayat through the 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar program. We had said earlier that when our government is formed, it will run from the village and not from the headquarters. Today, a lot of effort was made to stop this. We too had to bear the brunt of it. This five-month jail sentence but the truth cannot be suppressed for too long. It cannot be tied down, it stands like a mountain in some form or the other. A mountain which such feudal thinking will never dare to shake.

Soren also asserted that Jharkhand is known as a land of revolutionaries and we are not afraid of jail, lathi or execution.

The former CM was released on Friday from the Birsa Munda Jail after the Jharkhand high court granted bail to him in a money laundering case

Marandi raises decline of tribal population in Santhal

sus of 1951 and the census of

2011, then frightening facts are revealed. In 1951, the

tribal population was 44.69% which decreased by 16% to 28.11% in 2011. While the

Muslim population increased

from 9.44% to 22.73% during

this period. The population of

the remaining communities

tion of the tribal society con-

tinues to decrease in this

manner, then by the time 100

years of independence and almost 200 years of Hul movement are completed, the

He said that if the popula-

increased from 43% to 49%.

PNS : RANCHI

BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi on Sunday once again raised the issue of changing demography of Santhal Pargana at Dumka on the occasion of Hul Diwas. Marandi after paying floral tributes to the statue of Veer Shaheed Sidhu Kanhu, the great hero of Hul revolution, he said that two years before the first freedom struggle of 1857, thousands of tribal brothers and sisters fought and sacrificed against the atrocities of the British under the leadership of Amar Shaheed Sidhu Kanhu from the land of Santhal Pargana,

which is famous as Hul. He said that due to Hul, laws like SPT, CNT were made to protect the water, forest, land and culture of the tribals. He said that today demography of Santhal Pargana is in

danger. Expressing concern over the rapidly declining popula-tion of the tribals, Marandi said that if we analyse the

existence of the Santhal tribal society will end.

He said that the situation of Sahibganj and Pakur district of Santhal Pargana is going from bad to worse. He said that laws for the protection of water, forest and land of the tribes are present but their existence is completely in danger.

He demanded from the state government that it should be thoroughly investigated at the ground level. Marandi demanded from the state government to form an SIT in this regard and conduct an investigation.

Swachhta Pakhwada 2024 concludes at CMPDI

mation and create awareness about cleanliness, we should make continuous efforts to fulfill it," he added.

population between the cen-

Loyola School celebrates Annual Prize Night





PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Loyola School Bistupur hosted its annual prize night for the senior section, celebrating the academic and extracurricular achievements of students from classes 6 to 12. The evening commenced with a solemn prayer led by Father Rector, setting a reverent tone for the event.

The school president addressed the students. inspiring them with the words, "Success is the sum of all efforts repeated day in and day out," by Robert Collier. This message resonated throughout the ceremony, highlighting the importance of consistent effort.

Father Jyoti Ranjan and Father S. Pancras presented proficiency awards to the exemplary students of Standard 6. The academic

IYK

stars of Standard 7 were honored by Father Pius while Father Fernandes, Victor Misquith recognized the achievements of Standard

8 students. Vineeta Fekka, Vice Principal of the Junior Section, awarded the meritorious students of Standard 9. The choir's soulful rendi-

tion of "Here I Am to Worship" provided a melodic interlude, adding to the ceremony's atmosphere. A highlight of the evening was the special Achievement and Endeavour Award presented by Father Gerald D'Souza, celebrating students who demonstrated exceptional dedication. A poignant moment was the posthumous award presented to Sayan Adhikari, an inspirational student remembered for his live-

ly nature and endurance. His

legacy continues to echo in

the corridors of Loyola.

Following this, a vibrant dance performance, "Tillanna." showcased the cultural talent and rhythmic precision of the students enthralling the audience.

Father K.M. Joseph, Rector of Loyola School, honored the students who achieved top marks in the ICSE examinations. Vice Principal of the Senior Section, Teacher Jayanthi Sheshadari, extended accolades to the highest scorers of the ISC examinations. The choir then performed an inspiring rendition of "Hall of Fame," motivating all present to strive for excellence.

The event concluded with the presentation of sports and special awards by Principal Vinod Fernandes. In his speech, Principal Fernandes enlightened the students on the values of a Loyolean and the pursuit of excellence. He emphasized that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary feats through continuous effort and urged students to constantly raise the bar and strive towards "Magis.'

Teacher Jayanthi delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the evening's success. The ceremony concluded with the Loyola School anthem, leaving attendees with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Health camp at Press Club



Kumari.

A day before Doctors Day, a one-day health camp was organized for journalist members at Ranchi Press Club on Sunday. In the health camp, a total of six doctors

from different departments of Apollo Clinic examined the health of 58 journalists and advised them medicines. The doctors who participated in the health camp included Dr. Reshma Singh, Dr. Nibha N. Kumar, Dr. Sonu Kumar, Dr. Ravi Roshan, Dr. Javed, Skin Bliss Clinic's dermatologist Dr. Neha Rani and dietician Vijeta

PASWA to Felicitate 20k Students

Preparations for the state's biggest student talent award ceremony by Public Schools and Children Welfare Association are in the final stage at Asia's and country's largest indoor stadium Harbansh Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium, Khelgaon, Ranchi. More than 20 thousand meritorious students will be honored on one stage on 02 June 2024. PASVA volunteers were given training for the successful organization of such a big historical event; 29 registration counters were set up for on-spot registration at Khelgaon.

RNLIC declares Rs. 346 Cr

According to the announcement, all eligible participating policies as at March 31, 2024, have benefited from this bonus declaration. The company has been declaring bonuses consistently for the past 23 years which incentivizes customers to regularly pay their premiums and remain invested throughout the policy term. The robust performance of the Participating Fund can be attributed to a well-strategized asset allocation in equities, which yielded significantly higher performance compared to the broader market.

Cong-JMM celebrates Hul Diwas

On the occasion of "Hool Kranti Diwas", State Congress President Rajesh Thakur paid homage to the immortal heroes of Santhal Hul, Sidhu-Kanhu, by garlanding their statue in Sidhu Kanhu Park and their picture in Congress Bhawan. On this occasion, State Congress President Rajesh Thakur said that today, we, the people of Jharkhand, will have to take inspiration from the sacrifices of those great sons and take a pledge to make Jharkhand a prosperous and developed state by taking it forward on the path of develop-

Sex racket busted in Ranchi

Ranchi police has been continuously taking action against the sex racket for the last several months. In this sequence, on the instructions of SSP Chandan Kumar Sinha, a police team led by City DSP KB Raman raided the Royal Residency Hotel located on Station Road in Chutia police station area. According to the information, the police has taken this action in the sex racket case. The police has taken several girls into custody and is interrogating them.

(+)



PNS : RANCHI

The closing ceremony of Swachhta Pakhwada 2024 was organized at CMPDI on Sunday.

On this occasion, CMPD Chairman cum Managing Manoj Director Kumar, Director (Technical and P&D) Kumar, Director Ajav (Technical and ES) Satish Jha, Chief Vigilance Officer Sumit Kumar Sinha honored the cleanliness warriors

Kumar concluded the Swachhta Pakhwada running from June 16 to June 30 by planting saplings. On this occasion, General Managers and Heads of Departments and senior officers of CMPD (Headquarters) and Regional Institute-3-Ranchi were present.

On this occasion, the CMD emphasized on cleanliness and said that to realize Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean India, it is necessary to adopt cleanliness in our daily lives and surrounding communities. "Good health of citizens and welfare of living beings is the ultimate benefit of cleanliness. Satish Jha said that it is the responsibility of every person to spread infor-

Sumit Kumar praised CMPD for various activities during Swachhta done Pakhwada and advised the employees to remain involved in cleanliness related activities throughout the year.

CMPD conducted awareness campaigns to curb single use plastic, plastic waste management, clean drinking water, cleanliness drive, waste and garbage disposal, cleaning etc. during Swachhta Pakhwada.

In this sequence, rain water harvesting system, sewage treatment plant, cleaning of ponds etc. and quiz, essay writing and drawing etc. competitions were organized in all the regional institutes and camps running under it to increase cleanliness awareness among the people.

INDIA WINS T20 WC Thanks for the birthday gift: MS Dhoni



birthday gift.

India has won the ICC T20

World Cup. MS Dhoni, who

made the Indian team the 2007 T20 World Cup champi-

on, has congratulated the

Rohit Sharma-led Team India

Indian team's victory, Dhoni, who won the first T20 World

Cup, expressed his feelings on

Instagram. The former cap-

About two hours after the

on winning the title.

PNS : RANCHI

Former Indian Cricket Team Captain MS Dhoni expressed his happiness by congratulating Rohit Sharma's team on Instagram. Mahi said that at one time my heartbeat had increased. Congratulations for whatever you did while maintaining confidence. Along with this, he said that



on the field, admitted in his Insta post that as a fan, he was also stunned by the performance of the South African batsmen. Mahi has written that "My heartbeat had increased. Well done for keeping calm, believing in yourself and what you did, on behalf of Indians at home and people around the world, thank you for bringing the World Cup home. Best wishes. Oh, thank you for the valuable birthday gift." He added.

thank you for the precious





Parliament should pass law on quota to exceed 50 per cent cap: Congress

PNS NEW DELHI

ongress on Sunday said Parliament should pass a law to enable reservations to exceed the 50-per cent cap, a day after NDA constituent JD (U) demanded that the quota increase in Bihar be included in the 9th schedule of the Constitution.

At a meeting of the Janata Dal-United's national executive here on Saturday, the party expressed concern over a recent Patna High Court verdict striking down the Bihar government's decision to increase the quota for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 65 per cent from 50

per cent. În a political resolution passed at the meet, the JD(U) urged the BJP-led Centre to put the state's law under the Constitution's 9th Schedule to

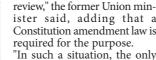
rule out its judicial review. Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said through-



this matter," Ramesh said.

out the Lok Sabha poll campaign, the opposition party has been saying that all state laws related to reservation for the SCs, STs and all backward classes should be included in the 9th Schedule, as was the case for a Tamil Nadu law in 1994.

because according to a 2007 "It is a good thing that JD(U)Supreme Court decision, such has made the same demand in laws are also subject to judicial



way out is for the Parliament to Constitution pass a Amendment Bill which will enable the reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and All Backward Classes to exceed 50 per cent,' he said.

Ramesh said the current limit of 50 per cent is not explicitly mandated by the Constitution, but has been decided through various Supreme Court decisions.

'This was and remains one of Patna yesterday. But its ally BJP, the main guarantees of the both in the state and at the Indian National Congress for Centre, is completely silent on the Lok Sabha elections."Will the non-biological Prime "However, bringing reserva-tion laws beyond the 50 per Minister clear his stand? Our demand is that such a bill cent limit into the Ninth should be introduced in the Schedule is also not a solution, next session of Parliament. JD (U) should not be limited to just passing resolutions," he

Doctors' body meets Nadda to discuss NEET-PG postponement concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Representatives of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association have met Union Health Minister J P Nadda to discuss their concerns over medical education with a focus on the postpone-ment of the NEET-PG exam. At the meeting, FORDA stressed on the importance of promptly announcing the new exam dates and conducting the exams transparently and efficiently even as it focused on the confusion among the NEET PG aspirants due to the postponement of the NEET-PG exam, said a representative from the Association.

The NEET-PG, which was scheduled to be held on June 23, was postponed a night before the entrance exam, as a "precautionary measure" in the wake of recent allegations on the integrity of certain competitive exams.

The FORDA delegation included its President Dr Aviral Mathur, General Secretary Dr Sarvesh Pandey, Dr Gautam Sharma (RML), Dr Sarada (LHMC), Dr Bharani, Dr Ayush (VMMC and SJH), and Dr Meet Ghonia (NITRD).

Dr Mathur later said that the Union Health Minister has assured the delegation that his ministry and the government are committed to the welfare of students and are determined to improve the current system. The reasons behind the postponement of NEET-PG are being addressed and fresh dates for the exam will be announced soon, the Union Health Minister told the

FORDA delegation. The delegation also raised other significant issues pending resolution since before the Lok Sabha elections and Nadda assured them that further meetings would be held to address these matters.

AYUSH Ministry's CSMCARI inks medicine research pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences - Captain Srinivasa Murthy Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CSMCARI), under the Union Ministry of AYUSH, on Sunday inked a pact with the Commissionerate

of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (CIM&H). The MoU outlines a collaborative framework for testing services, imparting training, and executing a collaborative project on "research studies for the standardisation of selected higher-order medicines.'

The partnership aims to carry out testing of selected raw drugs and finished products for the standardisation of medicine, said an official from the Union Ayush ministry.

It will also provide NABL accreditation training guidance to the laboratory of CIM&H. "This MoU between CCRAS

The majority of the grievances

pertain to defence pensioners,

railway pensioners and CAPFs

pensioners under the Union

home ministry, it said, adding

that "Bank-related issues also

constitute a sizeable number".

The Department of Pension

and Pensioners' Welfare

(DOPPW), as part of its 100

days action plan will be under-

taking a month-long special

campaign for effective redres-sal of family pensioners' griev-

ances during the period July 1-31, 2024 in which 46 min-

istries/departments will be par-

ticipating, the statement said.

This special campaign seeks a

substantial reduction in the

pendency of family pension

grievances. Secretaries of Departments of Pension and



and CIM&H has set precedence for other states of India also, they can come forward and join hands with CCRAS, MoAyush for various research and development activities," said Rabinarayan Acharya Director General, CCRAS, Chennai

This MoU marks a significant step towards strengthening the collaborative efforts between these premier institutions, and is targeted to enhance the qualty and safety of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic medicines; boost collaborative research initiatives; and capacity building and knowledge exchange, the official added.

More tribals opting for Govt hospitals Family pensioners' issues set for resolution over traditional healers, reveals study

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

A s India targets malaria elim-ination by 2030, a study from Northeastern Meghalaya indicates a positive trend: tribal communities increasingly seek treatment at government hospitals instead of traditional healers. This shift, partly due to the belief that timely and effective malaria treatment is available in the public health system, reflects significant progress in the country's malaria control efforts, according to the study published in the journal Malaria.

"By recognising these evolving attitudes, policymakers and healthcare providers can better tailor their interventions and communication strategies to more effectively address ongoing needs and concerns as India faces the 'last mile' in malaria elimination," the researchers noted.Malaria in India is predominantly concentrated in the eastern and central parts of the country, particularly in forested and hilly states with tribal populations and limited health



services. These states include Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, as well as the northeastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. Transmission in these areas is often challenging and persistent due to social and ecological factors, including conflict-affected regions and low community awareness about malaria preto reduce malaria transmission.

study focused on West Khasi Hills (WKH), West Jaiñtia Hills (WJH), and South Garo Hills (SGH) in Meghalaya, which had the highest Annual Parasite Index (API) between 2016 and 2019. Data were collected from August 2019 to November 2021 from residents of 23 villages served by four PHCs across these districts. Researchers examined community preferences for treatment and the use of healthcare services, such as visiting public or private health facilities or seeking care from

health workers were now

equipped with basic rapid diag-nostic tests (RDT) for malaria, allowing for prompt identification and timely referral for appropriate treatment. This improved outcomes and reduced the risk of complications

In the SGH district, community members reported a significant decline in seeking traditional healers for malaria treat ment due to increased awareness of diagnostic tests, treatments, and services available at PHCs or hospitals. The availability of diagnostic tools used by village ASHA and ANM workers at health sub-centres also encouraged villagers to seek help from these healthcare providers.

Recognising these shifting atti-tudes is crucial for policymakers and healthcare practitioners to tailor interventions and communication strategies more effectively as India approaches the final stages of malaria elim-ination, said the study's lead author, Carinthia B. Nengnong, from the Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh will launch a special campaign for the effective redressal of family pensioners' grievances here on Monday.

Presently, around 90,000 cases are being registered on an online Centralised Pension Grievance and Redress System (CPENGRAMS) in a year, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said on Sunday.Of the total grievances, family pension grievance cases account for about 20-25 per cent, it said. A major segment of family pensioners' grievances is constituted by women pensioners, the statement said.

Pensioners Welfare, Ex-Servicemen's Welfare, Director General, Border Security Force, Controller General of Accounts, Deputy Managing Director of State Bank of India along with nodal public grievance officers of 46 ministries/departments, representatives from all pension disbursing banks and representatives of pensioners' welfare associations will participate in this event, it said. The family pension-related grievances to be redressed in the special campaign have been shortlisted from the grievances registered on the CPENGRAMS portal. A total of 1,891 (as of June 15, 2024) family pension-related grievances per-taining to 46 ministries/departments/organisations have been identified for redressal during the campaign period, the statement said.

