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PEOPLE SAY I AM AT MY BEST: BUMRAH 12 SPORTS

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BJP keeps plum of Cabinet pie



to right): Amit Shah (Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation), Rajnath Singh (Minister of Defence), Nirmala Sitharaman (Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs), Piyush Goyal (Minister of Commerce and Industry), Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology) and Chirag Paswan (Minister of Food Processing Industries)

RAJESH KUMAR/DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

There is no big change in the Team Modi 3.0 as some of the top Ministers will continue with their erstwhile portfolios hence giving no scope to the major coalition partners — TDP, ID(U) — to flex their muscles to take the reins of important Ministries. The allocation of portfolios underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's faith in his colleagues, especially those handling the frontline Ministries which shaped and drove the Government's policies and programmes

Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Jaishankar and Nitin Gadkari – have been retained with their respective Ministries from the previous regime — Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs and Road, Transport and Highways portfolios, to give impetus to

first 100 days as mandated by

Modi before going for the Lok

Sabha polls this March Now all eyes will be on the full annual Budget to be presented by the Modi regime in the third term as the aspirations of alliance partners like review of controversial Agniveer

schemes etc has to be on the

platter.

The new Cabinet-led by Modi aimed for continuity while trying to strike a balance between giving space to BJP bigwigs and accommodating NDA allies. Now, sources said that there is a possibility that BJP will continue to keep the Lok Sabha Speaker's post with itself and not budge to the demands of TDP as speculated.

Sources said the Modi Government was reluctant to give the important Cabinet portfolios to its alliance partners. Notably, the NDA partners — TDP and Janata Dal (United) could not get the Cabinet portfolios which they demanded.

TDP's Kinjarapu Ram Mohan

Naidu will be the new Civil Aviation Minister, a post previously held lyotiraditya Scindia. TDP leader C Pemmasani, who is the richest candidate of the Modi Government, will be Minister of State for Rural Development Communications Scindia will be Cabinet Minister for communications

and

northeastern region. Piyush Goyal who emerged successful in the Lok Sabha polls has been retained as Minister of Commerce while Vaishnaw Ashwini to accelerate as Railways Minister and in addition, will return in the newly formed NDA Government as the Information and Broadcasting Minister, position previously held by

development

Anurag Singh Thakur. The NDA partners TDP and JD(U) were lobbying for Railways Ministry but the Government was reluctant to give it to its partners. Former Madhya Pradesh

and

while

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the new Agriculture Minister as well as Rural Development, and ex-Harvana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will now head the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which previously held by Hardeep Singh Puri. Dharmendra Pradhan will continue Education heading the Gujarat BJP Ministry Chandrakant president Raghunath Patil has been appointed as the new Jal Shakti Minister. Alongside Patil, V Somanna and Raj Bhushan Choudhary have been appointed as Ministers of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Somanna also takes on the role of Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways,

Dr Jitendra Singh is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and

according to an official

statement.

Technology; MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; MoS in the Prime Minister's Office; MoS in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy; and MoS in the Department of Space. Arjun Ram Meghwal is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and MoS in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao

is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and MoS in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship; and MoS in the Ministry of Education. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan is all set to become the new Minister of Food Processing

Industries.

Continued on Page 2



Army personnel during a search operation after a bus carrying pilgrims was ambushed by terrorists, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday. At least 9 people were killed and 33 others suffered injuries in the terror attack

Manhunt to nab **J&K** terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

day after suspected Pakistani terrorists des-Aday after suspected ransoning. targeting a passenger bus ferrying pilgrims via Shiv Khori Shrine to the Katra base camp in Reasi district, a joint team of security forces involving elite para commandos of the Indian Army on Monday launched a massive manhunt to track down the perpetrators behind the 'dastardly' attack. Despite the terror attack pilgrims remained undeterred as they arrived in large numbers to offer prayers at the Shiv Khori shrine on Monday.

While supervising the ongoing search operations in the area, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma told reporters on ground zero at least two terrorists were involved in the terror attack on Sunday.

A total number of nine people, including four members of a family from Jaipur in Rajasthan were killed and 41 others received critical injuries when their bus came under attack by a group of hiding terrorists. It is believed the terrorists belong to the same group of foreign terrorists responsible for targeting Army personnel in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in recent months.

Continued on Page 2

Manipur CM's security convoy ambushed, Biren not present at spot

PNS IMPHAL/NEW DELHI

Suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district on Mondav morning, leaving one personnel injured. The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Iiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30 am near Kotlen village along a stretch of National Highway-53, police officials said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said. The driver of one of the convoy vehicles suffered bullet injuries on his right shoulder, and he is being taken to a hospital in Imphal, the officer said. "Security forces have reached the ambush site, around 36 km from the state capital, and launched combing operations to trace the gunmen," he said. CM Biren Singh, who is yet to reach Imphal from Delhi, was planning to visit Jiribam to take stock of the situation in the district," said an official.

Two police outposts, a forest beat office and at least 70 houses were torched in Jiribam by suspected militants on Saturday in a fresh bout of violence in the ethnic strife-torn state. Biren was in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he described as his responsibility as a Chief Minister.

Singh condemned the ambush and termed it a direct attack on himself and the people of the State, assuring that the "rule of law" will be established. Speaking to reporters at Shija hospital, where the injured person is undergoing treatment, Singh said, "It is very unfortunate and highly condemnable. It's an attack on the Chief Minister, which means a direct attack on the people of the State. The state government has to do something... We will take a decision.'

Singh explained that fortunately the person was not seriously injured.

Continued on Page 2

Modi thanks estranged leaders of Canada, Pak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

In the backdrop of frosty ties between India and Canada, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday responded to a congratulatory message from his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau and said New Delhi looks forward to working with Ottawa based on mutual understanding and respect for "each other's con-

Prime Minister Shehbaz meanwhile, Sharif. Monday congratulated Modi for forming a Central Government for the record third time. In a social media post, Sharif said "Felicitations to Narendra Modi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of

Modi thanked Sharif for his congratulatory message. on retaining the top office for a third term. "Thank you @cmshehbaz for your good wishes," Modi said in reply to Sharif's message on X. Incidentally, Pakistan Prime

Minister's "felicitations" come davs after Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in an official statement it would be premature to congratulate Modi. Former Pakistan Prime

Minister and ruling party chief Nawaz Sharif also congratulated Modi for forming Central Government for the record third time. He noted that the Lok Sabha election mandate reflects the confidence of the people in Modi's leadership and urged to "replace hate

"My warm felicitations to Modi on assuming office for the third time. Your party's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership. Let

with hope".

us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," he wrote on X. The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a 'potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". "Thank you @CanadianPM

the congratulatory message. India looks forward to working with Canada on mutual understanding and respect for each other's concerns," Modi said in a post on 'X'.