DOPPW will monitor and provide all assistance to the concerned administrative ministry/department/ organisation for effective redressal of grievances on a mission-mode approach.

knowledge about preventive measures, such as insecticidetreated bed nets, indoor resid-

traditional healers.

vention and control However, the study highlighted that patients still incur out-ofpocket expenses for travel, medications, or services unavailable at the PHC (primary health centre) level, leading some to seek private healthcare providers. The lack of awareness and

ual spraying, and timely health-care-seeking, can hinder efforts

To address these issues, the

The study found growing accep-tance of public health providers, with the majority of participants preferring public healthcare institutions like PHCs for malaria treatment, citing affordability and the availability of free services. In the three districts, participants and healthcare providers noted that frontline

Navy Chief ends Bangladesh visit, eyes new avenues UP to promote Buddhist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Sunday commenced a five-day visit to Bangladesh with an aim to further consolidate the bilateral defence engagement and explore new avenues of cooperation in the maritime domain, navy said here. It is Tripathi's first official visit abroad after he took the reins of the Navy two months ago. The visit comes more than a week after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India during which both sides vowed to expand the overall

defence and strategic ties. Giving details of the Navy chief's schedule, officials said he will hold wide-ranging talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, and other top officials of Bangladesh's military,

including the Army chief and Air Force chief. Tripathi will also review the passing-out parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) in Chittagong on July 4

His engagements in the neighbouring country include an address at Bangladesh's National Defence College in Dhaka and visits to a few key defence facilities.

"The visit is aimed to consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Bangladesh and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation," the Indian Navy said in a statement. Naval cooperation between India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span including operational interactions, bilateral naval exercises and capacity-building programmes. "The visit of the Chief of the

Naval Staff, Indian Navy will



Status. bonds of friendship between

the navies of both countries," the statement said. Bangladesh has been an important partner under India's Neighbourhood First policy. It is clearly visible in both the defence and maritime domains. The maritime cooperation between the two countries has grown from strength to further strengthen the strong strength in recent years, with a

efforts towards protection of maritime interests.

Both sides have recognised the value of such cooperation and are poised to enhance the efforts even further. More broadly, in all efforts under the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, Dhaka has been a natural partner and source of support for New Delhi.

The visit of the Navy chief is an affirmation of the positive trajectory of the naval relationship as well as an indication that both sides will significantly enhance their bilateral efforts at sea.

By working together against shared and common challenges, the two navies would enhance regional security and growth in line with the SAGAR vision as well as set an example of how cooperative efforts can deliver concrete outcomes.

significant ramp up on joint A military official said the cooperation between the two navies has regularly catalysed positive change in the Indian Ocean region.

A few years ago, when Bangladesh held the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), the two countries had collaborated to organise the maiden IONS maritime exercise, he said. This exercise has continued to grow in size and scope ever since, and become a source of formalised standard operating procedures (SOPs), sharing of best practices and a means to enhance collective trust and interoperability, the official added. In 2025, the Indian Navy would

take over the chairmanship of the IONS and take the lead in establishing higher levels of maritime safety and security within the Indian Ocean, he said.

pilgrimage tourism ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI Uttar Pradesh rich cultural

U tapestry includes not just the revered sites associated with Lord Ram but also key locations integral to the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. To cash in on these Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the State, the UP Government recently launched the "Bodhi Yatra 2024" program to attract pilgrims and tourists from across India and the world, drawn by their historical and spiritual importance.

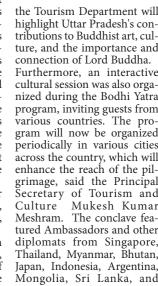
At an event held here in the national capital, the UP Tourism Department announced a slew of initiatives to attract domestic and international pilgrims and tourists to the renowned Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the state. It is home to many places once visited by the Buddha and sacred Buddhist stupas, monasteries, shrines and stupas, some of which date back to the days of the Buddha himself. He spent much of his life in the region with the spots of his first and last sermons located in the state.

The State boasts of six major Buddhist sites: Sankisa, Sarnath, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Kaushambi, and Kushinagar. Uttar Pradesh's Tourism Minister, Jaiveer Singh, explained that the objective of this journey is to showcase the memories of Lord Buddha's ordinary life journey through the heritage sites of Buddhism in the state.

"Throughout the year, this journey aims to familiarize people across India with the significant messages of Buddha," said the Minister as he announced that through various artistic presentations,

Reasi terror case: NIA searches many locations in J&K





Vietnam. Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat echoed similar sentiments, appreciating Uttar Pradesh for spearheading the Buddha Circuit, a visionary project to connect pilgrims with the spiritual journey of Lord Buddha, from birth to enlightenment.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted searches at multiple locations in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the Reasi terror attack case. The searches led to the seizure of various items showing linkages between the terrorists and overground workers (OGWs), a statement issued

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

by the NIA said. Terrorists had opened fire at a bus carrying 'yatris' from Shiv Khori to Katra on the evening of June 9 in the Pouni area of Reasi district, causing the bus to fall into a nearby gorge, killing nine people, including a child.

NIA, which took over the investigation on June 15 on orders from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, searched five locations linked with hybrid terrorists and OGWs, it said.

The locations were pointed Hakam Khan alias Hakam had provided safe shelter, logistics and food to the terrorists, as per the probe agency's inves-tigations. NIA has started examining the seized material to unravel the terror conspiracy, it added.

India's rise in world of drone technology

ADITI SHARMA 📕 NEW DELHI

Imagine the whir of pro-pellers slicing through the air, a symphony of innovation taking flight. This is the sound of India's rise in the world of drone technology, and a key player in this exciting story is the Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO), which is a high tech boot camp for drone whizzes.Here, aspiring pilots learn the ins and outs of drones, from the core essentials of how they work to the rules of the sky. They master safety procedures, practice intricate movements and gain hands-on experience under the watchful eyes of expert instructors. Upon graduation, they receive the coveted Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC), their license

to fly drones commercially. The possibilities with drones

are endless, as vast as the sky itself. From capturing stunning aerial photos to streamlining infrastructure checks, drones are revolutionizing everything from agriculture to disaster relief. But to unlock their true potential, we need a skilled workforce. That's where RPTOs come in, bridging the gap between cutting edge tech and human expertise. By pro-viding top notch drone pilot training, they ensure a pool of qualified flyers who can navigate the complexities of drone operation and put these amaz-

ing machines to good use across various industries. Leading the charge is the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), in collabo-



ration with EduRade, a brand owned by RC HobbyTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. They have launched India's largest RPTO, spanning 18 acre, this state of the art facility has the capaci-

ty to operate nine medium class drones simultaneously, positioning it as a central hub for advancing drone technology and training in India.

Dr. Parameswar Krishnan Iyer, of IIT Guwahati, highlighted the importance of this initiative. Their goal is to propel drone technology in India, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Narendra Modi's vision of making India a global drone hub by 2030.The RPTO also plays a key role in the "Namo Drone Didi" program, empow-ering women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) to use drones in agriculture By equipping them with the skills and knowl-

in agriculture. By equipping edge, this program not only boosts agricultural productivity but also empowers these women economically.

IIT Guwahati's RPTO has a special focus on providing high quality drone training to the youth in North East India, a region often facing educational and infrastructural hurdles. Graduates of the drone pilot training program at IIT Guwahati have a wide range of career options across various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, media, environmental conservation, public safety, and more. The institute also plans to offer advanced programs and certifications in drone technology, further enhancing career prospects for its students. Furtĥer, IIT Guwahati is also making strides in modernizing defense operations with tailored training programs for

defense personnel.

nation 05

Bihar Police ready to implement new criminal laws from July 1

PTI PATNA

The Bihar Police is "fully geared up" in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the three new criminal laws that come into effect across the country from Monday, officials said.

RANCHI | MONDAY | JULY 1, 2024

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam will replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

An awareness programme will be held at every police station in Bihar on Monday to highlight the key features of the new criminal laws, they said. "Elaborate preparations have been made to ensure successful implementation and seamless transition to the new system. The state police is fully geared up in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the new criminal laws from July 1," a statement issued by the Bihar Police said. The state police has carried



out training of its 25,000 senior officers ahead of the new laws coming into effect and also on digital policing, it said.

the pioneer

Besides, prison, forensic, judicial and prosecution officials across the state have also been trained and sensitised about the new criminal laws. 'The state government's

incorporating provisions such comprehensive approach, as registration encompassing training, system integration and complaints, administrative support through such as SMS and mandatory underscores its commitment

videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes, official sources said. Booklets on the new laws have

been issued and specific apps developed to make it easy for Bihar Police officers to comprehend the widespread changes in India's criminal justice system, the statement said

said. "Significant efforts have also been made in the integration and testing of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS). All police stations in the state are now connected with CCTNS. All FIRs from July 1 will now be online registered and immediately uploaded on the CCTNS," it said.

"Additionally, an app has been developed by the authorities concerned for recording of evidence at crime scenes, search and seizure

videography," it said. Forensic capabilities of the state have also been enhanced with adequate sanctioning of mobile forensic vans and qualified scientific staffers for all district police, the statement said.

From being farmer's son to Vice Prez, Venkaiah's journey inspiring: Modi

PTI HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released three books on the life of M Venkaiah Naidu and recalled his contributions, including the fight against imposition of Emergency and as Union Minister and Vice President. Recalling that the 50th anniversary of Emergency was observed recently, he said Naidu was even in jail for about 17 months during the

fight against Emergency. The Emergency was imposed by the Congress by tarnishing the image of the country's Constitution, he said.

The books, including a biography, were released on the eve of Naidu's 75th birthday. Expressing happiness over releasing the biography and two other books, Modi exuded confidence that the books would inspire people and show the right direction for national service. The journey of Naidu, from

being a farmer's son to occupying high-ranking positions as Union Minister and Vice President, is filled with many experiences, he



regime.

he said.

During Naidu's tenure as

Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the bill to abolish Article 370 was

passed with majesty, dignity and honour though the

government did not have

majority in the upper house,

BJP grew as a 'vatvriksh' (banyan tree) that it is today, due to the efforts of lakhs of

He hoped that the country

would emerge as a developed nation in 2047 when Naidu

celebrates his 100th birthday.

In his response, Naidu thanked the Prime Minister

Modi's

for releasing the books.

Appreciating

activists like Naidu, he said.

Naidu chose to take up the hand) during the Vajpayee Rural Development ministry in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite being a senior in the party, as he wanted to serve the villages, farmers and the poor, he said. During Naidu's tenure as Urban Development Minister as his senior cabinet colleague, several initiatives, including Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities Mission, were started, Modi said. Praising Naidu's oratory, wittiness, alertness and spontaneity, he recalled the wittiness, latter's comment of 'ek hath me BIP ka ihanda aur doosre hath me NDA ka agenda' (BJP's flag in one hand and NDA's agenda in another

endeavour for the country's development, he said skill development is the need of the hour.

"Development and welfare must go hand in hand. We should not be tempted by these freebies and then make the people lazy. Yes, we must give them a helping hand. You have been giving free ration to crores of people across the country. That should continue as long as it is required. But, at the same time, skill development is the need of the hour,"^{*} the former Vice President said.

also favoured Naidu promoting Indian languages. The books released by the PM include biography of the former Vice President titled "Venkaiah Naidu – Life in Service," "Celebrating Bharat -The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India", a photo chronicle and a pictorial biography in Telugu titled "Mahaneta – Life and Journey of M. Venkaiah

Naidu Venkaiah Naidu, several other leaders and prominent personalities attended the event in Hyderabad.

Gold smuggling

syndicate at

International

airport busted

Chennai

PTI CHENNAI

Railways to invest ₹1 lakh crore in Tragic drownings spark calls for enhanced safety measures at Pavana dam

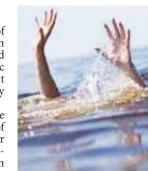
PTI PUNE

The serene surroundings of the Pavana Dam in Lonavala have been marred by a series of tragic drownings, prompting urgent calls for enhanced safety measures in the region.

The latest incidents involve the heartbreaking losses of 20-year-old Manish Shankar Sharma in January and 18-year-old Adwait Verma in June, both succumbing to the

waters of the reservoir. These unfortunate events are part of a disturbing trend of drownings that have plagued the Pavana Dam area, drawing attention to the need for improved safety protocols. Local authorities, including the police and the irrigation department, have expressed concerns over tourists ignoring warning signs and venturing into dangerous waters

Police Inspector Senior Police Inspector camping sites and resorts to Kishor Dhumal emphasised restrain their guests from the importance of preventive approaching the water,"



measures, such as increasing police presence, installing metal fencing, deploying more lifeguards, and marking danger zones with visible signs

"Anticipating the influx of tourists during the monsoon, we convene meetings with police Patils from over 20 villages around the dam. We instruct them to prevent tourists from entering the water bodies. We also direct



gauge the water's depth. "The responsibility for safety measures lies with the irrigation department. We have suggested several including measures,

to enhancing the criminal

justice system. It is a

enforcement and

administration in

Zero

PTL

modern

significant step forward in law

Sudhanshu Kumar, Additional

Director General (ADG) of

Bihar Police (Traffic), told

The new laws will bring in a

justice

FIR,

of

electronic modes

justice

Bihar.

system,

online

police

summonses

installing metal fencing around the waterfront, deploying more lifeguards, and providing a patrolling boat equipped with rescue teams," he said. He also emphasised the need to mark danger zones with floating red signs to deter tourists

from venturing into hazardous areas. However, challenges remain, including manpower constraints and the vast perimeter of the dam, making it difficult to monitor every

inch of the area effectively.

Odisha in next 5 years, says Vaishnaw PTI BHUBANESWAR

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said new railway projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore will be implemented in Odisha in the next five years.

Vaishnaw said this while felicitation addressing a programme organised by Odisha BJP here to felicitate the party's 20 MPs and 78 MLAs elected in recently held Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the state.

The Congress government and then the BJD government have neglected the development of the railway sector in Odisha. So, with the formation of a double-engine government of BJP in Odisha and Centre, now, the gap created during the past years, will be met by creating a new record in these five years, he said.

Though many mega railway projects have been sanctioned, those were delayed due to delay in land acquisition by the



previous BJD government, said Vaishnaw, adding, "Now double engine government is formed and the pace of the railway projects will be accelerated."

The Union minister said the allocation to Odisha in the railway budget has been enhanced from Rs 800 crore during the UPA government tenure to over Rs 10,000 crore during Modi government. the past three During

consecutive years, more than Rs 10.000 crore has been allocated to the state in the

railway sector, he said. Vaishnaw further said that a new railway line of 1,826 km was constructed in Odisha during the last 10 years, which is higher than the total railway network of Sri Lanka (1700 km).

He also said that 315 special trains will run to and from Puri during the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath for smooth travel and convenience of the pilgrims. Last year, 222 trains were run during the Rath Yatra. The special trains have been planned from 25 districts of Odisha, he added.

Vaishnaw, who is also the IT minister, said that an electronic manufacturing cluster and a semi-conductor training centre will be set up in Odisha.

Congratulating the newly elected MLAs and MPs, he expressed confidence that the BJP government will continue to serve the people of Odisha for the next 50 years. Union Education Minister

Dharmendra Pradhan said

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and two deputy chief ministers K V Singh Deo and Pravati Parida are like Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra who have been given a big responsibility for the

development of the state. A lot of first-time MLAs and MPs have been elected in this election and the state for the first time has CM and Deputy CMs belonging to the BJP. With this team, a new Odisha will be built which will help in building a 'Viksit Bharat', Pradhan said.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram advised the BJP MLAs and MPs to have a mindset of 'nation first, party second and self last'

Oram said the BJP has helped the BJD to form a government in the state to end the Congress government. But, they became 'arrogant and became worse' like the Congress government. So, people have elected the BJP government, he said.

A press release from Chennai International Airport, Principal Commissioner R

executive of the Airhub shop

located at the international

terminal was intercepted on suspicious movement and during a personal search by the

sleuths of the department,

three bundles of gold concealed

in his body were recovered. He

had received the contraband

In a major intelligence operation, the Customs

department at the airport here

has busted a syndicate which

was involved in smuggling of

267 kg of gold worth Rs 167

crore from Sri Lanka, during

An intelligence tip-off led to

the arrest of a shop-owner, his

staff who were allegedly

the last two months.

involved in the crime.

No livelihood and caught in debt trap, weavers resort to suicide in Telangana's textile hub

PTI KARIMNAGAR (TELANGANA)

The 'recent' suicide' of a weaver at Sircilla in Telangana has brought to the fore the alleged lack of work and adequate income in this textile hub, with the issue leading to a war of words between the opposition BRS and the Congress.

Kudikyala Nagaraju recently died by suicide as he was unable to repay his debts and this came as a reminder of the tragedy of weavers ending their lives in the past.

While it is being claimed 10 weavers have ended their life so far this year, the government has pegged the number at six, even as the BRS attacked the ruling Congress over the matter. Nagaraju (47), a weaver, took

his life by consuming acid at Sircilla recently.



"My husband borrowed some amount and failed to repay the lenders. He did not have the livelihood to take care of me and our two sons," Nagaraju's wife Lavanya told PTĪ.

Similar is the story of Adicherla Sai Kumar (25) who committed 'suicide' in April this year as he was unable to repay the money he borrowed.

"My brother was working in a powerloom in Sircilla. He had no work for some time due to

the closure of powerlooms in the area. He borrowed money and failed to repay it," said Mahender, sibling of the deceased. Sircilla, located in Telangana's Karimnagar is now home to about 10,000 powerlooms, down from the 27,000 in the past. About 9,000 to 10,000 families are dependent on

them for livelihood, CITU's Powerloom Workers Union President State Musha

Ramesh said. The workers had orders during the previous government to make sarees and school uniforms which used to be distributed to the poor free of cost. But, the powerloom workers are work now, he without claimed

They resort to taking debts to meet their expenses and face distress when they are unable to repay the loans, Ramesh

said

According to him, 10 weavers took the extreme step in Sircilla district during this vear.

The 'suicide' of Kudikyala Nagaraju also led to a war of words between BRS Working President K T Rama Rao, who represents Sircilla in the state Assembly, and Telangana Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao accused the government of being responsible for the alleged being suicides of weavers due to lack of work

The deaths of weavers are not mere suicides but government-induced deaths he charged. He too claimed that about 10 weavers have

ended their lives in recent times due to lack of work and income.

Jaipur Heritage Municipal body turns plastic waste into cash

PTI 📕 JAIPUR

The Jaipur Heritage Municipal Corporation has successfully turned single-use plastic seized during its various drives into a lucrative venture by reusing and selling it to cement manufacturing plants. The civic body has taken up

an initiative to reuse and sell thousands of tons of singleuse plastic seized during its campaign against their use. Instead of destroying the harmful polythene, it has

installed Refuse Derived Fuel machines at the Langdiawas and the Mathuradaspura dumping yards to crush the plastic and sell it to cement manufacturing plants and make furniture.

The corporation has seized about 6,000 kilogrannes of single-use plastic during its action in markets in the past three to four months and

generated revenue by selling it to cement plants through, officials said

"Disposal of the seized singleuse plastic was a major issue. We assessed that a supply chain exists in the system and installed Refuse Derived Fuel machines at dumping yards to shred the plastic and sell it to cement manufacturing plants. It has also started generating revenue for the corporation, Jaipur Heritage Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abhishek Surana said.

He said the plastic could also be used for making roads and the corporation was exploring the opportunity.

The civic body's health branch has launched a comprehensive campaign against single-use plastic and enforcements teams have seized more than 6,000 kilogrammes of plastic. Rs 35 lakh has been earned by fining offenders and а

significant amount has been made by selling the plastic to the cement plants, Surana said

Apart from the polythene taken out of the garbage, seized single-use plastic is from a transit passenger, a Sri Lankan national. Further probe revealed that the smugglers hailing from Sri Lanka had rented the Airhub also crushed into small pieces. The polythene is taken out shop and had recruited eight from the garbage and dried for two-three days. It is then persons to receive gold from crushed in the machines for transit passengers. These individuals, upon reuse to make benches, chairs, tables and selling to cement receiving the gold from air passengers, would conceal it in plants, the officials said.

Since July 1, 2022, the Central Pollution Control Board has enforced a ban on single-use plastic items.

The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board has also imposed a ban, restricting manufacturing, stocking, distribution and sale of single-use plastic items. Later, the civic bodies also declared a ban on single-use plastic and instructed stakeholders to comply.

operandi, modus they successfully smuggled 267 kg of gold worth Rs 167 crore in a span of two months," the release said. The Sri Lankan national who had handed over the gold, the owner (of Airhub shop) and staff were arrested and sent to judicial custody. Further

their body and smuggle it out of the airport. "Under this

investigation was on, the release added.

Cheetahs receive special ointment treatment to prevent deadly infection

PTI SHEOPUR (MP)

n an effort to protect the In an error to protect incheetah population at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, a new initiative has been launched to apply foreign ointment to their fur, an official said.

This measure aims to prevent a recurrence of septicemia, a deadly bacterial infection that claimed the lives of three cheetahs last year.

The cursorial predators at the Kuno National Park, brought to India as part of a translocation project from South Africa and Namibia, are receiving Anti Ecto Parasite Medicine to combat the threat of septicemia. The ointment, imported from South Africa, is

being applied to all 13 adult cheetahs in the park to ensure their well-being during the rainy season.

"We have started applying the 'Anti Ecto Parasite Medicine' (anti maggot) imported from South Africa to the cheetahs by immobilising them with the onset of the rainy season,' KNP director Uttam Sharma told PTI over phone on Sunday.

Despite facing setbacks in the past year, Kuno National Park remains committed to the conservation and preservation of cheetahs in India. The loss of three cheetahs to septicemia underscored the need for proactive measures to the remaining safeguard population.

"We are going to apply this medicine to the bodies of all 13 adult cheetahs in the KNP, spread over an area of 1,235 sq km including buffer zone in Sheopur district," he said,

adding "the effect of the ointment lasts for three to four months" However, he did not share details of the immunisation

plan duration and the date it started but confirmed that the KNP lost three cheetahs to septicemia, caused by blood poisoning due to bacterial infection, last year.

As the monsoon season progresses, efforts to protect the cheetahs from environmental risks are paramount. The collaboration between wildlife experts, park



officials, and meteorologists aims to ensure the well-being of the cheetahs amidst changing weather conditions. Despite facing challenges in tranquilising the swift creatures for treatment, the dedicated team at KNP is determined to carry out the

immunisation process efficiently. The history-making reintroduction of cheetahs in India aims to revive the species, which was declared extinct in the country back in 1952. The last in the cat family had died in Koriya district of present-day

once part of MP, in 1947. year's unfortunate Last incident of cheetah deaths due to septicemia underscored the importance of taking proactive measures to safeguard these magnificent animals.

KNP outright denied that the radio collar caused the septicemia the last time around. "It was not the cause of the outbreak. It might have aggravated it," KNP director Sharma said. "Last year, initially many experts doubted the radio collars caused the infection. But later the air was cleared," he said.

The fur of African cheetahs grows in June, July- August which is winter in the southern hemisphere. These months are Chhattisgarh, hot, humid and rainy here in

the northern hemisphere, the official said.

"So, the hostile weather plus rain caused dampness in the thick fur of the cheetahs. They rubbed their bodies for relief and in the process wounded themselves last year," he added. "No sooner, the blood oozes from the wound, the flies come in the picture and lay eggs in them and then come maggots which killed cheetahs in 48 hours last year," the official recalled

Eight Namibian cheetahs - five female and three male - were quarantine released into KNP on enclosures at September 17, 2022, at a highprofile event in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest.

With the monsoon season already underway in Madhya Pradesh, the authorities are leaving no stone unturned to protect the cheetah population from potential health risks.

Sheopur has received 78.4 mm of rain against the normal rainfall of 77.6 mm between June 1 and June 30 morning, as per the India Meteorological Department Bhopal centre's forecast in-charge Divya Surendran.

She said the rain-bearing system, which hit the state on June 21, has covered the entire Madhya Pradesh by June 28. With the ongoing advancements in conservation practices, KNP is determined to secure a future for cheetahs

in India.

www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Grit and glory

India's T20 World Cup win after a 13-year hiatus is a story of resilience, brilliance and sheer determination

eam India has done it again. It has once again etched its name in the annals of cricketing history by winning the T20 World Cup, ending a 13-year-long wait since their last title in 2011. Like any victory, it doesn't come cheap. A lot of hard work and dedication of the players along with the efforts of the coach and supporting staff must be felicitated for this triumph. The journey to this momentous victory has been a roller-coaster ride, filled with trials, tribulations, and moments of sheer brilliance. This win not only brings immense joy to millions of cricket fans in India who have been at discomfort due to scorching heat. Finally, the monsoon shower and cool breeze of victory brings them joy and something to cherish for years to come. Indeed, the path to this historic win was anything but easy. The final itself was also a heroic effort as team India was under pressure till 15th over when the data analysis showed that India had only eight per cent chance to win. India's cam-



paign in the T20 World Cup saw a mix of thrilling victories and nail-biting finishes. Led by a dynamic captain, Rohit Sharma, (described by Shoaib Akhtar as a 'selfless captain') India showcased a blend of experienced stalwarts and young talents, creating a balanced and formidable team. The group stages witnessed India dominating their opponents with a series of comprehensive wins. A standout performance came against arch-rivals Pakistan, when India came back in the game to win the match.

The bowlers, led by a fiery pace attack and wily spinners, ensured that opposition teams struggled to find momentum. Several players stood out for their excep-

tional performances throughout the tournament. The captain's leadership was instrumental, his tactical acumen and ability to inspire the team played a crucial role in India's success. The bowling unit, led by a veteran pacer, Jasprit Bumrah was indeed impressive. His ability to swing the ball both ways and deliver crucial wickets when Team India needed it most. His over was a turning point of the match. As the celebrations continued after India's historic triumph over South Africa for the T20 World Cup title, it marked a poignant moment as two stalwarts of Indian cricket, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, announced their retirements from T20 internationals. The victory has indeed lifted the spirits of the people who celebrated in their own style taking to the streets, bursting crackers, and waving the tricolour. The triumph is not just a cricketing success but a moment of national pride, uniting the country in joy and celebration. It is a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and never-say-die attitude of the Indian team. India's T20 World Cup win after a 13-year hiatus is a story of resilience, brilliance and sheer determination. It is a moment that will be cherished for generations and a reminder of the magic that cricket can bring to the hearts of millions. Well done team India. Keep it up!



Modi's tumultuous new innings



DEEPAK SINHA

pinion 06

Like a cricket team facing tough opponents, Team Modi relies on aggressive posturing and self-confidence to maintain its stance

he performance of the Modi team in its new innings can be best described using a cricketing analogy. The new team is woefully short of bench strength and faces a serious quality issue, with some members lacking commitment and motivation to the cause. Despite this, they have come out, much like the Aussies always do in any competition, riding their luck on abrasive aggression, hype and self-belief. It is certainly a technique that has worked well for them against most oppositions, forcing them on the back foot from which they seldom recover. But as we have just witnessed in the ongoing T-20 World Championships with their unexpected departure, bluster doesn't cut much ice with teams that are determined to win and unafraid of battle. Perhaps Team Modi would do well to keep this in mind. The truth is Team Modi is on a very sticky wicket, not unlike those in the Caribbean, with uneven bounce and unpredictable turns. Not surprisingly, they are already three down with not much to show on the board. Amit Shah opened the innings but was LBW on the second ball he faced, the Kashmiri loosener, followed by the Manipuri yorker that beat him all up

On a more serious note, while issues of terror attacks in Kashmir can and will be tackled with relative ease, Manipur is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Not since the Punjab and Kashmir insurgencies initially erupted, with terrible consequences, has the Indian State been found so wanting.

The tragedy is that responsibility for this state of affairs rests squarely with Modi 2.0 and its rather incongruous decision not to interfere as things went from bad to worse with the Chief Minister having been rendered hors de combat. Manipur today has fallen off the cliff and is in need of urgent surgery. If we are allowed to do its job, once again. The second wicket to have fallen was to a railway googly, that of the relatively experienced and administratively skilled Ashwini Vaishnav. Sadly, for him, he's got out to a very similar delivery in his last innings as well and just hasn't been able to discern the googly.

One can feel sorry for him because it is a tough position that he plays, with stress levels that can only be described as gargantuan. That is also the term that one describes our railways as well, and despite whatever the opposition may say, it is in the ICU and needs urgent attention. Not unlike the Air India story, substantive change is unlikely under the umbrella of one ginormous government-controlled public entity. Before 1950, we had around 55 companies operating railways over 55000kms of track until they were all amalgamated into the Indian Railways.

At present with over double that kilometrage of track to expect one single entity to ly in six divisions, is a her-

LETT

failure with dire consequences. Change is inevitable, the sooner the better if lives matter as all politicians insist, be it complete privatisation or a mix of synchronised public and private enterprise. The third wicket down, that of

Dharmendra Pradhan, to a THE TRAGEDY IS vicious NEET bouncer, has been the most devastating for him and the team as well. THAT **RESPONSIBILITY FOR** He's taken a nasty blow on his helmet that seems to have THIS STATE OF incapacitated him and has the team teetering on the edge of disaster. Whether he can con-**AFFAIRS RESTS** SQUARELY WITH tinue to find a place in the playing eleven or if the team MODI AND ITS can recover and succeed only time will tell. Whatever the RATHER result in the long term, there INCONGRUOUS is no getting away from the fact that the NEÉT scandal **DECISION NOT TO** has been a body blow to Team Modi and its emphasis **INTERFERE AS** on loyalty to the cause above THINGS WENT FROM all else.

The fact of the matter is that **BAD TO WORSE** the problem of leaked question papers has been around WITH THE CHIEF forever and rumours are (The columnist, a military **MINISTER HAVING** doing the rounds of how Influential persons nave been able to help their children succeed in such centralised exams, such as the CLAT, through means that

were perceived to be unfair. The numbers involved tended to be insignificant, but all that changed with the centralisation of admissions under the NTA, leading to cheating at an industrial scale, for want of a better

word. The damage this has caused to the body politic, especially the upcoming generations, is enormously difficult to fully comprehend. The winners and losers are not divided by ideology, ethnicity, religion or any such measure but by those who have the money and those who don't, and in this game of snakes and ladders the don'ts have no ladders to climb. The impact of what all of this means for the ruling coalition, which cannot avoid responsibility, is not difficult to gauge and we may well see some of that fallout in the forthcoming state elections, which can then only further add to Mr. Modi's troubles.

to save this patient, and the integrity and health of the North manage operations, nominal-East hinges on that, then the Army has to be pulled out of the culean task that will lead to cold storage where it sits and repeated systems or human

BEEN RENDERED HORS DE COMBAT

veteran ana former paratrooper, is presently a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation, Chennai; views are personal)

Trespassing in the lives of others: The uninvited interference



SANJAY CHANDRA

Human curiosity often leads us into the lives of others, crossing boundaries and delving into matters that are not our own

We have an insatiable appetite to interfere in the lives of others. The desire to take a bite of even the tiniest morsel from another's life also makes us, trespass on conversations of strangers at best, more often gossip about others, and make inappropriate remarks at the worst. We were a batch of seven railway officials from across the globe on training in Japan in 1991. Our program was coordinated by a young Japanese lady, maybe a couple of years older than

A few weeks together had made the eight of us share an easy relationship – easy enough for me to ask the lady one day if she was married. She had been married for almost a decade. I was already the father of two little daughters; thus, my next query if she had any children was probably not entirely baseless. I should have stopped once she had replied in the negative. My thirst to trespass into the private life of another individual kicked in as I asked her the reason. She was quiet for so long, a

myriad of emotions flitting across her face, that I was afraid that this one time I had



upon. This also sometimes

leads to overhearing interest-

ing snatches of conversa-

tions.Recently, waiting at the

airport for my flight, I

observed a father handing

over cash to his young daugh-

ter to get tea for the family,

crossed the line. As I was about to apologise for my impertinence, she responded, "Thank you for an insightful query, which set me thinking. The reason is that both I and my husband are so busy in our daily lives, that we barely spend our waking hours

even before she had had time together. to put down the bags. There is just no time for The girl good-naturedly asked making a baby!" It was a leshim to wait. I smiled and son learnt about the price of progress on human relations commented with an attempt in the more developed counat humour, "All fathers are like tries. We were yet to witness that." The family was not amused.I was in a cabin in the this back home, at least in smaller cities and towns.I COVID ward of a hospital. also witness incidents in the The cabin was shared by two lives of others in public places. more patients. One morning, I overheard the lady on the I am certain even others may be looking at my daily life adjoining bed talking to her under the microscope. We husband on the phone rather don't need to be celebrities for loudly, "I am much better. You

must see the uncle on the next bed. He does not do any exercises, just lying there all the time." The shoe pinched. I was not amused at this blatant trespassing in my life.I have observed that the supposedly well-meaning interference is more prominent during a visit to a convalescing acquaintance and dispensing advice from own morbid experiences.

We cannot forget one such well-meaning advice from a neighbour who did not hesitate to tell us that his father had passed away at my age due to a similar affliction that had kept me bedridden for a rather long time. He may have only been trying to caution us to be more careful.We love to dissect the lives of our friends, and even acquaintances, particularly when they are not around. We usually try to pass off the blatant gossip as honest criticism or well-meaning advice. If only we keep in mind what Wentworth Dillon said, "Words spoken can never be recalled."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

A WAKE-UP CALL

Madam — India has been witnessing a series of tragic infrastructural failures, the most recent being the collapse of the roof at Terminal 1 in Delhi, which resulted in one death and injured five others. Such incidents are unfortunately common, with the country experiencing multiple train accidents and bridge collapses. Data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reveals that 32 bridges have collapsed nationwide between 2020 and 2023. Despite substantial investment in construction, the problem persists. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) reported a record expenditure of ?2,07,000 crore on national highway construction for the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a 20% increase from ?1,73,000 crore in 2022-23 and ?1,72,000 crore in 2021-22.

These figures point to a worrying trend of inadequate construction standards and corruption, leading to significant losses and the need for repeated investments. It is imperative that the government implements stringent measures to tackle these issues, ensuring accountability among contractors and relevant authorities to prevent corruption and guarantee the safety and durability of infrastructure.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

IMPROVE BASIC CIVIC AMENITIES

Madam — The citizens of Delhi recently endured severe heat, followed by heavy monsoon rains that resulted in significant damage and chaos. On June 28, the canopy over the forecourt at Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on parked vehicles, leading to one death and six injuries. The intense weather changes left Delhiites in a difficult situation, highlighting the need for better infrastructure and planning. This issue is not isolated to Delhi; cities

like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and others have also suffered during the rainy sea- ical initiative encompassing district

Bridge gender inequality

HE EDITOR



n response to the news report "25% of new hires are married women, nearly 70% of the workforce are women: Foxconn," published on

son due to poor planning and inadequate drainage systems. While substantial funds are often spent on constructing statues and other non-essential projects, basic civic amenities remain neglected. It is crucial for the authorities to prioritize improving these facilities to safeguard the well-being of citizens.