In his June 6 message. Trudeau said Canada stands ready to work with the new Indian Government to advance the ties if they are anchored to human rights, diversity, and the rule of law. "Congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his electoral victory. Canada stands ready to work with his Government to advance the relationship between our nations' peoples anchored to human rights, diversity, and the rule of law," the Canadian Prime Minister

India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistani elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. There have been instances of pro-Khalistani elements threatening to harm Indian diplomats. Days after Trudeau's allegations last year, India had asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to

ensure parity.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Northwest India, including regions like Jammu division, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and parts of Jharkhand and Odisha in the East, is bracing for another bout of extreme heat in the coming days, with temperatures expected to soar over 45 The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has

issued warnings, indicating that heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to prevail over these areas in the next five days. This looming heatwave comes on the heels of a series of intense and prolonged heat waves experienced across the country in April and May. Tragically, many States, including Uttar States, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, have reported heatwaverelated deaths and illnesses. Since March, nearly 25,000 suspected cases of heat stroke and 56 deaths have been recorded as per data shared by the National Centre for

like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh being the worst hit. However, these figures might be just the tip of the iceberg as data from Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, and Delhi which also

Disease Control, with States

blistering experienced weather were not included. The IMD has forecast that the heatwave is likely to several including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Gangetic West Bengal. As per the IMD bulletin, heatwave conditions are likely in pockets of Jammu division, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha during the next 5 days; Himachal Pradesh from June 12 to 14: Uttarakhand from June 11 to 14; Rajasthan on

States, Delhi. June 12 and 13; Madhya Pradesh from June 12 to 14. Heatwave conditions are also likely in parts of Gangetic West Bengal until June 13. Heatwave to severe heatwave

conditions are predicted in isolated pockets from June 10 to 12 and in parts of Bihar from June 10 to 12. They were likely in parts of Uttar Pradesh until June 14. IMD director general M Mohapatra said the fresh spell

of heatwave is expected mainly due to an anticyclone which is causing subsidence of hot air over northwest India. 'The onset of heatwaves is attributed often anticyclones, which result in the subsidence of hot air over affected regions. This phenomenon leads to the compression and heating of air, creating a heat dome effect that traps heat and suppresses cloud formation. Consequently, cooler air currents are displaced,

exacerbating the heat," explained a Met official. **Continued on Page 2**

Get ready for second-degree burns Govt formation sideshow in Odisha, Andhra, Arunachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BHUBANESHWAR/

fter the formation of Narendra Modi-led NDA Government at Centre, the focus now shifts to the States Arunchal Pradesh and Sikkimwhere also Government formation is in process after the simultaneous polls with Lok Sabha were conducted.

While Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Himalayan State on Monday, BJP legislature party of Odisha and TDP legislatures in Andhra Pradesh have convened a meeting on Tuesday to elect the Chief Minister of their States and new Governments will take oath on Wednesday. BJP has appointed Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Bhupendra Yadav to oversee the selection of the new Chief Minister of Odisha.

The other winning State of BJP is Arunachal Pradesh which secured 46 seats in the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly led by incumbent CM Pema Khandu. While the results



Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang greets people before taking oath as Chief Minister during the swearing-in ceremony, in Gangtok

were declared on June 2 along with Sikkim, the swearing in ceremony was delayed due the party's preoccupations in Delhi as Modi was to take oath for the third time.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which is the major partner of BJP in NDA has also convened its Legislature Meeting on June 11 to elect N Chandrababu Naidu as the leader and the oath ceremony is being scheduled for Wednesday.

BJP secured a majority by winning 78 seats in the 147member Odisha Assembly. However, the party is yet to choose a leader who will be at the helm of the State. While the chance of senior Odisha MP Dharmendra Pradhan becoming the next Chief Minister of the State

seems bleak after his induction into the Modi 3.0 Government, the focus is now on Brajarajnagar MLA-elect Suresh Pujari, who returned from New Delhi on Monday.

Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, the BJP's Odisha in-charge, said, "The legislature party meeting will be held on Tuesday and the new Government will take oath on June 12." "Experienced leaders led by newly-appointed observers Rajnath Singh and Bhungager Yaday Singh and Bhupender Yadav will hold a discussion with the legislators," Pujari told the media.

Besides Pujari, state BJP president Manmohan Samal, KV Singh and Mohan Majhi are also in the race for the Chief Minister's post.

Continued on Page 2

official procedure was being

carried out on the stage

Delhi Police scores big in India-Pak T20 match

Kand humorous takes, the than a day.

share a quirky post while share a quirky post tagging the New York Police Department (NYPD). The police posted, "Hey, @NYPDnews We heard two loud noises. One is 'Indiaaa.. probably televisions. Can you please confirm?' The post went viral almost immediately. It was reposted by over 7,700 people, reached

the Delhi Police were quick to

over one million views, was department

Continued on Page 2 | leopard, was seen casually Madhya

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI s Prime Minister Narenda

Council of Ministers were taking oath for his third consecutive term on Sunday, an uninvited guest caught the attention of social media users at the grand forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Delhi Police, however,

through its social media handle said claims of a wild animal at the ceremony are false. "It was not wild. Ignore such baseless rumors," the police said in a post. A short video clip of the

ceremony has gone viral in which netizens noticed an animal roaming in the corridors of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The animal, allegedly a

Bhavan when the official procedure was being carried The incident took place when

Pradesh

as DD Uikey, was taking oath as one of the Union Ministers. In the video, an animal was seen casually walking at the

walking in the Rashtrapati Durgadas Uikey, also known

Big cat photobombs oath pageant

Rashtrapati Bhavan when the

Several internet users took to social media and commented "Was it a leopard? An ordinary cat? Or a dog?" as the video was widely shared. Some alleged that the animal was a leopard while others wondered if it was a pet animal and some even raised questions over the video's authenticity. Some users even claimed that the video was edited with a focus on its background.