Nagendra K Vempally |Hydernagar

GOVT HOSPITLS IN A DISARRAY

Madam — The 'Indian Public Health Standard' report, produced by the National Health Mission (NHM), reveals a concerning state of government hospitals in India. According to the report, 80 percent of these hospitals lack even basic facilities. This alarming assessment comes from a survey conducted by the government itself, highlighting a severe scarcity of doctors, nurses, and essential equipment in these institutions. The report sheds light on the conditions of government hospitals under the National Health Mission' (NHM), a crit-

June 28, I would like to express my views. As

India strives to replace China in the global supply chain, incidents like the alleged discrimination against married women at Foxconn's manufacturing plant are highly concerning. Although Foxconn has denied these allegations and stated that 70% of its workforce comprises women, a thorough and impartial investigation is necessary to dispel any doubts. There is a significant disparity in the ratio of men to women in the workforce, and companies like Foxconn can set a positive example by employing more women. This should be encouraged as we work to close this gap. Apple has consistently enforced strict policies with its manufacturing suppliers, and Foxconn should not be an exception. Ensuring gender equality in the workforce is crucial for our progress and competitiveness on the global stage.

Bal Govind | Noida

hospitals, community health centers, primary health centers, and Ayushman health facilities across the country. The 'Indian Public Health Standard' (IPHS) is a digital platform developed by the government to collect hospital statistics. Among the 40,451 hospitals that participated in the survey, only 8,089 met the IPHS criteria. This indicates that 42% of hospitals scored less than 50% on the IPHS scale, while 15,172 hospitals received ratings ranging from 50% to 80%. The report aims to identify and address the deficiencies in these hospitals, with the central government planning to establish 70,000 government hospitals meeting the IPHS standards within 100 days of the new administration's inception. The goal is to ensure that all government hospitals are equipped with basic infrastructure, equipment, and medical staff, thereby improving patient care.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

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FIRSTCOLUMIN OLDER EMPLOYEES THRIVE UNDER WORK PRESSURE

Younger employees cow down to work pressure while elders manage well



SAKSHI SETHI

s per recent research and studies, younger employees are reporting more struggles at work while older ones are doing better. Also, around 85% of the working parents in the creative, marketing and related industries feel pressure to prioritize work over parenting duties while a greater proportion also feels they must sacrifice family life to achieve their career goals. An individual at the workplace often comes across situations where they have too many tasks that need to be completed within a limited timeframe without adequate breaks or rest periods. Moreover, not receiving sufficient recognition or rewards for hard work or perceived unfair treatment or favoritism creates a stressful and demoralizing work environment making it difficult to make decisions and remember tasks which can lead to anxiety and cause stress due to a variety of psychological, physiological and situational factors. When an individual experiences work pressure, it triggers the body's stress response, known as the fight or flight response which releases stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, which prepare the body to deal with perceived threats. While this response can be beneficial in short bursts, prolonged activation can have negative effects on both physical and mental health resulting in increased heart rates, headaches and fatigue. Also, constant pressure can impair cognitive functions, making it difficult to concentrate, make decisions and remember tasks, which further increases stress

There is no denying the fact that work pressure is a natural part of most jobs and can sometimes act as a motivator (such as when prompting a student to study before an important exam), helping individuals stay focused and productive but when the pressure becomes excessive or prolonged, it leads to stress, strain, nervous tension or anxiety. Maintaining a healthy balance between pressure and stress at the workplace is crucial for both productivity as well as employee well-being. Organizations must work towards setting clear communication and expectations by ensuring that job roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and communicated; an environment where managers are approachable and available to support their teams are well created and the distribution of the



tasks and responsibilities are even to avoid overburdening of any single employee. Introducing wellness programs such as yoga, meditation or fitness classes along with access to counseling and support services for employees dealing with stress, regularly acknowledging and rewarding employees for their hard work and contributions, and promoting teamwork and collaboration to create a supportive and cohesive work environment, creating a feedback loop where employees can voice concerns about their workload and suggest improvements, implementing strict antiharassment policies and ensure they are enforced are a few strategies that can help organizations create a work environment where pressure serves as a motivator rather than a stressor. Apart from organizations working towards employee well-being, it becomes crucial for the individual working at any level to maintain a balance between work pressure and family stress as it can be challenging to maintain overall well-being. Prioritizing what is most important both at work and at home, defining clear boundaries between work and family time focusing on high-priority tasks and letting go of less critical ones, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, engaging in hobbies and activities that are outside of work and staying updated on stress management techniques are a few strategies that can help an individual build resilience and manage work stress more effectively. Remember, when stressed, individuals have a more difficult time creating short-term memories and turning those short-term memories into long-term memories. By understanding the causes of work pressure and implementing effective strategies to manage it, individuals and organizations can reduce stress and create a healthier, more productive work environment.

Venkaiah Garu: Life in service of Bharat



07

analysis

From his early days in politics to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his ability to navigate the complexities with ease and humility



doday, India's former Vice-President and respected statesman M Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated for decades. We have worked together and I have learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics gan in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP. Almost 50 years ago, a young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and, that too, for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect democratic principles.

tsunami swept the State, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for the BJP's growth across the State.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is cer-tainly a wordsmith but he is as much a worksmith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put into legislative affairs and speaking for people of his constituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his party but Venkaiah Garu refused to deviate from his core ideolo-ALL THOSE WHO gy. He went on to play a big role HAVE HEARD in strengthening the BJP in Andhra Pradesh and even VENKAIAH GARU became the AP BJP president. It was in the 1990s that the BJP SPEAK WILL **VOUCH FOR HIS** central leadership took note of venkalan Garus efforts and thus in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appointed the party's all-India general secretary. It was truly a remarkable moment for a man, who as a teenager would go around announcing the visits of Atal Ji and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the general secretary, he was focused on how to bring our party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the party's national president. In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the Government, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone, including Atal Ji, puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was

being asked which portfolio he wanted and his first choice was Rural Development. But Venkaiah Garu was clear – he was a Kisan Putra. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.' Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development-related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban development for such an extensive period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national Capital, having worked in Gujarat for the previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to parliamentary norms and rules. In 2017, our alliance nominated him as our vice-presidential candidate. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deeprooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice-President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the

raise

daughter).

(Udhayanidhi's son and

The most disgusting of the lot was made by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi who shout-

ed "Jai Palestine" while taking

oath as a member of the

House. This is a cardinal sin

capable of throwing shadow

over India-Israel ties. People

like Owaisi are a blot on this

nation as he had the audacity

to describe the infamous crim-

inal Mukhtar Ansari as a

Shaheed. Owaisi is a living

example that one could not

Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and firsttime MPs get the opportunity to speak.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed before the Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Garu was in the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional moment for him - the young boy who was drawn to Dr Śyama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India!

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also nosting people. But, of late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk. Even after the vice-presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about, he calls me and asks me about them. I met him most recently when our Government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him again on this milestone. I hope young karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve, learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR

ORATORY SKILLS. HE IS CERTAINLY A WORDSMITH BUT HE IS AS MUCH A WORKSMITH

> (The writer is the Prime Minister of India.)

A reflective moment on India's democratic values and political integrity

From displays of loyalty to controversial gestures, this year's oath-taking ceremony reveals a transformed landscape in Indian politics

N ewly elected members of the Lok Sabha taking oath to adhere to the Constitution of India is a solemn occasion. "I, X, having been elected a member of the Houe of the People do swear in the name of God (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter", is what they have to tell while taking the oath.It is not known what is the role of the presidents of the parties under whose label they enter the precincts of the House. Agreed, these members were either hand-picked by the bosses of their parties, or they themselves could have kept a



(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

gun on the forehead of the proprietors of the parties demanding the latter to nominate them as candidates for the Lok Sabha election. While watching some of these newly elected members taking the oath of office, one was flabbergasted by the fall in the quality of politics and the standard of our parliamentary system. Previously we had titans as Nadu! members of political and social life but now, the only titans that at their peak while they were

we come across are the wristswearing in as members. There watches and clocks made by has been criticism against members of the DMK and the the House of Tatas. The AIADMK for their servile Dravidian politicians from Tamil Nadu were the butt of nature and lassitude to their jokes as they took the oath of leaders which make them office. After taking the customlaughing stocks. ary oath specified in the Third

Most DMK members wore Vibhuti and holy Kumkum on Schedule of the Constitution, the DMK members sang their foreheads. It is not paeans to their Gods in uncommon to see MPs and MLAs belonging to the DMK and the AIADMK doing Chennai. All DMK members except T R Balu raised slogans eulogizing the DMK supremo Danda Namaskar, an obeiand Tamil Nadu Chief sance to the presiding deity of Minister M K Stalin, the future the party. Though they do not chief minister Udhayanidhi believe in pilgrimage to tem-(son of Stalin) and late M ples, politicians have made it a point to fall down on the Karunanidhi (former chief minister and one of the floor once they come face to founders of the DMK) seeking face with the party head.But whether the sycophancy they their blessings to serve Tamil exhibit in public is real or not Sycophancy and servility were is a major question. One of the elected MPs from Tamil Nadu



who took the oath of office last day was going around astrologers and sorcerers in Kerala to ascertain whether the Karunanidhi clan had performed black magic either on him or his family members. Since his father is a bigwig in the party hierarchy, it was the mother who accompanied the son to liberate him from the evil spirits. That is the rationalism and atheism practised by the followers of Ramasamy

Naicker.While the DMK MPs were happily extolling the K-Clan members, there were reservations in the minds of a section of people about what Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK, whose antipathy for north Indians is infamous, would do.

He is the one who frequently declares that north Indians are not welcome to stay in Tamil Nadu though he has demanded that Rohingya refugees

have civility by attending should be given a place of residence in the State. Thank Lincoln's Inn. The day is not far when he or others of his ilk would shout "Jai Pakistan" God Thirumavalavan did not the slogan Jai Prabhakaran. Many DMK from the temple of Indian politicians in Chennai were democracy. heard asking why the newly elected MPs did not say Jai to Inbanidhi and Tanmaya Organizations like Hamas have

no place in the comity of nations and the civilized world. What happened in October 2023 should be condemned in the strongest of words. India has given enough support to the Palestinians and what it got back was just brickbats. The general public should know the truth.Shouting slogans in support of the party president's wife and children from the Speaker's podium while taking the oath of office is not secularism or pluralism. (The writer is a special corre-

spondent with The Pioneer; *views are personal)*



France's exceptionally high-stakes election begins

7oters across mainland V France were casting ballots Sunday in the first round of exceptional parliamentary elections that could put the government in the hands of national ist, far-right parties for the first time since the Nazi era.

The outcome of the two-round elections, which will wrap up July 7, could impact European financial markets, Western support for Ukraine and how France's nuclear arsenal and global military force are managed.

Many French voters are frustrated about inflation and economic concerns, as well as President Emmanuel Macron's leadership, which they see as arrogant and out-of-touch with their lives. Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration National Rally party has tapped that discontent, notably via online platforms like TikTok, and dominated preelection opinion polls. A new coalition on the left, the

New Popular Front, also poses a challenge to the pro-business Macron and his centrist alliance Together for the Republic. It includes the French Socialists and Communists and the hardleft France Unbowed party and



Far left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon casts his ballot, Sunday in Paris. France is holding the first round of an early parliamentary election that could bring the country's first far-right government since Nazi occupation during World War II. The second round is on July 7, and the outcome of the vote remains highly uncertain AP/PTI

vows to reverse a deeply unpop-ular pension reform law that There are 49.5 million registered voters who will choose raised the retirement age from 577 members of the National 62 to 64, among other econom-Assembly, France's influential ic reforms. lower house of parliament, dur-

ing the two-round voting. Turnout at midday at the first round stood at 25.9 per cent according to interior ministry figures, higher than the 18.43

per cent at midday during 2022 legislative elections.

Macron voted in Le Touquet, a seaside town in northern France, along with his wife, Brigitte. Le Pen cast her ballot in her party's stronghold in northern France.

The vote takes place during the traditional first week of summer vacation in France, and absentee ballot requests were at least five times higher than in the 2022 elections

The first polling projections were expected at 8 pm (1800 GMT), when the final polling stations close. Early official results were expected later Sunday night.

Voters at a Paris polling station had issues from immigration to inflation and the rising cost of living on their minds as the country has grown more divid-ed between the far right and far left blocs, with a deeply unpopular and weakened president in the political centre. The blitz campaign was marred by rising hate speech. "People don't like what has

been happening," said Cynthia Justine, a 44-year-old voter. 'People feel they've lost a lot in recent years. People are angry. I am angry She added that with "the rising

hate speech," it was necessary

for people to express their frus-trations with those holding and seeking power.

"It is important for me because I am a woman and we haven't always had the right to vote, Justine said. "Because I am a Black woman, it's even more important. A lot is at stake on this day."Pierre Leclaer, a 78year-old retiree, said he cast his ballot for the simple reason of "trying to avoid the worst," which for him is "a government that is from the far right, pop-ulist, not liberal and not very Republican.

Macron called the early elections after his party was trounced in the European Parliament election earlier in June by the National Rally, which has historic ties to racism and antisemitism and is hostile toward France's Muslim community. It also has historical ties to Russia.Macron's call was an audacious gamble that French voters who were complacent about the European election would be jolted into turning out for moderate forces in national elections to keep the far right

out of power. Instead, preelection polls suggested that the National Rally is gaining support and has a chance at winning a parliamentary majority. In that scenario,

Macron would be expected to name 28-year-old National Rally President Jordan Bardella as prime minister in an awkward power-sharing system known as "cohabitation."

While Macron has said he won't step down before his presidential term expires in 2027, cohabitation would weaken him at home and on the world stage

The results of the first round will give a picture of overall voter sentiment, but not necessarily of the overall makeup of the next National Assembly. Predictions are difficult because of the complicated voting system, and because parties will work between the two rounds to make alliances in some constituencies or pull out of others. In the past, such tactical maneuvers helped keep farright candidates from power. But support for Le Pen's party has spread deep and wide. Bardella, who has no governing

experience, says he would use the powers of prime minister to stop Macron from continuing to supply long-range weapons to Ukraine for the war with Russia.

The National Rally has also questioned the right to citizenship for people born in France, and wants to curtail the rights of French citizens with dual nationality. Critics say this undermines fundamental human rights and is a threat to France's democratic ideals.

world 08

Meanwhile, huge public spend ing promises by the National Rally and especially the leftwing coalition have shaken markets and ignited worries about France's heavy debt, already criticized by EU watchdogs.In the restive French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, polls closed earlier due to a curfew that authorities on the archipelago have extend-ed until July 8. Violence there flared on May 13, leaving nine people dead after two weeks of unrest, due to attempts by Macron's government to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia, which the Indigenous Kanaks feared would further marginalize them. They have long sought to break free from France.

Voters in France's other overseas territories from Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana, French Polynesia and those voting in offices opened by embassies and consular posts across the Americas cast their ballots on Saturday.

Hungary's populist Orbán to Video shows NY officer shooting 13-year-old take over EU presidency AP NEW YORK Video released late Saturday shows an

AP BUDAPES

When Hungary takes over the helm of the European Union on July 1, many politicians in Brussels will have the same thing on their minds: whether populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will use the role to further his reputation as the bloc's main spoiler. Orbán in recent years has seemed to relish opportunities to block, water down or delay key EU decisions, routinely going against the grain of most other leaders on issues like the war in Ukraine, relations with Russia and China, and efforts to defend democracy and the rule of law.

His public opposition to EU policies and stances has long frustrated his partners in the bloc and pushed him to the

margins of the continent's and executive commission mainstream. Hungary's motto for its presidency — Make Europe Great Again — raised eyebrows for its resemblance to the famous tagline of former U.S. President Donald Trump. The EU presidency rotates among its member countries, and while the post holds little real power, it does allow countries to put their priorities high on Europe's agenda. Now, as Hungary resides over

the 27-nation bloc for the coming six months, it will likely keep up its anti-EU rhetoric, said Dorka Takácsy, a research fellow at the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy. But the timeline of its presi-

dency — beginning with a lengthy summer break and a transitional period of forming a new European Parliament

will give Budapest few opportunities to derail the bloc's priorities significantly, she said. 'These six months are altogether not that long, which means that ... Hungary cannot do potentially much harm, even according to the critics," Takácsy said.

As Hungary's takeover approached, leaders in Brussels rushed to push through important policy decisions while Belgium was still at the helm. On Tuesday, for example, the EU launched membership talks with candidate countries Ukraine and Moldova.

Orbán has vocally opposed and threatened to block Ukraine's candidacy. His gov-ernment has also held up EU efforts to supply Ukraine with badly needed funding.

Yet with Ukraine's accession process already initiated, Takácsy said, the most Hungary can do now under its presidency is delay further steps toward its EU membership, a process that in any scenario is likely to take many vears."All the meaningful steps from the European side regarding Ukraine were already done," she said. "(A Hungarian) delay, according to most European leaders, is already calculated and being taken into consideration as if it's something which is most likely going to happen." Orbán has long been accused of dis-mantling democratic institutions and violating the EU's standards on the rule of law leading the bloc's legislature in May to call for the presidency to be taken out of Hungary's hands entirely.

V officer in upstate New York fatally shooting a 13-year-old boy who had been tackled to the ground after he ran from police and pointed a replica handgun at them. The teen was killed late Friday in Utica after officers in the city about 240 miles (400 kilometers) northwest of Manhattan stopped two youths a little after 10 p.m. in connection with an armed robbery investigation, police said. The youths, both 13, matched the descriptions of the robbery suspects and were in

the same area at around the same time the day after, police said. One was also walking in the road, a violation of state traffic law

The body camera video released by police captures an officer saying he needs to pat them down to ensure they don't have any weapons in their possession. Immediately one of the two — identified by police as as Nyah Mway — runs away.

Authorities froze frames of the video where a running Nyah Mway appears to point the gun at the pursuing officers. Police also edited the video to insert a red circle around the weapon to show it to viewers. The officers believed it was a handgun,

police said, but it was later determined to be a replica of a Glock 17 Gen 5 handgun with a detachable magazine.

"During a ground struggle" with the teen, one of the officers fired a single shot that struck the boy in the chest, Williams said. The teen was given "immediate" first aid by the officers and taken to Wynn Hospital, where he died, the chief said. The replica gun carried by the teen "is in all aspects a realistic appearing firearm with GLOCK markings, signatures, detachable magazine, and serial numbers," Lt. Michael Curley, a police spokesperson, said via email. "However ultimately it fires only pellets or BB's."

A bystander video posted to Facebook shows one of the officers chasing after Nyah Mway and tackling him to the ground. It also shows the officer punching the teen as two other officers arrive. A gunshot rings out as the teen is on the ground and the officers quickly stand up. The officer who fired his gun was identified as Patrick Husnay, a six-year veteran of the agency. Husnay and Officers Bryce Patterson and Andrew Citriniti were placed on administrative leave with pay. The police body camera video shows a chaotic scene.

Nyah Mway points the replica handgun at

the officers while he runs from them. The officers scream "gun!" to each other as they run.

Patterson then tackles and punches Nyah Mway, and as the two are wrestling on the ground, Husnay opens fire.

Officers initially thought Nyah Mway may have shot himself, and Patterson says, 'I don't know if he shot me." It is not clear whether he is referring to Nyah Mway or his fellow officer. Patterson was not struck Bystanders scream at the police throughout the recordings, and at one point an officer yells back: "We're trying to save him right now!'

The other youth was detained in the back of a police vehicle and was not involved in the shooting.

The police department released the body camera videos following a public outcry as the shooting roiled Utica, a city of more than 65,000 located some 240 miles (400 kilometers) northwest of Manhattan. It is home to more than 4,200 people from Myanmar, according to The Center, a nonprofit that helps to resettle the refugees. Nyah Mway, who local media reports said was an 8th grader at Donovan Middle School, has been identified as a refugee born in Myanmar and a member of the Karen ethnic minority.

Private call of top Democrats fuels more Growing clamour for Xi to attend SCO summit in Astana insider anger about Biden's debate

ted their support cern is growing inside the top for Biden after the debate. and other stakeholders. ranks of the Democratic Party Instead, the people said, Many are anxiously awaiting the first major round of postthat leaders of Joe Biden's cam-Harrison offered what they paign and the Democratic described as a rosy assessment debate public polling to deter mine their next steps. Polls from CNN and 538/Ipsos National Committee are not of Biden's path forward. The taking seriously enough the chat function was disabled and impact of the president's trouconducted soon after the debate there were no questions bling debate performance ear-lier in the week.DNC Chairman allowed. Many donors, party found that most debate-watch strategists and rank-and-file ers thought Trump outper-Jaime Harrison held a Saturday DNC members are publicly formed Biden. But the two and privately saying they want the 81-year-old Biden to step men's favourability ratings afternoon call with dozens of remained largely unchanged committee members across the aside to allow the party to just as they did in the aftermath country, a group of some of the most influential members of the select a younger replacement at the Democratic National of Trump's conviction on charges in New York that he party. He did not acknowledge Convention in August. As of illegally participated in a hush Biden's weak showing Thursday night or the avalanche of critinow, though, Biden's closest money scheme to influence cism that followed. the 2016 election. In a subse allies insist he remains wellpositioned to compete against Republican Donald Trump and quent appearance on MSNBC, Multiple committee members Harrison downplayed the sig-nificance of the conference call, on the call, granted anonymity have given no indication they to talk about the private discussion, described feeling like they will push him to end his camwhich he said was part of a reg were being gaslighted - that paign. ularly scheduled communica-Those best positioned to replace they were being asked to ignore tion "to talk about the state of the race" and the upcoming him — Vice President Kamala the dire nature of the party's predicament. The call, they Harris, California Gov. Gavin national convention with the DNC's many elected members said, may have worsened a Newsom and Michigan Gov. across the country

ANS A

ing the rec in India

Modi's 3.0 government follow-

Generally, the Indian prime minister participates in the SCO summit, providing an opportunity for Indian and Chinese leaders on the sidelines of the heads of the state meeting of the eight-member bloc. But since Modi has decided to skip it, significance is attached to the likely meeting between Jaishankar and Wang in the light of a four-year-long frozen relations between the two countries over the standoff in Eastern Ladakh. Relations between the two

hinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 24th sum mit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Kazakhstan's capital Astana this week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Sunday.He will also pay a state visit to Tajikistan, it said. From July 2 to 6, President Xi will attend the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in Astana, the

PTI BEIJING

ministry said. Officials say the situation in Afghanistan, the Ukraine conflict and boosting overall security cooperation among the SCO member countries are expected to figure in the summit. The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is an

influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

India will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) earlier said. Officials say there is a likeli-

hood of a meeting on the sidelines of the summit between Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is expected to accompany Xi. If it takes place, it will be the first high-level meeting between Indian and Chinese officials after the formation of

countries hit a low except for trade ever since the eastern Ladakh border standoff erupt ed on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Tso (lake) area near Galwan. Since the May 2020 clashes, the two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander level talks to resolve the stand-Prime Minister Narendra off

widespread sense of panic

Gretchen Whitmer among

Biden to step down He says here to stay to defeat Trump

PTI WASHINGTON

 $F_{\mathrm{formance}}^{\mathrm{ollowing}\ \mathrm{a}\ \mathrm{disastrous}\ \mathrm{performance}$ stage in Atlanta, there is a growing clamour within the ruling Democratic party and the mainstream American media for President Joe Biden to step down from the presidential race. However, the 81year-old president and his campaign have asserted that he is not giving up and is determined to successfully run for the November 5th presidential elections."Biden is the nominee (of the Democratic party. No switching of the nominee," campaign leadership has asserted.

Biden, the 46th president of the United States, has won the Democratic presidential primary

As of June 29, he had 3,894 delegates as against 1,975 del-egates required to win the nomination of the party. These delegates would meet in Chicago from August 19 to 22 to formally nominate the winner of the primaries to run for the November 5 presidential

elections. Biden, seeking a second term in the White House, stumbled and fumbled during the televised presidential debate with his predecessor Donald Trump on Thursday night in Atlanta, setting off alarm bells among top Democrats about whether he can stay atop the gruelling months ahead of the elections on November 5

The 78-year-old Trump, who is the presumptive Republican Party candidate for the presidential election, clashed right from the start with Biden and by the end of the 90 minutes debate, gave enough fodder for serious editorials and opinions as well as memes on social media.

Over the last 50 hours after the first presidential debate in Atlanta on Thursday night, wherein his performance was seen far below par against his rival Trump, multiple media outlets, including The New York Times and his own party supporters and key decision makers, are calling him to

step down from the race. "Dropping out is Biden's most patriotic option," The Atlantic said Saturday.

To serve his country, President Biden should leave the race," The New York Times editorial board wrote Following the debate.

The New York Times wrote, That is no longer a sufficient rationale for why Mr. Biden should be the Democratic nominee this year." Similar messages are coming from inside the party as well.

However, his inner circle is standing by the side of Biden. A post-debate poll says that 10 per cent of the independent voters have moved towards Biden after the debate, a point that is being made by his team.

"It wasn't my best debate ever as Barack (Obama) pointed out. I understand the concern after the debate," Biden told his fundraisers in New Jersey. "I get it. I didn't have a great

night, but I'm going to be fighting harder," he said. Research during the debate shows us converting more undecided voters than Trump did, in large part because of his conduct on January 6," Biden said. He argued Trump's lies were the biggest takeaway: "People remember the bad things during his presidency" "I didn't have a great night but neither did he," he said again

of Trump. Several prominent columnists — Paul Krugman, Tom Friedman, Nicholas Kristof, Jonathan Alter, and David Ignatius – argued that the chance of a diminished Biden losing to Trump is too high to risk.

Sunak, wife seek blessings at Neasden Temple

PTI LONDON

 $B^{\mbox{ritish}\mbox{Prime}\mbox{Minister}\mbox{Rishi}\xspace$ Sunak and wife Akshata Murty sought divine blessings on the last weekend ahead of the July 4 general election at the iconic BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in London, popularly known as Neasden Temple.

The couple were greeted with loud cheers as their convoy drove into the grand temple grounds on Saturday evening and went on to perform puja guided by the priests. After a tour of the grand temple complex and interaction with volunteers and senior community leaders, cricket fan Sunak began his address to the congregation with a reference to India's vic-tory in the T20 World Cup before speaking about the inspiration he draws from his faith

"I am Hindu and like all of you, I draw inspiration and comfort



loving parents and that is how from my faith," said Sunak. "I was proud to be sworn in as I live my life; and that is what a member of parliament on the I want to pass on to my daugh-'Bhagavad Gita'. Our faith ters as they grow up. It is dharma which guides me in my teaches us to do our duty and approach to public service," he not fret about the outcome as long as one does it faithfully. said That is what I was brought up to believe by my wonderful and Sunak went on to reference his general practitioner (GP) father

"My wife is not only the greatvice," he added.

went on to express his gratitude them proud.

"You have been with me every step of the way. On the hardest days in this job, I have felt and I am determined to never let you down," he said. Alluding to the recent contro-

versy around a far-right Reform UK activist attacking him with a racist slur during the election

multi-faith credentials. "I'm proud to be the first

British Asian Prime Minister, but I'm even prouder that it is not a big deal. The events of the last few days should not make us forget that the United Kingdom is the world's most successful multi-ethnic, multifaith democracy and we should all be uplifted by that," said

Sunak, amid applause. "With your support, I will cre-ate a secure future for our country where Hindus, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and Jains, those of all religions and none, feel equally at home, where everyone has the security they deserve," he said. On the election pitch for his

incumbent Conservative Party, he name-checked some of the Tory candidates contesting from constituencies in and around the temple in north London and reiterated some of

his core policy themes around tax cuts and education. He also drew parallels between the values of his party and the Indian diaspora: "Education, hard work, family, those are my values. Those are your values. Those are Conservative values Sunak and Murty had last visited a BAPS temple during his visit to India for the G20 Summit in September, when they offered prayers at the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi.

During their visit to the London temple, they per-formed abhishek of Shri Nilkanth Varni Maharaj, the teenage form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and concluded their visit by mingling with the crowds.

Sunak was virtually mobbed as he reached out for high-fives with the young children and bent down to touch the feet of the elderly to seek their bless ings.

and pharmacist mother's comcampaign, the British Indian leader stressed on the country's

munity service and also the "wonderful work" his philanthropist mother-in-law, Sudha Murty, does in India.

est support that any husband could ever have but also someone committed to public ser-

As Britain's first Indian heritage Prime Minister, the 44-year-old to the community for their "prayers and love" and pledged to try and continue making

your backing. And I know the pride that there is to have a British Asian Prime Minister



Paramilitary forces attack city under military control in Sudan

AP CAIRO

Fighting raged between Sudan's military and a notorious paramilitary group in a city in a central province, officials said on Sunday, opening another front in a 14-month war that has pushed the African country to the brink of famine.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began its offensive on Sennar province earlier this week, attacking the village of Jebal Moya before moving to the provincial capital of Singa, where fresh battles have erupted.

RSF fighters in pickup trucks mounting automatic rifles rampaged through Singa, about 350 kilometers (217 miles) southeast of the capital, Khartoum, over the weekend, according to residents and a local rights group. They looted houses, shops in a local market and took over the city's

main hospital, they said. The group claimed in a statement on Saturday it had seized the military's main facility, the 17th Infantry Division Headquarters, in Singa. Local media also reported the RSF managed to breach the military's defence.

However, Brig. Nabil Abdalla, a spokesperson for the Sudanese armed forces, said the military regained control of the facility, and that fighting was still underway Sunday morning. Neither claim could be independently verified.

The paramilitary group has been repeatedly accused of gross rights violations across the country since the war



started in April last year, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in Khartoum and elsewhere.

The devastating conflict has killed more than 14,000 peo-ple and wounded 33,000, according to the United Nations, but rights activists say the toll could be much higher the toll could be much higher. The Sudan Conflict Monitor, a group of experts and rights activists, said the RSF seizure other cities," said Abdel-Rahman al-Taj, a Singa resiof Singa will likely have "severe humanitarian consequences" with potential future disruption of large-scale agricultural programmes in the nearby provinces of Blue Nile, White Human Rights, a local rights group, said the RSF attacked Nile and Jazira, which was

once Sudan's breadbasket. According to the UN's International Organisation for Migration, at least 327 house-

under gunpoint." He added that the hospital has received dozens of wounded people over the past three days from Singa and the sur-rounding areas. The RSF didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The fighting in Sennar comes while attention has been

holds had to flee from Jebal

Mova and Singa to safer areas.

'The situation remains tense

and unpredictable," it said in a

'They did like what they did in

(the capital) Khartoum and

The Sennar Observatory for

inga Educational Hospital,

detaining dozens of patients and medical staff as "human

valuable possessions.

statement.

detained."

shields"

focused on al-Fasher, a major city in the sprawling region of Darfur that the RSF has besieged for months in an attempt to seize it from the military. Al-Fasher is the military's last stronghold in Darfur.

The fighters turned the hospital into a military center in a

"clear violation of the interna-

A physician at the hospital said

RSF fighters, some in vehicles, swarmed the facility's court-yard and corridors. "The situ-ation is extremely dangerous,"

said the physician who spoke on condition of anonymity for

his safety. "We are working

tional human material law".

Residents reported widespread looting of homes and shops in Sudan's conflict has created the Singa by RSF fighters who world's largest displacement crisis with over 11 million seized private vehicles, mobile people forced to flee their phones, jewellery and other homes. International experts warned Thursday that that 755,000 people are facing famine in the coming months, and that 8.5 million people are facing extreme food shortdent who fled Saturday to Blue Nile province. "Many people were killed, wounded or

The conflict has been marked by widespread reports of rampant sexual violence and other atrocities - especially in Darfur, the site of a genocide in the early 2000s. Rights groups say the atrocities amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

2 dead as storms wreak havoc in Switzerland Berlin (AP): Storms in south-

ern Switzerland caused a landslide that left two people dead and one missing, and a bridge over a small river col-lapsed, police said on Sunday. Storms and heavy rain affected southern and western Switzerland on Saturday and overnight, with the worst-hit areas in the Italian-speaking Ticino canton (state), on the southern side of the Alps. Police said there was a signif-

icant landslide in the Fontana area of the Maggia valley, which is near the city of Locarno. They said in a statement that the bodies of two people were recovered and were being identified, while rescuers were searching for another person who remained missing.

missing. Camping sites along the Maggia river were evacuated, and part of the small Visletto road bridge collapsed. Three other valleys in the region were unreachable by road. Further north, the Rhone River burst its banks in sev-eral areas of Valais canton eral areas of Valais canton, flooding a highway and a railway line. Floods, thunderstorms and landslides also hit various regions in northern Italy. Firefighters said they carried out about 80 rescue operations, evacuating dozens of people in the northern Piedmont region. Between Montanaro and San

Benigno Canavese, two adults and a 3-month-old girl were rescued after the rising waters of the Orco torrent left them stuck in their car, firefighters said. Several villages were isolated due to overflowing streams, storms and landslides in the Valle D'Aosta region.



A view of the Rhone river, at right, and the Navizence river, following the storms that caused major flooding, in Chippis Switzerland, on Sunday

Taliban delegation attends meeting led by UN; women excluded

Islamabad (AP): A Taliban delegation on Sunday attended a United Nations-led meeting in Qatar on Afghanistan after organisers said women would be excluded from the gathering. The two-day meeting is the third UN-sponsored gathering on the Afghan crisis in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the chief spokesman for the Taliban gov-ernment who leads its delegation, wrote on social media platform X that the delegation met with representatives from countries including Russia, India and Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the meeting. The Taliban were not invited to the first meeting, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said they set unac-

ceptable conditions for attending the second one in February, including demands that Afghan civil society members be excluded from the talks and that the Taliban be treated as the country's legitimate rulers.

The Taliban seized power in August 2021 as US and NATO forces were in the final weeks of their pullout from the country following two decades of war. No country has officially recognised the Taliban as Afghanistan's government, and the UN has said recognition is almost impossible while bans on female education and employment remain in place. Mujahid on Saturday in the capital, Kabul, told reporters the delegation was going to Doha "to seek understanding

and resolve issues." "We urge all countries not to abandon the Afghan people in difficult times, and actively par-ticipate in Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic strengthening," he said.