Reacting to the viral video, a user wrote, "So wild animals are now casually roaming about in Rashtrapati about in Rashtrapati Bhavan?? That is not a pet animal. What was the security doing?? Did all the CCTV footages break? Were the security personnel sleeping in the control room?"

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI game by taking three wickets,

nown for its witty post

Delhi Police's handle on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has left netizens laughing through its unique meme soon after the blockbuster India-Pakistan clash in the T20 World Cup in New York as the Indian team beat its archrivals in a low-scoring nail-biting clash. The post garnered over one million views in less As millions were glued to

their screens as India defeated

Pakistan by six runs in the

highly-anticipated T20 World

celebratory posts flooded

social media. As fast bowler

Continued on Page 2 | Jasprit Bumrah ended the

2024 on Sunday,

India!', and another is probably of broken

liked by over 46,000 people, and had more than 1,200 comments. However, this is not the first time that the police deploying social media for its

Sri Lanka's plantation workers rejoice over Modi's success

It turned out to be a special Sunday on the 9th June for hundreds of plantation work ers in Harrington Tea Estate in Kotagalla village of Sri Lanka's Nuwara Eliya district. The day on which Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in succession, devotees of Muthumari Amman Temple in the picturesque plantation gathered in

large numbers to thank the presiding deity for his success. Swami Bhasker Sharma, the chief priest, told the devotees that Modi's victory in the election is the result of the good deeds done by him and his government during the last ten years. "Modi's victory is the fall out of the silent prayers from us as he had ordered the construction of 10,000 houses for the plantation workers in Sri Lanka who had no roofs over their heads. He also played a major role in the realization of the Lord Ram Temple at Ayodhya, the aspiration of Hindus across the world," said



Ramaswami Wijayabalan, the owner of Harrington Estate pointed out that Modi was the perfect ambassador of Sri Lankan Tea.

"We were all moved to tears when he pointed out that the Sri Lankan Tea is flavored by the island nation's salubrious soil and weather and the sweat of the Tamil plantation workers from India. He was the first top leader who acknowledged the role of Tamil workers in the cultivation of Sri Lankan tea," Wijayabalan told the Pioneer from Nuwara Eliya.

The Harrington Estate is unique because of the presence of Seetha Matha Temple.

Though Chauhan had offered 'It is here that the demon king Rs one crore towards the tem-Ravana who had kidnapped ple, the Congress-led govern-Seetha Matha kept her in capment did not allow it," said tivity. The spot is known as Wijayabalan. The money was Seetha Eliya and it was from a meant for the renovation and nearby Thevurum Temple that Maha Kumbhabhishekam of

New Delhi.

Shinde, two deputies go for a ride on Rolls Royce on Mumbai Coastal Road

MCR SOUTH-NORTH ARM TO BE OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM TODAY

TN RAGHUNATHA

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde cleared the decks for the use of the second phase of the toll-free Mumbai Coastal Road (MCR) in style on Monday, as he hopped onto a gleaming vintage 1930 Rolls Royce-20/25 open-to-sky car along with two of his deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar and rode the entire stretch of the newly constructed road.

The south-north arm of the MCR will be formally thrown open to traffic from Tuesday. This stretch of MCR will bring down commute time from Marine Lines to Haji Ali in south Mumbai from the current one hour to mere eight minutes. Though the Maharashtra government preferred to call the event as inspection of the new road, it

was as good as inauguration of the phase 2 of the MCR, as Shinde - with Fadnavis and Ajitdada (as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles) - boarded the roofless vintage steely-grey beauty and had a memorable drive along the entire stretch of the road. With Shinde in the front seat, along with Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar in the back seat, the Rolls Royce-20/25 negotiated with ease the swank new road. which has been named as "Dharmaveer Swarajyarakshak Sambhaji Maharaj Coastal Road (south).

The MCR has been named after Hindavi Swaraj founder Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's son Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj (May 14, 1657-March 11, 1689) who ruled the Maratha kingdom from January 1681 till his death in March 1689.

Interestingly enough, the state government had borrowed the highly-priced, well-maintained Rolls Royce-20/25 from its proud owner Raymonds Group



Chairman Gautam Singhania for the event. The first phase of this 10.5 km stretch of MCA -

 the north-south arm from Worli to Marine Lines involving the twin tunnels -- had been inaugurated on March 11. Being a toll-free road, this stretch of the MCR is being increasingly used by motorists in the metropolis.

Talking to media persons after the event, Shinde said that the new stretch of the MCR, which will be thrown open to the public on Tuesday, has been equipped with all the modern amenities. "I am sure this road will not only prove to be a boon for the motorists but it will also decongest traffic to and from south Mumbai to the northern parts of the city. The MCR will be fully completed by October this year,"the chief minister said. Being constructed by the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the MCR involves twin-tunnels running below the Malabar Hill.

Once operational, the MCR will slash the road commute time from 60 minutes to barely eight minutes, and is expected to be extended from Worli to Dahisar (north-west Mumbai) and beyond, in the coming years.

Modi Cabinet approves three crore houses under PMAY

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

day after taking oath for his Ahistoric third consecutive term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held his first Union Cabinet meeting and approved Government assistance for the construction of three crore houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The Cabinet has also approved a proposal, advising the President to formulate the 18th Lok Sabha. Earlier, hours after taking oath for the historic third term at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office on Monday and signed his first file authorising the release of 17th installment of the 'PM Kisan Nidhi' funds amounting to nearly Rs 20,000 crore, which will benefit around 9.3 crore farmers. After signing on to the release of funds, Modi said, "Ours is a government fully committed to 'kisan kalyan' (farmers' wel-

Will win three out of four seats in Bengal bypolls: Suvendu

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Fresh from an electoral drubbing at the hands of the Trinamool Congress, the Bengal BJP leaders have said that they would revive and restore the party's lost glory in the upcoming by-elections for four Assembly seats.