He said they would discuss issues including international restrictions imposed on Afghanistan's financial and banking system, challenges in growing the private sector and government actions against drug trafficking.

Earlier, the United Nations' top official in Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva, defended the failure to include Afghan women in the meeting in Doha, insisting that demands for women's rights are certain to be raised.

Pak Minister slams Af for not taking action against militants

PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has slammed the Afghan Taliban-led government in Kabul for not taking action against militants along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, despite repeated requests made by Islamabad.

Asif made the comments in an interview with BBC Urdu on Saturday in which he also said that Pakistan even offered to grant Rs10 billion to shift the militants towards the western border. "Pakistan hoped for cooperation from the Afghan rnment

In an interview with the Voice of America last week, Asif said that under 'Operation Azm-e-Istehkam', Pakistan · lat

by Kabul.

ly called on the Afghan interiets carried out air strikes im government to prevent its soil from being used against it by the Tehreek-e-Taliban against terrorists in the border regions of Khost and Paktika inside the neighbouring coun-Pakistan (TTP) and other ter-Soon after the strike, Asif said rorist groups - a claim denied

that Pakistan wanted to convey Asif said that the government even offered to give Rs10 bil-lion to transfer the militants to to the Afghan interim government in Kabul that "we cannot continue like this? Islamabad's action came folthe western border areas, but it feared the militants could

lowing a deadly attack on Pakistani forces which resulted in the killing of seven soldiers, including a Lieutenant Colonel and a Captain.

There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in could target terrorist hideouts Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabu in 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy.

AP SAN JUAN

Hurricane Beryl is forecast to strengthen into a powerful Category 4 storm as it approaches the southeast Caribbean, which began shut-ting down Sunday amid wrant ting down Sunday amid urgent pleads from government officials for people to take shelter. Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St Lucia, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. "This is a very serious situation developing for the Windward Islands, warned the National Hurricane Centre in Miami, which said that Beryl was "forecast to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge ... as an extremely dangerous hurricane." Beryl strengthened into Sunday morning, becoming the first major hurricane east of the Lesser Antilles on record for June, according to Philip

Hurricane Beryl likely to become Category 4 storm Klotzbach, Colorado State Forecasters warned of life-University hurricane researcher. Beryl is now only the third Category 3 hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic in June, following Audrey in 1957 and Alma in 1966, according to hurricane expert Michael Lowry. Beryl was located about 465 miles (750 kilometres) eastsoutheast of Barbados. It was a Category 2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (155 kph) and was moving west at 21 mph (33 kph). Two hurricane hunters were en route to the storm to gather more details about its intensity, according to the National Hurricane Centre.

Beryl is expect to pass just south of Barbados early Monday and then head into the Caribbean hurri path toward Jamaica. It is expected to weaken by midweek but still remain a hurricane as it heads toward Mexico.

threatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 metres) in areas where Beryl will make landfall, with up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain for Barbados and nearby islands.

Long lines formed at gas stations and grocery stores in Barbados and other islands as people rushed to prepare for a storm that has broken records and rapidly intensified from a tropical storm with 35 mph winds on Friday to a Category

1 hurricane on Saturday. Warm waters were fueling Beryl, with ocean heat content in the deep Atlantic the highest on record for this time of year, according to Brian McNoldy, University of Miami tropical meteorology researcher. Bervl marks the rthest east that a hurricane has formed in the tropical Atlantic in June, breaking a record set in 1933, according to Philip Klotzbach,

Colorado State University hurricane researcher. If Beryl's winds reach 125 mph, it would be the second earliest such storm in the Atlantic on record, surpassing Audrey in 1957, he said

In addition, if Beryl reaches a Category 3, it would only be the third storm to do so in the Caribbean prior to August; Dennis and Emily both did so in July of 2005, according to Klotzbach

"We have to remain vigilant," Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley said in a public address late Saturday. "We do not want to put anybody's life at risk." Thousands of people were in Barbados for Saturday's Twenty20 World Cup final, cricket's biggest event, with Mottley not ng that not all fans were able to leave Sunday despite many rushing to change their flights. "Some of them have never

gone through a storm before," she said. "We have plans to take care of them."

Mottley said all businesses should close by Sunday evening and warned the airport would close by nighttime. Kemar Saffrey, president of a Barbadian group that aims to end homelessness, said in a video posted on social media Saturday night that those without homes tend to think they can ride out storms because

they've done it before. "I don't want that to be the approach that they take," he said, warning that Beryl is a dangerous storm and urging Barbadians to direct homeless people to a shelter. Echoing his comments was Wilfred Abrahams, minister of home affairs and information need Barbadians at this point to be their brother's keeper," he said. "Some people are vulnerable?

ter was not ready to take action against the militants," Asif was quoted as saying by the Geo News. Pakistan has repeated-

Afghanistan. He had also dismissed the possibility of negotiations with the TTP. In March, Pakistani air force

border

return to the Pakistan border

from there as well.

Two terrorists killed by security forces in northwest Pakistan

PTI PESHAWAR

¬wo terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces on Sunday in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said. An operation was carried out after receiving information about the presence of some terrorists in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur tribal district bordering Afghanistan, they said. The terrorists opened fire at the security forces after they attacked the militants' hideout. In the shootout, two terrorists were killed while a Havildarrank soldier died, they said.

The slain terrorists were wanted by the security forces in the killings of tribal elders and an attack on the security forces. Separately, at least four labourers were abducted by some unknown gunmen in the Pakhtunkhwa Khyber province on Saturday, a police officer said.

The incident happened in the Tank district when the labourers were working to fix an electric tower. Tank is the most vulnerable district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where terrorists and militants are active against the security forces, police and government officials.

7 killed, dozens hurt as missiles slam town in southern Ukraine

AP KYIV

Russian missiles slammed into a town in southern Ukraine, killing seven civilians, including children, and wounding dozens more, local authorities reported. Ukrainian officials published

photos of bodies stretched out under picnic blankets in a park in Vilniansk, and deep craters in the blackened earth next to the charred, twisted remains of a building.

Thirty-six people were wounded in Saturday evening's attack, authorities said, and declared a day of mourning Sunday. Vilniansk is in Zaporizhzhia region, less than 30 kilometers

(20 miles) from the local capital and north of the front lines, as Russian forces continue to occupy part of the province.

Local Gov. Ivan Fedorov said that three children were among the dead and nine more were wounded.

In a separate Telegram post hours earlier, Fedorov said that the strike damaged a shop, residential buildings, and an unspecified "critical infrastruc-ture" facility in Vilniansk, which had a population of around 14,300 prior to Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia continues to stretch out Ukrainian forces in several

areas along the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front. Moscow has stepped up airstrikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure.

In the aftermath of the Vilniansk attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Kyiv's Western partners to bolster its air defenses and long-range munitions to deter Russian attacks. In Ukraine's war-torn eastern Donetsk region, eight civilians died and 14 more suffered wounds on Saturday and overnight, according to local Gov. Vadym Filashkin, as near-daily shelling continues in

much of the province. Shelling also wounded one civilian and wounded five more over the same period in the southern Kherson region, its governor, Oleksandr Prokudin, reported on Telegram. According to local Governor Oleh Syniehubov, four people were wounded in the Kharkiv province in the northeast, the site of fierce battles in recent months as Russia launched a cross-border push that threatened Ukraine's second-largest city

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry on Sunday claimed its forces overnight shot down three dozen Ukrainian drones over six regions in Russia's southwest.

Seven persons killed in Karachi road mishap

Karachi (PTI): Seven persons were killed when an overspeeddures.

ing coaster lost control and the vehicle overturned after crashing into a pavement in Karachi The accident occurred in Sindh province on Sunday when a trailer took a U-turn and the coaster, coming from behind, rammed into it and overturned, police said. The driver of the trailer fled while the driver of the coaster was among the injured persons, the Dawn newspaper reported. The crash resulted in the deaths of seven persons, including women and children, the Express Tribune reported. Emergency responders provided immediate medical assistance to the injured. The bodies of the deceased have been transferred to Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) for further legal proce-

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah expressed grief at the lives lost in the incident. In a statement, he directed the administrations of CHK, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center and SMBB Institute of Trauma to provide the best treatment available to the injured passengers. He also summoned a detailed report from Sindh Inspector General Ghulam Nabi Memon, ordering police to take strict measures to prevent traffic accidents. "The (driving) licences of drivers who speed up (vehicles) even on busy roads should be suspended. Speeding has wrecked joyful homes along with (taking lives of) innocent children," the statement quoted CM Shah as saying.

New study shows how divorce is boosting gender equality in Sweden

Stockholm

Conversation): Single mothers are one of the most vulnerable groups in societies around the world. In Sweden, the number of women with these care responsibilities has nearly halved over the past two decades. What has caused this change? Are we seeing a dramatic reversal in the global trend of increasing separations and divorce?

(The

No, union dissolutions in Sweden are still among the highest in the world. What we are witnessing is a change in the logistics of break-ups. Sweden not only holds a leading role in the rate of divorces, it is also world-leading when

half of the time — something it comes to splitting child cus-tody 50:50. Almost half of few partnered fathers do. So it children with separated parcould push parents into a ents now split their time equalmore egalitarian division of ly between the two housecare work. As a measure of holds. In our new study, pubcare work, we examined one of lished in the journal Social the most stubborn inequalities Forces, we wanted to find out between women and men in to what extent this remarkable high-income countries today: change in living arrangements taking leave from paid work to care for a child. We used administrative register data has changed the gender division of care work within the ex-couple. We hypothesised covering the entire population that the effect of such union of Sweden — with measurements of leave-taking of each dissolution may lead to more gender equality than when child's mother and father both children went to live only before and after divorce. with their mothers. Our results show that, in Ultimately, 50:50 residence Sweden, divorce has led to an

requires fathers to take full increase in fathers' share of care responsibility for the child days off work for care. We con-

clude that whereas divorces have for decades been slowing the gender revolution in Sweden — with mothers traditionally shouldering all the responsibility — they are now accelerating it.

WORLD LEADERS?

We are not trying to argue that divorce is a good thing. We believe instead that divorces help expose the joint household as a highly gendered environment. Opposite-sex couples in Sweden, and more broadly across the world, tend to fall into a manager-helper dynamics, in which the mother takes on the full administrative and mental workload and

only delegates specific tasks for the father to fulfil. This is a dynamic that over time seems inevitable and impossible to break. But 50:50 living arrangements turn this kind of dynamic on its head. Because it is no longer possible to take on these heavily gendered roles - the mother cannot plan her ex's household and the father cannot wait for it to happen — 50:50 living arrangements seem to show the way to a more gender-equal division of labour in general. The lesson is that men can and

do look after children on their own. If Swedish men can do it, other men's inability cannot

possibly be inevitable. Swedish men are not of a different biological make-up than other men, so it seems like cultural stereotypes are ultimately to blame.

The increases in divorce could change attitudes on a deeper level over time. The more we see men looking after their children, the more normal it will appear. Bosses might stop scoffing at fathers who take time off to stay home with their kids, and mothers may find it easier to trust their partners to take on more childcare and housework.

The Swedish experience may tell where other countries are headed. That said, Sweden is ahead in many ways. For example, thanks to a generous set of family policies, Swedish fathers now take three months off work as parental leave to stay home with their babies while the mother returns to work – giving a crucial opportunity to bond and grow their confidence when it comes to childcare.

In several family-related changes — including a rise in divorce and fathers being more involved in childcare -Sweden has been the forerunner in trends later observed throughout Europe and North America.

Residency with the father following divorce seems to be

Although other countries cannot observe the same reversal in the overall effect of divorce on care work just yet, couples practicing 50:50 living arrangements in those countries might have already begun to experience a more genderequal division of care work following the separation.

another such development.

And this is good news, not only for women who suddenly proclaim that "for the first time ever ... ex-husbands are doing their fair share" but also for men who no longer have to deal with the pain associated with the feeling of losing their children after a separation.



Indian economy set for stable high growth

PTI NEW DELHI

Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase and it is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that the country is facing, RBI's monetary policy committee member Shashanka Bhide said on Sunday.

Bhide further said with the growth of income that would support domestic demand and additions to production or supply capacity reflected by high levels of investment spending in the last couple of years, domestic economic activity is expected to sustain its momentum.

"In terms of growth momentum and inflation

trajectories Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase. "It is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that are also facing us," he told PTI.

The current official estimate of GDP growth in 2023-24 is 8.2 per cent, accelerating from 7 per cent in the preceding year.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India pegged the GDP growth rate for FY25 at 7.2 per cent. Bhide noted that the monsoon rainfall, which is expected to be normal this year, is a significant positive factor for growth as well as bringing down food

inflation noting While



improvement in global demand conditions are necessary to spur external demand for goods and services, he said sizable capital inflows supporting investment, reflect both the supply side efficiencies and high growth potential of the economy both in terms of domestic demand as well as India's exports.

Responding to a question on inflation, Bhide said the concerns are mainly in terms of the impact of risks from any adverse weather and climate events, disruptions in global supply chains due to international conflicts and the slow recovery of the global economy from the recent high inflation period. "Our own overall CPI

inflation is marked by high levels of food inflation and a decline in this component of the overall inflation is crucial going forward," he opined. Bhide said while food inflation is at a high level, averaging about 8 per cent during Jan-May 2024, the overall CPI-based inflation has moderated to below 5 per cent during March-May 2024.

six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India left the key interest rate (repo rate) unchanged for the eighth time in a row at 6.5 per cent. The RBI has projected Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation at 4.5 per cent for FY25 with 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

As Akasa Air spreads its wings on domestic and

international routes, the less-

than-two-year-old airline's

chief Vinay Dube has said he

does not think about

competition in encouraging

or discouraging terms, as the

aviation market is "big enough for us to succeed".

The carrier, which took to

the skies in August 2022,

currently has a fleet of 24 Boeing 737 MAX planes and

operates more than 900

While emphasising that the

focus is on service excellence

don't think about

terms. If we focus on ourselves, the market is big

enough for us to succeed," he told PTI in a recent

flights weekly.

interview.

review earlier this month, the

"The prevailing policy rate combined with the gradual in Q4. decline in inflation rate does Retail inflation was 4.75 per cent in May. The RBI, which has been mean higher real interest rates, but continued focus on keeping the inflation aligned mandated to ensure inflation with the target in a sustained remains at 4 per cent (with way is important at this point

margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in to support growth as well," he CPI while arriving at its said. In its latest bi-monthly monetary policy. Aviation market big enough for Akasa Air to

FPIs invest ₹26,565 crore EPFO gross new members addition in Indian equities in June dips 4 per cent in 2023-24: MoSPI succeed: CEO

PTI NEW DELHI

A fter two months of net foreign investors turned buyers in June, infusing Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

Looking ahead, attention will gradually shift towards the budget and Q1 FY25 which could earnings, determine the sustainability of FPI flows, Vipul Bhowar, Director, Listed Investments,

Waterfield Advisors, said. According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net infusion of Rs 26,565 crore in equities this month.

This came following a net outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.



Before that, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February, while they took out Rs 25,743 crore in Ianuary

The net outflow now stood at Rs 3,200 crore in the month, data with the depositories showed.

Geojit Financial Services being widespread across the Chief Investment Strategist V market or sectors. This is K Vijayakumar said political stability, despite the BJP not because Indian equities are still considered overvalued by FPIs, Waterfield Advisors' getting a majority on its own,

Bhowar said

They are favouring the financial, auto, capital goods, real estate, and select consumer sectors.

"With government stability assured, impressive GDP performance and forecasts, stable consumer price index, ample forex reserves, and robust banking sector health, I anticipate a steady and substantial FPI inflow," Kislay Upadhyay, smallcase Manager & Founder Founder Fidelfolio, said.

Additionally, FPIs invested Rs 14,955 crore in the debt market in June. With this FPIs' investment in the debt market reached Rs 68,624 aggressive retail buying, has crore in 2024 so far. forced the FPIs to turn India's inclusion in the JP

Morgan Bond Index is positive

In the long term, this will reduce the cost of borrowing for the government and the cost of capital for corporates. This is positive for the economy and therefore, for the equity and debt market.

PTI NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body gross new KEPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4 per cent to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as per a report by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

According to the report 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective -January to April, 2024', the Employees' Provident Fund activities Organisation (EPFO) recorded 1,09,93,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23. to

The gross addition of new members was affected due to the pandemic and declined from 1,10,40,683 in 2019-20 to 85,48,898 in 2020-21. It bounced back to 1,08,65,063

in 2021-22. The Centre as well as states had imposed lockdown restriction in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus in the country, which had hit economic



as well as employment.

The data shows that in the last five fiscal years till 2023-24, the gross new members addition by EFPO had not recovered to pre-covid level of 2018-19.

The gross addition of new members was 1,39,44,349 in 2018-19.

Since April 2018, the ministry has been bringing out the employment related statistics in the formal sector covering the period September 2017 onwards, using information on the number of subscribers who have subscribed under three major schemes, namely Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and National Pension Scheme (NPS).

The numbers of subscribers are from various sources and there are elements of overlap. Therefore, the estimates from various sources are not additive, it stated.

and cost leadership, Dube The report also showed that said the airline is looking for network and international the gross addition of members of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) also dipped to 1,67,60,672 in 2023-24 from 1,67,73,023 in 2022expansion. competition and certainly don't think about it in encouraging or discouraging 23.