The by-elections to Raiganj, Bagdah, Ranaghat South and Maniktala seats would be held

Three out of the four seats including Raiganj in North Bengal — other seats including Maniktala which is an Assembly segment in the Kolkata North parliamentary constituency are in South Bengal — were clinched by the BJP in 2021 Assembly elections but all the three MLAs later switched turned coat to join the

'There is a difference between the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections... the issues are different, often candidates Kunal Ghosh said.

too are different... so the result often changes... besides this time round the votes that went to Left and Congress would return to the BJP considering the fact that the BJP has once again emerged as the only opposition party for all practical reasons... the people will definitely vote for us and we shall win at least three out of four seats," State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari who returned to Kolkata after a brief stay in the national Capital

Confident from its fantastic show in the parliamentary polls TMC leadership however said that the by-elections were going to be an encore of the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP has lost its sheen and soon it will be reduced to a sign board if not a visiting card ... they have been given the half dose by the people of Bengal ... now they will be given the full dose ... they will return empty handed," TMC spokesperson

40 MLAs of MahaYuti to cross over to MVA within a month: Maharashtra LoP

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Former chief minister of

Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh

Chauhan had visited the Seetha

Matha Temple when the UPA

Government was in power in

T eader of the Opposition in the LMaharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar of the Congress set the cat among pigeons by claiming that as many as 40 MLAs of the ruling MahaYuti would cross over to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) within a month, ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. Amid speculation about a possible State Cabinet expansion and other "damage-control" measures planned by chief minister Eknath Shinde to arrest brewing resentment within MahaYuti ranks, the ruling Waddetiwar said that MLAs belonging to Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and NCP (Ajit Pawr) were preparing to make a "ghar-wapasi" within a month so.

Talking to media persons, Wadettiwar said: "After the recent Lok Sabha elections, many of the ruling MahaYuti MLAs are in touch with us. They want to come back to their parent parties ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held later this year".

One of the reasons being cited for many of the ruling Maha Yuti wanting to cross over to the ruling MVA is the superlative performance put by

the three Opposition alliance constituents - Congress, NCP (S)) and Shiv Sena).

Given that the Opposition MVA has established leads in more than 150 out of the total 288 Assembly segments in terms of the votes polled in their favour in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, many of the MahaYuti MLAs fear that they might lose the State Assembly polls if they were contest as the MahaYuti in the State

However, the ruling MahaYuti leaders dismiss the claim by Wadettiwar as part of the mind games being played by the Opposition leaders to create confusion among their MLAs and that there was no truth in it. Wadettiwar's claim comes on the heels of a claim made by Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske that two Opposition Sena (UBT) MP were "in touch" with his party leadership and that they might switch sides to the ruling MahaYuti along with a few more MPs and support the new NDA government at the Centre. However, the Shiv Sena (UBT) swiftly denied Mhaske's claim. Meanwhile, informed sources in the ruling MahaYuti said that chief minister Shinde was planning to go in for

a cabinet expansion, appointment of heads of the state-run corporations and filling up of 12 vacancies in the State Legislative Council to eliminate brewing resentment within the ruling ranks.

The sources said that chief minister Shinde, deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP and Ajit Pawar of the NCP had initiated talks among themselves in this regard. Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, on June 30,

Currently, there are 29 ministers including the chief minister and two deputy chief ministers, 14 short of the stipulated 43 ministers -- a number that accounts for 15 percent of 288 members in the State Assembly.

In essence, the CM can accommodate 14 more ministers in his Cabinet. Shinde may go in for an expansion of his cabinet ahead of the monsoon session of the State Legislature scheduled to begin from the last week of June.
As part of the "damage-control" exercise, the state government might also recommend names of 12 persons to Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais to fill that many vacancies in the State Legislature.

BJP keeps

From Page 1 Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy will head the Ministries of Steel and Heavy Industries. Ravneet Singh Bittu, who lost the Ludhiana seat in the Lok Sabha elections, will head the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Former Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju will take charge of Parliamentary Affairs, a role previously held by Pralhad Joshi. Joshi has been reassigned to the Food, Consumer Affairs, and Renewable Energy departments.

Giriraj Singh has been moved to Textiles, a department formerly managed by Smriti Irani. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will now be the Minister of Culture and Tourism. All eyes will be on who is chosen to head the BJP as JP Nadda has been given charge of Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilizers. Meanwhile,

Mansukh Mandaviya has been moved to Ministries of Labour and Employment, and Youth Affairs and Sports. Annapurna Devi, one of the two women Cabinet Ministers, will head the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Savitri Thakur is the new Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Former Bihar CM and Hindustani Awam

Morcha (Secular) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi will head the Ministry of MSME while JD(U) leader Ram Nath Thakur MoS Agriculture.

veini Police Scores big in...

An 'X' user replied, "The one handling this deserves a raise," while another posted "What a ripper. I admire the fellow who manages this handle. You guys rock," and accompanied it with Earlier too, the police have used this platform to connect with the people through creative means

including the trend "look between your keyboard". As the trend went viral, the Delhi Police jumped on the bandwagon of memes that used this trend to warn people about texting while driving. Delhi Police posted, "If you look at your keyboard while driving, the thing between Q and R will meet you with a challan."On Sunday, the Delhi Police yet another quirky post alarmed the New York police of a 'fight'. On a post in X, the police said, "Dear @NYPDnews, Just to tip you off: An interesting, delightful fight is expected at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium today. Good luck to #TeamIndia! #INDvsPAK #INDvPAK #T20WorldCup"

Get ready for second-degree...

While extreme heat can be a risk factor for all ages, older follow-up people, pregnant women, and people with chronic morbidities besides those from the marginalised communities like labourers, are particularly at risk of mortality and morbidity associated with (extreme)

The Union Health Ministry has been conducting review meetings with states to ensure preparedness for heatwaves and to prevent incidents like hospital fires during the summer months. DGHS Dr Atul Goel in a recent meeting on June 6 had

ensuring dedicated Heat and strengthening surveillance as well as implement critical fire and electrical safety measures at all health care facilities.

wave in May. Hills of Assam, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, recorded all-time high temperatures with mercury breaching degrees Celsius in Rajasthan

urged the State health According to 'World authorities to conduct Weather Attribution', a follow-up reviews for group of leading climate scientists, similar heatwaves Stroke rooms, ORS corners could occur once every 30 years and these have already become about 45 times more likely due to climate

change. As per a World Bank report, The country has this year India could account for 34 witnessed the worst heat million of the projected 80 million global job losses from heat stress-associated productivity decline by 2030 while yet another study has warned that India faces food losses worth USD 13 billion a year, with only four per cent and neared this mark in of fresh produce covered by and Haryana. cold chain facilities.

Manhunt to nab J&K...

To plug all the escape routes security forces, including the Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have laid a multi-layered cordon along the Teryath-Poni-Shiv Khori area bordering the Rajouri district to neutralise them at the earliest.

The security forces are expected to remain on their tenterhooks in the run-up to the beginning of the Amarnath yatra from June 29 as pilgrims from different parts of the country are scheduled to perform the pilgrimage.
The Union

Territory administration had already demanded the deployment of additional paramilitary forces during the yatra period to ensure incident-free pilgrimage.

Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones and sniffer dogs, a massive combing operation was underway in the adjoining areas of the Reasi district to instil confidence among the local population and the pilgrims visiting the religious places and other tourist destinations in the close vicinity during the summer Meanwhile, a local team of the National Investigation Agency, State Investigation Agency (SIA) and sleuths of the Forensic department also visited the spot of the terror attack to lift samples ahead of initiating a comprehensive probe. Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police RR Swain along with ADGP, Jammu Anand Jain also

visited the terror spot on

Monday and took stock of the ongoing operation. According to survivors of the Reasi terror attack, at least two terrorists were involved in the gruesome attack on a pilgrim bus. Santosh Kumar, who was undergoing treatment in District Hospital Reasi, told local reporters that a terrorist, dressed in combat fatigue, face covered with black patka, opened indiscriminate fire targeting the driver of the bus. The driver, according to the eyewitness, received a bullet

The terrorists, according to the eyewitness, opened fire on passengers when they were struggling to come out of the

injury on his forehead and

lost control of the bus before

it rolled down into a deep

wreckage of the bus after it veered off the road. According to hospital records, at least 10 passengers received gunshot injuries in the terror

attack. This is the fourth major terrorist strike in the Jammu region since January 1, 2024. An IAF soldier was martyred and four others were injured when terrorists ambushed their vehicle at Surankote in Poonch district on May 4.

On April 28, 2024, a Village Defence Guard (VDC) was martyred in a terror attack at Basantgarh in Udhampur district.

A Social Welfare Department (SWD) official was killed by the terrorists in Rajouri on April 22. His brother, a Territorial Army jawan, who was the target, survived the attack after he took shelter at a safe location.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Reasi) Vishesh Paul Mahajan in a statement said all nine victims, including the driver and the conductor of the bus, have been identified. Driver Vijay Kumar hailed from the Dasanoo Rajbagh village while conductor Arun Kumar was a native of Kandera village in Katra, both in the Reasi district.

Manipur CM's security convoy ambushed, Biren...

From Page 1
He said, "Earlier, the State Government did not retaliate much in the hope that an understanding could be achieved

"However, certain violent acts have been perpetuated on people as if a state government does not exist. This has hurt me deeply. There have been consistent insults

to existing state machineries, and we have tolerated them for The attack on an advance security team of the CM is an attack on the CM himself," Singh said, adding, "All are

requested to decide for themselves who are with the Government and who are against it." Meanwhile, additional State and Central forces, including Assam Rifles and CRPF, rushed to the ambush site and launched search operations to apprehend the perpetrators.

However, no arrests have been made. Jiribam district has been affected by violence since June 6. More than 70 houses have been torched, along with two

police outposts and one forest beat office. Around 600 people have been displaced due to the violence.

Govt formation sideshow in Odisha...

However, the BJP leadership might also spring a surprise as it had done in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh by announcing CMs, whose names had not been anticipated by political experts, a senior leader said recently.

The party has proposed to conduct a road show of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State Capital before the swearing-in ceremony on June 12. BJP also bagged 20 of 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Naidu after the meeting would meet Governor S Abdul Nazeer and stake claim to form the Government to be sworn-in on Wednesday. NDA won a landslide victory in the recently concluded simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Himalayan State on Monday.

He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium here.

Tamang, 56, became the Chief Minister for a second consecutive term. The SKM returned to power in Sikkim by a landslide victory, winning 31 seats in the 32-member Assembly.

The Opposition Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which ruled the State for 25 years in a row till 2019, could manage only one seat.

Modi congratulated Tamang on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim and wished him a fruitful tenure.

Modi thanks estranged leaders of Canada... neighbouring countries and the Indian Ocean region,

Canada subsequently withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from

Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia in Surrey on June 18 last year. The murder is being probed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(RCMP). Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi took four days to reply to Trudeau's congratulatory

other world leaders. In a related development,

Prime Minister Modi on Monday thanked world leaders for their wishes after former Afghan president he took oath for a third term Hamid Karzai and billionaire in office.Replying to the greetings of Ugandan President Yoweri K Museveni, Modi said in a post on X, "We will advance our strong partnership with Uganda. We were proud that Africa Union

whereas he had became a permanent member promptly responded to of G20 Presidency. We will similar well-wishes from further develop our historical connect in all areas. Finnish Prime Minister

Petteri Orpo, his Slovenian counterpart Robert Golob, philanthropist Bill Gates were among those whom Modi thanked for their wishes. As regards Sharif, he was not

invited to Modi's swearing-in

ceremony. On the other hand,

key figures from India's

Maldives, Prime Minister Kamal Pushpa Dahal 'Prachanda' of Nepal, and President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka, attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony alongside the Union council of ministers on

Mohamed Muizzu of the

including

Ties between India and Pakistan have always been

President

frosty, barring a few instances when the leaders of both nations sat together to ease the conflict. The exclusion of Shehbaz Sharif from the invitation list highlights the between the two countries.

strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation ongoing diplomatic tension of the state into two Union territories. The ties between India and India has been maintaining

The relations further

Pakistan came under severe that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such

LG assures AAP Government to take up issue of water supply with Haryana

 $D_{ ext{Vinai Kumar Saxena on}}^{ ext{elhi Lieutenant Governor}}$ Monday assured the AAP government that he will take up the water supply matter with the Haryana govern-ment. He advised the AAP government's ministers to not indulge in 'blame game'. Earlier,

Delhi Water Minister Atishi Marlena and Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj met Lieutenant Governor Saxena urging him to intervene in the water crisis issue and ask the BJP ruled Haryana to release water for Delhi. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Chief Executive Officer of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) A.