However, according to the report, the new addition of subscribers increased under NPS to 9,37,020 in 2023-24 from 8,24,735 in 2022-23

The mcap of Hindustan The mcap of ICICI Bank Unilever went up by Rs soared Rs 30,286.99 crore to 7,953.37 crore to Rs 5,81,570.83 crore and that of ITC climbed Rs 6 616 91

Urja Ganga gas pipeline completion delayed to

PTI NEW DELHI

markets aided by steady

investors (DIIs) buying and

However, the FPI buying has

been focused on a few

specific stocks rather than

institutional

domestic

buyers in India.

79,000 mark on Thursday. While Reliance Industries, Nine of the top-10 most Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank Bharti Airtel State Ranl



March 2025, says GAIL

PTI NEW DELHI

The construction of the Rs 12,940-crore 'Urja Ganga gas pipeline, India's most ambitious project taking environment-friendly fuel to eastern parts of the country, has been delayed by nine months and will now be completed by March 2025, state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd said.

3,306-kilometre The Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline was originally targeted for completion by June 2024. But due to "delay in right of use (RoU) availability", the completion schedule has been revised "from June 2024 to March 2025", GAIL said in a stock exchange filing.

The bulk of the pipeline has already been constructed, and gas has started to flow in most cities along the route.

Traditionally, natural gas was available for use as fuel to generate electricity, make fertiliser or turn into CNG and cooking gas only in the western and northern parts of the country, as pipelines taking the fuel from source to users were

limited to these parts. In October 2016, work on laying a pipeline from Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal, Bokaro in Jharkhand and Dhamra in Ódisha began.

The line was extended to Guwahati in Assam from Barauni in Bihar, a length of 726 km, to take the fuel to hereto-unconnected states in the eastern region.

Jagdishpur-Haldia-The Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL), popularly called the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga pipeline, is to supply gas to the eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. GAIL, the firm executing the

pipeline, said its board of directors in a meeting on June



28 approved the revision of the completion schedule. The completion schedule for the 240-km Dhamra-Haldia pipeline has also been revised

from June 2024 to March 2025, it added. The company on May 10, 2019, stated that it has completed awards of all major contracts worth Rs 10,500 crore for

pipeline supply and laying of the integrated 3400-km Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) and Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline (BGPL) pipeline.

The government provided 40 per cent viability gap funding amounting to Rs 5,176 crore for execution of JHBDPL. For the Barauni-Guwahati pipeline, a 60 per cent viability gap funding, amounting to Rs ,559 crore, has been provided by the government.

The Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga pipeline will connect all the geographical areas (more than 90) spread over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and further to the northeastern region of India. When the project is fully completed, the northeastern/eastern part of

India will become an integral part of the gas-based economy with the twin benefits of the cheapest gas transportation through Urja Ganga and gas pricing reforms.

of India, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries gainers, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) emerging as the biggest gainer, in line with a rally in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark emerged as the laggard. jumped 1,822.83 points or

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 1,52,264.63 crore The BSE Sensex recorded the to Rs 21,18,951.20 crore. best monthly gain in June by TCS added Rs 34,733.64 crore

climbing 7.14 per cent. The Sensex breached the historic taking its valuation to Rs

2024, he noted.

added.

(Federal Open Market Committee) minutes will be released on July 3, 2024. The movement of dollar index and

US bond yields will also be

crucial factors to watch," Gour

Last week, the BSE benchmark

jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent, and the Nifty climbed

509.5 points or 2.16 per cent.

The Sensex recorded the best

monthly gain in June by

The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark on

Thursday, and the Nifty hit the

24.000 level for the first time in

"The outlook for the market

will be guided by major

domestic and global economic

data such as HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, HSBC

India Services PMI, S&P Global Manufacturing PMI,

Fed speech, initial jobless

climbing 7.14 per cent.

intra-day trade.



18,267.7 crore to Rs 8,22,530.35 crore.

14.12.845.09 crore.

The market valuation of Infosys climbed Rs 14,656.3 crore to Rs 6,50,602.10 crore and that of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 13,808.74 crore to Rs 12,80,865.43 crore. State Bank of India's valuation

Rs 8,44,201.88 crore and that

rallied Rs 11,111.14 crore to Rs 7,57,565.68 crore.

to Rs 5,30,475.82 crore. However, the valuation of LIC tumbled Rs 22,042.61 crore to Rs 6,25,573.90 crore Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC

Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

Domestic macroeconomic data, global Sattva Group targets 85 per cent trends to drive markets this week: Analysts growth in housing sales: MD Bijay

PTI NEW DELHI

2.36 per cent.

Domestic macroeconomic announcements, announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors would guide market sentiments this week, analysts said.

After a record rally, markets may face volatile trends this week amid elevated valuations and investors would also keep a track of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar movement for further cues. "Potential volatility in the stock market is anticipated this week. Elevated valuations remain a concern, with investors now focusing on monsoon progress and its impact on the rural economy. The upcoming Union Budget in July has become the next focal point, with high expectations for growth-oriented policies," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd. Market sentiment will be gauged by closely monitoring foreign and domestic

institutional investors' activity (FII and DII) and crude oil prices, he said. On the global front, the US market has experienced some profit-booking from higher levels. Key economic data, such as the US job openings report, will be released on July 2, 2024, followed by the US ISM Services PMI data on July 3,



claims this week," Arvinder Additionally, the US Federal Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Reserve Chairperson Powell's speech is scheduled for July 2, 2024, and the US FOMC (Federal Open Market Services Ltd, said.

After hitting a fresh all-time high level in early trade on Friday, the BSE 30-share index declined 210.45 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 79,032.73. During the day, it jumped 428.4 points or 0.54 per cent to bit a proord peak of 70 671 58 hit a record peak of 79,671.58. The Nifty went lower by 33.90 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,010.60. During the day, it climbed 129.5 points or 0.53 per cent to hit a new lifetime

high of 24,174. We expect this positive momentum to continue at a steady pace with stock-specific action. However, the release of economic data points this week would keep a little volatility in the market. Sector like auto is expected to be in the limelight with release of their monthly sales number," said Siddhartha Khemka, Senior Group VP, Head - Research, Broking & Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

PTI NEW DELHI

Realty firm Sattva Group is bullish on India's housing market and will launch many projects to achieve 85 per cent growth in sales of residential properties to around Rs 6,500 crore this fiscal, a top company official said.

In the 2023-24, Bengaluru-based Sattva Group achieved sales bookings of Rs 3,500 crore. "We are very bullish on housing demand. We are targeting to achieve sales of Rs 6,000-6,500 crore this financial year," Sattva Group

MD Bijay Agarwal said. He said the company would invest Rs 12,000-14,000 crore over the next three years to build housing, office and hotel projects. The bulk of the investments would be to develop housing projects and office complexes.

Sattva Group is one of the leading real estate developers in India with a significant presence in South India. It has completed 140 projects

comprising 80 million square feet area in the last 30 years. Around 23 million square feet are under construction, and 65 million square feet are in the pipeline.

Agarwal noted that the demand for the residential segment has been very strong half of FY2024-25 of approx 1.3 million sq ft," said Shivam.

Furthermore, the company is looking to acquire land parcels for another 1.5 million sq ft in Mumbai.

MD The company's MD highlighted that the group's co-working and co-living joint ventures — Simpliwork Offices and Colive – have been performing well and expanding.

"We plan to list our coworking and coliving businesses on stock exchanges in the next 2-3 years by launching public issues," Agarwal said. Sattva Group has more than

per cent stake in 50 Simpliwork and Colive.

When asked about its plan to launch Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), Bijay said, "We are in the early stage of discussion with Blackstone".

He did not give any timeline for the launch of the public issue of REIT to monetise the commercial assets developed jointly by Sattva Group and global investment firm Blackstone.

Sattva Group and Blackstone have a joint portfolio of around 32 million square feet, of which 18 million square feet are already completed.



the office market are also

He said the company would enter the Mumbai housing

(Strategic Development) of

Sattva Group, said the company is looking for

growth opportunities across geography and different

In the residential segment,

Shivam said Sattva Group

will launch more than 13

million square feet of area in

more than 6 million square

feet of housing units this

"In Mumbai, we intend to

launch a project in the latter

verticals of real estate.

Bengaluru this fiscal. In Hyderabad, it will launch

Agarwal,

VP

back on track.

market this year.

Shivam

fiscal.

RANCHI | MONDAY | JULY 1, 2024

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the pioneer



INDIA'S TELESURGERY MILESTONES

Driven by robotic technology, this cutting-edge system is all set to transform global surgery by enabling remote interventions that improve access to specialised care and boost international collaboration. Recently, the national capital witnessed the launch of a historic moment in the sector, reports **ARCHANA JYOTI**

n June 10, 2024, historic oment unfolded at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC) in Delhi. Led by Dr Sudhir Rawal, a pioneering figure in robotic surgery, the team at RGCIRC performed India's first telesurgery in cancer care. The procedure, a Radical Cysto-Prostatectomy with Bilateral Lymph Nodes Bilateral Lymph Removal, was conducted using the SSI Mantra Robot developed by SS Innovations, a developer of India's first indigenous surgical robotic system.

The surgery was executed from the SSI Office in Gurugram, while the patient remained at RGCIRC in Delhi. Despite the distance, the surgical team completed the complex procedure in one hour and forty-five minutes,



healthcare."

world

represents

Dr Sudhir Rawal conducting telesurgery

robotic cardiac surgery and the brain behind the SSI Mantra System, Srivastava is popularly known as the Father of Surgical Robotics in India. SS Innovations further

advanced the field with the launch of SSI Mantra 3, the latest iteration of its in advancing robotic surgery significant indigenous surgical robotic

This accomplishment looking edge advancements in robotic surgery, offering surgeons unparalleled precision and control for improved patient outcomes. It reinforces India's position as a hub for technological innovation in Moll has been a pivotal force

version of the SSI Mantra 3. remarkable is a testament to his commitment and vision. We are eagerly forward to incorporating the Mantra 3 system in our hospitals, enhancing our medical capabilities and patient care." Addressing the launch of SSI Mantra and the breakthrough in telesurgery, Prof. Dr. Somashekhar SP, Chairman-Medical Advisory Board, Aster DM Healthcare- GCC & India, echoed similar views. "SSI has created the best technology robot at an affordable rate for the global market, all made in India. It is for the benefit of all. Any technology that doesn't evolve with time will perish, and this

would like to take this

opportunity to commend Dr

Srivastava for his dedication

in achieving the rapid

development of the third

BENEFITS OF TELESURGERY

Collaborative

collaboration

transmission.

Education:

geographical

expanding

education globally.

surgeons and healthcare

Infection Control: Reduces

physical contact, lowering

the risk of infectious disease

surgical training and

Global Reach: Overcomes

specialized procedures.

professionals worldwide.

Facilitates

Care:

among

real-time

Enhances

barriers,

Requires

access to

Accessibility: Enables remote or underserved areas to access specialized surgical care. Expertise: Allows surgical expertise to be delivered globally, benefiting patients without local specialists. Cost Efficiency: Reduces

travel costs and time for patients, making care more accessible. Precision and Safety: Offers precise control and high-definition imaging, improving surgical outcomes.

CHALLENGES OF TELESURGERY

Technical Issues: Relies some regions. on internet Training: heavily connectivity and robotic specialized training for systems, vulnerable to effective use, resourcedisruptions.

intensive. Latency: Delay in signal Patient Acceptance: Some

Celebrating Doctor's Day Honouring Dedication and Empathy

The First Doctor's Day was L celebrated in India on July 1, 1991 which happened to be the birth and death anniversary of the most famous physician of India -Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. It is hence a tribute to his contributions to the health domain in the country.

vivacity 11

This year's theme, "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands," highlights the doctor's exceptional dedication, especially during challenging times like the Covid-19 pandemic.

Doctor's Day serves as a poignant reminder of the invaluable contributions of doctors worldwide. It is a day to express gratitude, reflect on their profound impact, reaffirm and our commitment to supporting their noble mission of healing and caring for others.

The celebration of Doctor's Day is not merely a formality but a heartfelt expression of gratitude. It acknowledges the sacrifices doctors makelong hours, emotional strain, and personal sacrifices-to ensure the well-being of their patients. Their dedication goes beyond medical expertise; it encompasses compassion, understanding, and a deep sense of responsibility towards those under their care.

As we celebrate Doctor's Day, let us pause to acknowledge the significance of their vocation. Their selflessness, expertise, and compassion touch countless lives, leaving an indelible mark on society. Whether in times of crisis or routine care, doctors exemplify the highest ideals of service and humanity. Happy Doctor's Day!

DOCTORSPEAK

On eve of Doctor's Day, we spoke to medical professionals whose insights underscore the significance of this occasion:



Dr Rajinder Dhamija, Director, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Services (IHBAS), Delhi: The Day gives me an opportunity to focus on one of my priority areas. Brain health issues in India, like stroke, epilepsy, headache disorders, Parkinson's disease, and dementia, pose significant challenges due to disparities in healthcare access and infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Limited awareness, delayed diagnosis, and social stigma worsen the burden on affected individuals and families. Addressing these challenges requires enhanced healthcare



Sirapanasetty, Obstetrics & Gynaecologist Surgeon: The medical field stands as a crucial pillar of society, much like the legislative, judiciary, and executive branches of government, and the media. Doctors shape society by playing a vital role in every phase of our lives, from childbirth onwards. An assurance from a doctors boosts the morale of a patient to live a longer life and also to heal from an grave injury



marking advancement in telesurgery capabilities.

The successful telesurgery at RGCIRC highlighted the potential of advanced robotic technologies to enhance precision and quality in surgical interventions. Telesurgery not only geographical overcomes constraints but also reduces the need for patients to travel long distances for specialized medical care, Dr Rawal elaborated.

This approach promises to democratize access to highquality surgical procedures, benefiting particularly patients in remote areas with healthcare limited infrastructure, said Dr Sudhir Srivastava, founder, Chairman and CEO, of SS

system. Equipped with 5 Recently, SSI reached Nepal slimmer robotic arms and an immersive 3D HD headset, it too, deploying India-made offers surgeons unparalleled Robots to its healthcare precision and control during system. Dr. Mylswamy Annaduari, procedures. The system's cost-Ex-Director of ISRO Satellite effectiveness aims to make advanced robotic surgery Centre also known as 'Moon accessible to healthcare Man of India' said: " The institutions across India and system beyond, aligning with the 'Make in India' initiative. Alongside, it has achieved a Indian historic feat in Indian medical science by completing the affordable nation's maiden human trial in telesurgery, signifying a monumental leap in surgical medical science, and it is also racing to assist the entire robotics.

Dr. Fredric Moll, Father of Surgical Robotics as Board Member and Vice Chairman said at an event held here to launch the innovation, "SSI Innovations. Pioneer in Mantra 3 integrates cutting-

and contributed significantly is why we have version after version. " to the development of robots

For those who are not yet aware of this breakthrough technology, SSI Mantra 3 allows for smaller fingertipsized incisions, leading to less pain, minimal blood loss, reduced scarring, faster recovery, and shorter hospital the stays.

convergence of medical This most advanced surgical science in India and extends robotic system with its costinnovation to effectiveness will make surgeons worldwide. It is an advanced robotic surgery more accessible to hospitals, innovation, precisely what India needed. doctors, and the ultimate beneficiary, patients. India is racing ahead in

The SSI Mantra 3 ensures unparalleled precision and efficiency across a wide range Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman of multispecialty and the full and Managing Director of spectrum of robotic cardiac procedure, say Medanta, The Medcity, was surgery equally vocal in appreciating the technology as he said: "I The minimally experts. invasive approach aim to transmission can impact surgical precision. Security: Raises concerns about cybersecurity and

patient data protection. Regulatory Complexity: Varies across countries, affecting licensing and legal frameworks.

Cost: Implementation and maintenance can be expensive, limiting access in

ensure reduced trauma to technologies, including trials patients, resulting in less pain, less blood loss, and faster recovery times. Despite these advancements,

challenges such as latency in global networking, regulatory considerations, and initial costs of robotic systems continue to influence the adoption of telesurgery. However, ongoing developments in networking

patients may be hesitant due to the lack of physical presence.

Ethical Considerations: Informed consent, patient autonomy, and maintaining patient-centered care are critical.

Limited Applications: Not all procedures are suitable, depending on complexity and technical feasibility.

of 5G networks to minimize latency, hold promise for overcoming these barriers. Navigating these challenges requires ongoing technological advancement, regulatory alignment, robust cybersecurity measures, comprehensive training programs, and a commitment to patient-centered care and ethical standards

awareness, and measures to combat socioeconomic barriers to care.

resources, improved public

Director

Dr. Jyoti Kapoor, Founder / Director, Manasthali Doctors Wellness: are healers of hope. Consulting a mental health expert is crucial when facing mental health issues as they possess the specialized knowledge and skills necessary to provide effective support and treatment.

Dr. Prashant Mehta, Senior Consultant and Program (Lymphoid Neoplasms and Cellular therapy) Department of Medical Oncology Amrita Institute of Medical sciences, Faridabad: My desire for our nation is improved access to healthcare for everyone, highquality indigenous research/drug development, optimized communication, transparency, and teamwork between medical teams and patients and their families.