Government has accused the Haryana government of releasing insufficient water to Delhi amid the ongoing water crisis. After the meeting, Atishi said the LG assured them that he would talk to the Haryana government to ensure that the national capital's share of 1,050 cusecs water is released in the Munak canal. Saxena also advised the ministers to avoid blame games and pre-

vent wastage of water.
"The issue of 54 per cent unaccounted water and 40 per cent leakage in Delhi die to theft and unrepaired pipelines was again flagged by the LG and it was agreed by the Minister that a concrete plan of action for addressing this

ply with the Government of Haryana and request them to give extra water on human grounds. LG also assured that the issue of staffing at DJB and additional burden on the CEO (DJB) will be addressed suitably at the earliest," an official statement by Raj Niwas stated.

A team of Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) officials, along with senior offi-cials from GNCTD and Government of Haryana, inspected the supply of water at the head of Munak Canal in Delhi on Sunday's evening. "The team found the water supply from Haryana to be sufficient," it stated.

The inspection report revealed that Haryana on issue will soon be prepared by DJB. The LG assured that he cusec of water at Munak in



Haryana and the quantity of water released from Munak to Kakori for supply exclusively to Delhi, was 1161.084 cusec against the quota of 1050 cusec of water. "However, water received from Munak

Canal at Bawana in Delhi was 960.78 cusec, amounting to a loss of 200 cusec, i.e. 18 per cent, on that date. These losses should be less than 5 per cent as per the accepted

isters that he will take up the matter of supply with the government of Haryana and request them to give extra water on humanitarian grounds. This water loss has also been highlighted by the UYRB, in its meeting held on Thursday, where Delhi government and Haryana government both were represented. Flagging this huge water loss, the meeting minuted, "urgent action is needed for Delhi sub-branch to bring down the losses which is around 25 per cent". Munak Canal is the main source from where Delhi gets water from Haryana for supply to seven out of Delhi's nine

said Saxena assured the min-

"During transit, a huge quantity of water is lost and stolen

because of leakages due to non-repair of lining of the Canal as also theft by tankers, which were seen to be unauthorizedly lifting water during the inspection," it stated. In the meeting, LG also shared photographs with the Ministers where tankers were lined up along Munak Canal in Delhi and lifting water illegally. "However, it was also informed that during the current heat wave conditions, water received at Munak during May stood at an average 948 cusec and in June till now

the Munak Canal during its

course in Delhi. This happens

Following the Supreme Court order directing Himachal Pradesh to release additional water to Delhi, it also came

at an average 870 MGD," it

whether Himachal Pradesh was actually releasing the additional 137 cusec into Yamuna. The LG asked the Minister to take up the matter with the Government of Himachal Pradesh over the The issue of inordinate delay in the commissioning of

Chandrawal WTP and Dwarka WTP, pending since years, was also discussed. "He underlined that if the wastage of the water to the tune of 25 per cent in Munak Canal due to disrepair/theft, etc. and 54 per cent unaccounted water which includes 40% leakages and theft in the city itself is plugged, the water crisis in Delhi would automatically be resolved to a large extent," the

Raj Niwas statement after meeting misleading: Bharadwaj

Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday alleged that the press statement issued by the Delhi Lieutenant Governor House following a meeting over water situation in the national capital was "misleading" and demanded that the video of the meeting be put in the public domain.

There was no immediate reactions of the control of the contr

tion from the office of LG Vinai Kumar Saxena, who had met Delhi ministers Atishi and Bharadwaj and assured them to take up the water supply matter with the Haryana govern-

During a press conference, Bharadwaj was asked that the facts stated by Atishi and the LG Office press statement were different. Delhi Urban Development Minister said, "It is very unfortunate that the discussion that happened during the meeting is being presented in a wrong and false manner in the press statement. The press statement is quite misleading and portrays facts in a wrong

Meanwhile, the AAP held a protest on Monday at Haryana Bhawan over its allegation that the neighbouring state is not releasing Delhi's share of the

Yamuna's water, leading to a shortage in the city. Scores of AAP workers, including party MLA Kuldeep Kumar, raised slogans against the BJP-led Haryana government.

Bhardwaj claimed that there were three video cameras recording the proceedings of the meeting and said, "You have video-recorded the meeting. Please put it in the public

Delhi and the country see the discussion. Please make the video public. Let people see what discussion happens between ministers and LG. He cannot make it public because people will get to know his reality. This proves that Lt Governor and his office issue misleading press releases which is a criminal offence."

Bharadwaj also alleged that when he and Atishi reached the

LG Secretariat for the meeting, the security personnel asked them to deposit their phones outside. "We were asked to keep our phones outside and when we questioned, there was discussion among the police personnel and they allowed us to take our phones in the meeting. When we apprised LG sir over the matter, he apologised and said there must have been some miscommunication," he

said, "The BJP is playing dirty politics and depriving the people of Delhi of their share of water at a time when heatwave conditions are prevailing in north India. The Lt Governor should intervene as the representative of the people of Delhi," Kumar said.

After the meeting, Atishi said the Lt Governor assured them that he will talk to the Haryana government to ensure that the national capital's share of 1,050 cusecs water is released in the Munak canal.

The LG Office in a statement said Saxena assured the ministers that he will take up the matter of supply with the gov-ernment of Haryana and request them to give extra water on humanitarian grounds. Saxena also advised the ministers to avoid blame game and prevent wastage of

SC slams Delhi Government for failure to rectify defects in plea seeking surplus water release from Haryana

STAFF REPORTER

The Supreme Court on Monday slammed the Delhi government for not rectifying defects in its plea seeking a direction to Haryana to release the surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to the national capital to mitigate its water crisis. Expressing displeasure, the court asked the Arvind Kejriwal government to not take the top court for granted and even warned that the petition would be dismissed if the issue is not addressed. A vacation bench of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Prasanna B Varale noted that affidavits are not being accepted in the registry due to the defect in the petition filed by the Delhi government. "Why have you not cured the defect? We will dismiss the petition. On the last date also this

was pointed out and you did not remove the defect. Don't take the court proceedings for granted, however important your case

'Never take us for granted. Filings are not being accepted. You straightaway hand over a series of documents in court and then you say you are suffering a deficit of water and pass an order today itself. You are raising all grounds of urgency and sitting leisurely. Let everything come on record. We will take it the day after tomorrow," the bench said while adjourning the matter to

The top court said it wants to read the files before the matter is heard as there are so many things being reported in the newspaper.

"If we don't read the files at our residential office we will be impressed by whatever the newspapers are reporting. That

is not good for any of the parties," the bench said. At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Haryana, submitted the reply filed by the state government. The apex court asked Divan why did he file the reply now.

Divan replied that since the defects in the Delhi government's plea have not been rectified, pre-filing of the reply was not permitted by the recent The not permitted by the registry. The top court then rebuked the Delhi government. The counsel for the Delhi government submitted that defects have been removed. The acute shortage of drinking

water has become an "existential problem" in Delhi, the top court had earlier observed and directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital on Friday and Haryana

MCG to use high tech methods to prevent fire incidents at landfill site

STAFF REPORTER

 $T^{he \ Municipal \ Corporation}_{\ of \ Gurugram \ (MCG)}_{\ intends \ to \ use \ high-tech \ meth-}$ ods to prevent incidents of fire in the Bandhwari landfill site. According to MCG officials the civic body

is working on a plan to use thermal camera drones for this drones, the heat levels of the garbage dumps will be easily detected even during the night hours. This will help in controlling future fire incidents on time. This week, a demonstration to this end will be held at the Bandhwari site and will be conducted by a private com-

It is pertinent to mention that more than 20 incidents of fire have occurred at Bandhwari in recent times. Currently, about 13 lakh tonnes of garbage is lying here and private agencies are disposing of it.
"Fire in the garbage heaps is



गार्टी

Methane gas is formed under the garbage and when the temperature rises, the garbage catches fire as soon as the methane comes in contact with air. Despite all efforts, incidents of fire in garbage are not stopping," said a senior MCG official.An official said fire incidents occur only in the upper part of the garbage mountain. Fire engines face difficulty in spraying water there and the fire spreads as soon as the wind speeds up. Due to this, there is a plan to monitor the garbage mountain by flying a thermal sensor camera drone.

camera in the drone will detect the places on the garbage heap where the temperature is high and send the thermal image to the control room and app link. These sensor-equipped drones will be able to trace the heat in the garbage heap even in the dark of night.

As soon as the control room alert is received, the staff posted in Bandhwari and the fire department will come into action. After which the temperature will be controlled by sprinkling water," Dr. Balpreet Singh, Additional Municipal Commissioner said.

SC extends deadline given to AAP to vacate Rouse Avenue office **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended by nearly two months the June 15 deadline given to the Aam Admi Party to vacate its office at Rouse Avenue in the national capital. The top court had on March 4 direct-

ed the party to vacate its office by June 15 after noting that the plot was allotted to the Delĥi High Court for expanding judicial infra-

A vacation bench comprising

justices Vikran Nath and

Sandeep Mehta took note of

the submissions of senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the AAP and others, and extended the deadline till August 10, saying it was the last opportunity and that the party will have to hand over the vacant possession of the building at 206, Rouse Avenue here by then. The premises were allotted in 2020 to the Delhi High Court for creating infrastructure for the district judiciary in the national capital. At the out-

Delhiites to experience heatwave

degrees celsius in the city with

westerly winds blowing at 11.1

kmph.While Pusa recorded

maximum temperature of 45.5

degrees celsius, maximum tem-

perature at Jafarpur stood at

44.9 degrees celsius, Ayanagar

stood at 44.7 degrees celsius,

Lodi Road stood at 43.8



set, Singhvi urged the bench that the deadline be extended. Lawyer K Parmeshwar, appointed as amicus curiae to assist the apex court in the matter, said there was a shortage of 90 courtrooms for judicial officers.

We (the high court) are in dire conditions and now we may have to rent premises to accommodate the newlyrecruited judicial officers, who are undergoing training presently," he said. Parmeshwar said the AAP wanted some place in central

Delhi and they are being offered land at some other place in the city.

The premises in question had to be vacated by June 15, 2024. The premises are already allotted to the Delhi High Court in 2020. The expansion of judicial infrastructure is stultified and the cost of expansion is also a factor. This application is for extension of time till August 10, 2024.

"Considering facts and circumstances and as the last opportunity, we extend the

an undertaking to be given by the applicant (AAP) within a week before the registry of this court that they shall hand over vacant and peaceful possession by August 10, 2024,"

time till August 10, 2024 on

the bench ordered.

On March 4, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y
Chandrachud had directed the party to vacate its offices at Rouse Avenue in the national capital by June 15, after noting that the plot was Court for expanding judicial infrastructure.

It had said that the AAP has no lawful right to continue on the land. It had asked the AAP to approach the Land and Development Office under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry for allotment of land for its offices. Singhvi had submitted that AAP is one of the six national parties in the country and it is entitled to land in the New Delhi municipal area in accordance with its status.

"They are telling us as a national party we get nothing.

I'm given (land in) Badarpur, while everyone else is in better places. A particular government does not want me to be flourishing and working," Singhvi had said. Calling AAP an "encroacher", Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the top court that the land allotment to the party was revoked in June

Parameshwar had informed the bench that by a communication dated June 13, 2017, of the Delhi government apprised the National Secretary of the AAP that the allotment of Bungalow no.206 at Rouse Avenue stood revoked as per the directions of the Lieutenant Governor of

The AAP had earlier denied that its offices at Rouse Avenue are an encroachment on land allotted to the Delhi High Court for judicial infrastructure and told the top court that it was officially allotted to it by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Gangster arrested in bid to kill his wife's lover

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Agangster was arrested from Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area while on his way to exact revenge on a person with whom his wife was living when he was in jail. The officials said that the gang-

ster was identified as Akash alias Kana, a resident of Madanpur Khadar. He was searching for one

Ranjan, a member of Shahrukh gang, associated with Lawrence Bishnoi gang, who took his wife, they said.

Ranjan's house was set on fire by Akash in the intervening night of August 31 and September 1, police said.