Doctors aren't infallible gods but compassionate humans dedicated to easing human sufferings.

Monsoon Mayhem? Health Hacks to Stay Safe

As we were gasping for fresh air amid intense heat waves, torrential rains descended upon us, bringing a mix of relief and new challenges including health issues due to increased humidity, stagnant water, and the proliferation of vectors and pathogens. In a conversation with health experts, **ARCHANA JYOTI** gathered essential tips to help keep health problems at bay during monsoon season

Stay Water-Wise

Waterborne wobbles like typhoid and cholera love a good monsoon bash. Avoid their party by:

your drinking water or stick to bottled brands.

• Ditching the street treats: Roadside foods like chaat may look tempting but it's best to play it safe with home-cooked meals.

• Washing up: Clean your fruits and veggies like they owe you money!

Stagnant Water? Not on My Watch!

Mosquitoes aren't just annoying; they're like minimonsters bringing malaria dry. and dengue to the block

• Dry it up: Kick those old tires and flower pots that collect water. • Repel the party crashers:

• Boiling it up: Always boil Mosquito repellent is your new best friend-apply it generously

• Sleep safe: Mosquito nets might not be the latest fashion, but they're the best bedfellows during the monsoon.

Keep Skin Dry

Fungal infections thrive on moisture. • Stay dry: Change out of wet clothes as soon as possible and keep your skin

• Powder power: Use

antifungal powders to keep the baddies at bay. • Bye-bye barefoot: Flipflops might be cool, but

closed shoes keep you safe from leptospirosis lurking in those puddles.

Boost Your Immunity

Fight off those sniffles and sneezes with a diet as colorful as a rainbow.

• Eat the rainbow: Fill up on fruits and veggies-think greens, reds, and yellows.

• Supplement sense: If your diet's missing something, a vitamin supplement can be your rainy-day insurance. • Soup it up: Hot soups and broths are perfect for staying

warm and healthy.



Long Sleeves Are In! When mosquitoes

strutting around, less skin is more. • Cover up: Long sleeves

and pants aren't just for fashion-they're for fending are off bites.

• Stick to light colors: Mosquitoes are like little

fashion critics-they prefer Use a dehumidifier to keep antiseptics, bandages, and dark colors. So, go light and moisture levels down.

bright! Stay in the Loop with the Latest Buzz

Knowledge is power when it comes to staying healthy.

• Weather watch: Keep an health advisories.

apps that track mosquito party! activity and rain patterns.

А playground for mold and respiratory irritants.

windows open when it's not pouring to let fresh air in.

• Dehumidify your digs:

meds for common ailments.

• Indoor exercises: Yoga,

pilates, and home workouts

The Wet Weather Wizard's

Your best shields against the

• Water purifier: A compact Say No to Stagnation one for those unexpected Don't let the rain keep you water quality issues. on the couch.

Laugh in the Face of the Monsoon!

Remember, a good sense of humor is the best medicine. • Keep it light: Share a joke, enjoy a comedy, and keep your spirits high.

• Stay positive: A little rain can't stop your parade!

By following these tips, you'll be able to enjoy the monsoon season without the health hiccups. So grab your raincoat, and a hot cup of tea, and let the monsoon • First-aid kit: Stock it with magic begin!

eye on weather reports and are your go-to for staying fit. • Dance it out: When in

• App happy: Download doubt, have a mini dance

Ventilate to Victory!

Toolkit stuffy room is a Keep these essentials at hand to navigate the monsoon madness like a pro: • Umbrella and raincoat:

• Let the air flow: Keep

downpour.



sport 12

ambassador for the T20 World Cup in the Americas,

Yuvraj Singh individually praised all the key members

"You did it boys @hardikpandya7 your a hero ! @Jaspritbumrah93 what an

over to bring India back in the

game ! Extremely ecstatic for

@ImRo45 great captaincy under pressure ! @imVkohli

#Rahul Dravid and the whole

#ICCT20WorldCup2024," he

wrote. "Well played @akshar2026 @IamShivamDube. Koi reh to

nahi gaya ! Oh @surya_14kumar what a

catch under pressure," Yuvraj

added, wondering if he mistakenly did not leave out

Hero of two T20 World Cup finals and India's would be coach Gautam Gambhir wrote, "CHAMPIONS!" Having earlier explained his standout moments of the

standout moments of the

game when it was under

progress, legendary Sachin Tendulkar wrote, "Chak De India!!!!" Former India

captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly also

'Heartiest congratulations to Rohit sharma and his team .

What a game to win .. May be a World Cup in 11 (13) yrs

but the talent the country has

,they will win many more ...

(sic)

congratulated the side.

indiavssa

Harbhaian

of the side.

team

FROM DHONI, TENDULKAR TO GAVASKAR ALL HAIL INDIA'S T20 WORLD CUP TRIUMPH

PTI NEW DELHI

The who's who of Indian cricket fraternity, including Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, hailed the title triumph in the T20 World Cup, saying it will inspire the "starry-eyed country's children to move one step

closer to their dreams". India's first T20 world champion skipper Dhoni led the chorus of former and current cricketers, hailing Rohit Sharma's men for regaining the trophy after 17 long years after beating South Africa by seven runs in a pulsating final in Barbados on Saturday.

Former skipper Dhoni, who led India to their maiden title win in 2007 in South Africa, praised the team for maintaining their calm during the adverse situations

in the game. "WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what u guys did," (sic) Dhoni wrote on Instagram.

"From all the Indians back home and everywhere in the world a big thank you for bringing the World Cup H o m e . CONGRATULATIONS.Arre eee thanks for the priceless birthday gift," said Dhoni, who will turn 43 early next month.

The legendary Tendulkar took to social media to express his delight on India's achievement, saying the 4th star, our second in



country has now got a 'fourth T20WC," he wrote on 'X'. Tendulkar, who was a member of the Indian team star', following two 50-over World Cup wins in 1983 and 2011 as well as the historic which suffered a first-round exit in the 2007 50-overs triumph in the inaugural 2007 World Cup, said life has come "Every star added to the Team a full circle.

India jersey inspires our nation's starry-eyed children "Life comes full circle for Indian cricket in the West Indies. From our lows in the to move one step closer to their dreams. India gets the 2007 ODI World Cup to becoming a cricketing

powerhouse and winning the T20WC in 2024," he said. "Very happy for my friend Rahul Dravid, who missed out on the 2011 World Cup win but his contribution to this T20 World Cup victory has been immense. I am so so happy for him." Hailing Rohit's captaincy and

the contributions of the other squad members, Tendulkar

said, "What can one say about Rohit Sharma? Superb captaincy! To put the 2023 ODI World Cup loss behind and to keep all our players motivated towards the T20 World Cup is commendable." "Jasprit Bumrah's Player of the Tournament award as well as Virat Kohli's Player of the Match award are both welldeserved. They were just

superb when it mattered," he added.

"Along with Rahul, Paras Mhambrey and Vikram Rathour also made their international debuts in 1996. It was wonderful to see Team India excel under the guidance of this class of '96." "A total team effort. Hearty congratulations to all the players, coaches, support

staff, and BCCI," Tendulkar continued.

Gavaskar said that winning the trophy is like finally scoring a hundred.

scoring a hundred. "It is a great win after such a long time. Earlier, I kept saying that India was getting 90s but not getting centuries because they were reaching semi-finals and finals. Now, they have got a century and what a wonderful century this is," the former India captain told PTI.

From VVS Laxman to Anil Kumble, Sourav Ganguly to Gautam Gambhir, everyone praised the stupendous achievement in unison.

"Congratulations Team India on becoming the T20 World Champions. Been the best team in the tournament remaining unbeaten throughout," VVS Laxman, unbeaten current head of the National Cricket Academy wrote on X. "Great composure and character shown by the team to win this from the situation we were in with 5 overs remaining. Every player deserves credit for giving it their all and rising to the occasion and wonderfully led by Rohit," he added.

"We are champions!" rejoiced ace spinner and 2011 World Cup winner Ravichandran Asĥwin.

Former India captain and head coach Anil Kumble wrote, "Congratulations team India! Wonderful victory." "YEH MERA INDIA. WE

'Bumrah is absolutely magic ARE THE CHAMPIONS. SO PROUD OF YOU GUYS. Well done Virat,axar ,Hardik and every one .. Rahul Dravid (This is my India. We are the and the support staff .. What a champions, so proud of you guys.)," wrote former spinner

proud moment," Ganguly added.

(Sic)

Toni Kroos retirement delayed amid Germany's adventure at Euro 2024 Just like another Real

World T20.



AP DORTMUND

Madrid great, Zinedine Zidane in 2006, Kroos is ending his storied career at a major tournament in Germany.

out He came of international retirement in February for one last tournament. Each game Germany plays in the knockout stage could be the last of his career.

Germany weathered a thunderstorm, hail and stubborn Danish resistance Saturday to ensure the 34vear-old midfielder will play again. Germany faces gia in Spain or Geo the quarterfinals July 5. Zidane reached the 2006 World Cup final with France, only to headbutt an opponent, get a red card and lose to Italy. Kroos and Germany can still dream of a win on home soil and a first major trophy since Kroos and his teammates lifted the 2014 World Cup. Until the Denmark game, Germany had not won a major-tournament knockout game since Euro 2016. The win continues the sense that Germany is

finally turning things

around under coach Julian

Nagelsmann after years of

He took over last year with

a mission to deliver a host-

nation success story at Euro

2024, and has already

signed an extension for the

disappointment.

2026 World Cup.

For now, it stings, just gut-wrenching: SA skipper Markram on World Cup heartbreak

PTI BRIDGETOWN

A devastated South African skipper Aiden Markram is hopeful that at some point he would be able to see the good in his team's T20 World Cup campaign but for now, all he feels is a "sting" which, he hopes, will ensure a "fire in the belly for next time". South Africa needed 30 off 30

South Africa needed 30 off 30 balls in a chase of 176 against India but fell short by seven runs despite Heinrich Klaasen's awe-inspiring 27-ball 52 in the see-saw summit clash 52 in the see-saw summit clash here on Saturday.

India had Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya's death bowling and a blinder of a catch



While the Indian players had happy tears in their eyes, the Proteas broke down in the realisation that another major title had slipped through their hands, only this time at the final hurdle.

"It's just gut wrenching, that's really what it is. Each player has been on a different individual journey to get to this first final. Ultimately you become really tight as a group and you want good things to happen to this group because you know they're great people," you know they're great people," he said.

...When you get really close like that, especially the nature of how the game went, ziously adds to the emotions and it's one of those things but yeah, we can channel it moving forward but I think next couple of days you let it

Told crowd to behave because Hardik is big-stage player: Sanjay Manjrekar

PTI NEW DELHI

When Sanjay Manjrekar schooled the Wankhede crowd to "behave" after they booed the newly-appointed Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya, all he wanted the public to realise that their boorish behaviour targeting a "big stage player", was unfair. Pandya was jeered at every venue after he was handed captaincy by MI, signalling a controversial end to the successful and popular Rohit Sharma's tenure at the helm.



I game before he retires. Germany's Euro 2024 title challenge looks more real than ever.

🗖 oni Kroos gets another

One of the most decorated players in modern soccer with six Champions League titles and a World Cup, Kroos wasn't flashy as Germany beat Denmark 2-0 on Saturday, but he was a calm, assured presence holding the midfield together

Kroos already won the Champions League with Real Madrid this season. Now he's three games away from one final trophy and could face his Madrid teammate, Spain's Dani Carvajal, in his next game. Some fans already have their eyes on the final in the German capital and sang about heading to Berlin as Germany saw out the win.

Suryakumar Yadav to thank for the close win after the peerless Virat Kohli set up the match for them with a brilliant 76-run knock. "It's not the first game of

cricket that's been lost with a team needing 30 of 30 - it's more that India was allowed to bowl well, they're allowed to field well, they're allowed to go

from that position to a managed to get rid of the for next time that you're here,' position of strength," the 29- chokers' tag to an extent by he said. year-old Markram said in the post-match press conference. "...Right now to pinpoint something is quite tough but we'll reflect over the next few days, over the next few weeks, try and find areas that we could have maybe improved in during today's game, but also

chokers' tag to an extent by making their first World Cup Markram

final. "I think one thing that I will definitely say is how proud we are. Not just of today, the game itself, but the competition as a whole, the build-up to get here. "So, in hindsight, the things will still feel really good about to highlight the things that this competition. But like I went really well for us," he mentioned, just for the time

proud of his teammates, who that little bit of fire in the belly

practicing

everything

stroke, all techniques."

each

to

admitted that

Klaasen will find it tough to make peace with the result

after such a "special effort". "We've seen him do it many many times around the world and to deliver it in a stage like this is a really special effort. So, it's going to be tough for him, that's what I say when I mean we reflect back.

added. The pain aside, Markram is good for it to sting. It gives you things to be happy about," he said

"...You let yourself feel the way you want to feel and then really start reflecting in a positive manner.'

Despite the disappointment and heartbreak, Markram did not forget to applaud India's brilliance and composure in the final.

"It's tournament cricket, it's tough cricket, it's not easy to win trophies and you've got to take your hats off to a team like India for lifting the trophy. A lot of hard work

goes into it. "But yeah, we'd like to think we're one step closer and hopefully moving forward we can get that first win and it can be a snowball effect of quite a few to come," he said.

The whole episode deep-level impact on Pandya. Manjrekar, while conducting the toss at the Wankhede during a home match of MI, did interject but it only led to a meme-fest by the insensitive social media trolls.

Pandya played a major part in India's second T20 World Cup trophy with 144 runs and 11 wickets, and Manjrekar now stands vindicated.

"What a turnaround for Hardik Pandya. In IPL, there were people jeering him and booing him and I told them to behave because this is a big-stage player," Manjrekar told 'ESPNCricinfo'.

The former India player and noted pundit always knew that Pandya would hold his nerve in pressure situations as he brought his team back in the game with the wicket of the dangerous Heinrich Klaasen and then closed out

umpteen times, wickets of Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and right at the end, Rabada, so he was a champion and no surprise, to see him flourish on the big stage," Manjrekar said.

Manjrekar reminded Indian fans that even in their humiliating defeat against England in Adelaide, back in 2022 edition, the the colourful Baroda man was a face-saver and a calm presence under pressure.

"Even in that semifinal against England, he came in and gave India some hope with 60 off 33. So that's what he is all about.

"You felt safe when he came to bowl in the last over, he was not going to lose his nerves, he was going to bowl sensibly," he concluded.

Sindhu focussed on perfecting her skills to bag third Olympic medal

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Olympic ¬wo-time L medallist P V Sindhu is physically and mentally in best shape but realises she needs to be "much more smarter" in her pursuit of a third medal at the Games. Sindhu had claimed a silver and bronze medal at the last two Olympics at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo and will be heading into Paris with the aim of becoming the first Indian to win three Olympic medals.

"It is challenging, it's not easy but, at the same time, it's not impossible," Sindhu said during an interaction to Paris directly from there

conducted by Sports Authority of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the

the country."

the

when the Games begin on July 26. .. Physically and mentally I

Badminton Association of India. "Going into the third

Olympics, I need to be smarter. I have a lot of experience on my side and I need to be much more smarter and I hope I can change the colour, and of

physical part. 'I am working on all the course, get another medal for things.

Sindhu is currently training at Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule in Saarbrucken, Germany after her proposal was cleared by the sports ministry. She will be heading

am right there, I just have to be smarter and my coach Agus (Dwi Santoso) has been taking care of that, my trainer has been taking care of my

strokes, whether it is defense, or attack or netplay, it is important to be perfect in all "So I'm not focussing on just

one stroke or technique, because you never know what it is going to be, there are players who are smart enough to change and move to plan B. "So you need to be prepared



for it and I am focusing on Asked why she picked Germany as her training base and make ahead of the Games, Sindhu everything perfect -- each said: "Prakash (Padukone) sir, and we all discussed and

thought, it will be a good Coming to the finals is not an place, it is near to Paris, it is in easy thing. And, finishing between nowhere, so I am much more focussed.

"I have taken few sparring partners and have a team and currently training here has been very peaceful. I can focus even more before the Olympics.

Sindhu has spent most time on the court in the run-up to the Olympics but she hasn't been consistent enough or beating the top players. The Indian, though, did manage a runner-up finish at Malaysia Masters super 500.

"It took me some time to come back (from injury) and I feel that now I'm doing well.

easy thing. And, finishing not finishing matches, matches, it depends on how

we play. "Sometimes nothing might work out," she said referring to the loss in Malaysian Masters final.

"I feel that there's been a lot of improvement and I know that I can do much better and I'm confident that I'm getting there. I need to keep believing in myself and keep working much harder. "I feel the Olympics is

something where it will be very different. I don't want to compare with others but looking at my form, I'm in great shape and it's just that you have to play very differently with every player. "It's a different style of play. I think the strategy will be very different whether it is Chen Yu Fei or An Seyoung. It also depends on the draws, with whom I play. Looking

forward to going to the Olympics. So, yeah, hoping for the best."

Sindhu, who trained under Pullela Gopichand for many vears, moved from Hyderabad to Bengaluru after trying out four different

coaches in 12 months. The ace shuttler feels the level of competition now is very high.

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