"The accused Kana is involved in multiple cases, including a robbery-cum-murder case in Sarita Vihar. When he was released from jail on bail in 2023, he found his wife living with Ranjan. In order to seek revenge, he set Ranjan's house on fire in which Kanjan sustained severe burn injuries,' said Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Rakesh

The DCP said that they got



movement of Akash.

"It also came to notice that accused Akash always carries a loaded pistol and is in search of Ranjan for revenge," he added. A team was formed and the accused was apprehended from Iaitpur Kalindi Kunj Road in Delhi while he was riding a stolen motorcycle to commit another crime, police said.

"He resisted arrest, but the team overpowered him and recovered one loaded pistol, five cartridges from his possession," the DCP said.

On interrogation, Akash disclosed that due to his wife's infidelity, he wanted to eliminate Ranjan and he was looking for an opportunity to kill him, police said.

conditions for four consecutive days **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital wit-▲ nessed temperatures soaring above 45 degrees celsius, with the maximum being recorded at 46.6 degrees celsius at north west Delhi's Narela, seven notches above the season's average.Despite some relief in between, Delhiites, who are grappling with unprecedented summer heat, will experience heatwave conditions in the city for four consecutive days.

Located on the border of Haryana, both Narela and Najafgarh take the first blows of hot air coming from Rajasthan. These two areas, along with Mungeshpur, have been recording temperatures above 45 degrees celsius. Najafgarh recorded the maximum temperature of 46.3 degrees celsius, six degrees above the season's average during this period. The data for Mungeshpur has not been available on the IMD website following the department's claim that the sensors are faulty in the weather station.

The IMD predicted partly cloudy sky, heat wave condi-



The Safdarjung station, considered as a parameter for the whole of Delhi, recorded a maximum temperature of 43.4degrees Celsius, 3.5 notches above the season's average. The minimum temperature settled at 28.6 degrees celsius, celsius one degree above the normal. Humidity level recorded at 5:30 pm stood at 20 per cent. The heat index stood at 42.3

degrees celsius, Palam stood at 44.1 degrees celsius, Ridge stood at 44.6 degrees celsius, Pitampura stood at 45.7 degrees celsius, Pragati Maidan stood at 43.1 degrees celsius, Rajghat stood at 43.1 degrees celsius, and Salwan Public school stood at 43.3 degrees The Air Quality Index (AQI) of

the All Quality index (AQI) of the national capital was record-ed in the "moderate" category with a reading of 108 at 7 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500

Committed to fulfilling promises made to people: MoS Harshdeep

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELH

Minister of State (MoS) Harshdeep Malhotra, the lone pick from Delhi in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's council of ministers, on Monday said he is committed to fulfilling the promises made to the people, including a trans-Yamuna campus of Delhi University and providing houses to slum dwellers in his constituency. Malhotra is a firsttime MP who defeated his nearest rival AAP and joint INDIA alliance candidate Kuldeep Kumar by a margin of over 93,000 votes in the East Delhi constituency. "I intend to start work on my promises of establishing a Delhi University campus in Karkardoom in East Delhi as well as replacing the Kalandar Colony slum with permanent houses," he said.

The former mayor of erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation said he was also committed to constructing a multi-level parking facility in his constituency. The facility was promised by him in his manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections. "I will also ensure that the promises and guarantees



mentioned in the BJP's Sankalp Patra for the Lok Sabha polls are implemented across the whole city," Malhotra said.

The BJP made a clean sweep in the May 25 Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, winning all the seven seats for a third consecutive time, The AAP and Congress had entered into a seat-sharing agreement to fight the Lok Sabha polls in the national capital.

Malhotra expressed deep gratitude towards the people of Delhi for the BJP's grand succession of the blad side of the BJP's grand succession of the BJP's gra cess in the polls and said he will make efforts to live up to their expectations as a minister. He took oath as a Union Minister of State in the grand swearingin ceremony of the Modi gov-

Known for his amiable nature, Malhotra is an experienced BJP leader whose organisation skills are well recognised by the party leadership. As a general secretary of the Delhi BJP, he took care of a lot of documentation work related to the organisation, policies and programmes of the party.

ernment on Sunday

His elevation as a minister in the Modi government surprised many in the BJP who were expecting Manoj Tiwari, elected for the third time from North East Delhi seat, and late Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri Swaraj, who won the prestigious New Delhi seat, to be inducted in the Union council of ministers.

Bypolls for 13 Assembly seats in 7 States on July 10

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Election Commission Ton Monday announced bypolls to 13 assembly constituencies across seven states, including four in West Bengal, on July 10. The bypolls are to be held against vacancies created either due to deaths or resignation of incumbent mem-

The assembly seats going for bypolls are Rupauli (Bihar), Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Maniktala (all West Bengal), Vikravandi (Tamil Nadu), Amarwara (Madhya Pradesh), Badrinath and Manglaur (Uttarakhand), Jalandhar West (Punjab) and Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh).

The notification for the elections will be issued on June 14, the last date for filing of nomination papers is June 21, the poll papers will be scrutinised on June 24 and the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is June 26. The bypolls will be held on July 10 and the counting of votes will be on July 13. The Election Commission said the bypolls have to be completed before July 15.

The bypoll to the Jalandhar West assembly constituency was necessitated by the resignation of Sheetal Angural Angural was AAP's Jalandhar West (SC) lawmaker. He resigned from the assembly on March 28, a day after he and then-Jalandhar MP Sushil Rinku switched over to the BJP



from AAP. During the 2022 assembly polls, Angural defeated Rinku, who was the Congress candidate, from the Jalandhar West constituency. The Amarwara assembly seat in MP was won by Kamlesh Shah on a Congress ticket in the November 2023 elections when he defeated BJP nominee Monika Manmohan Shah Batti by a margin of 25,086 votes. The byelection was necessitated after Kamlesh Shah, a threetime Congress MLA from Amarwara, resigned on March 29 this year and joined the ruling BJP soon after. Shah subsequently resigned from the state assembly. Historically, since 1972, the BIP has won the Amarwara (ST) seat, twice—in 1990 and 2008—while the Congress bagged it nine times. The Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP), a tribal outfit, secured this constituency once in 2003.Bypolls for three

assembly seats in Himachal

Pradesh represented by three

Independent lawmakers who resigned from the assembly and joined the BJP. The three Independent MLAs -- Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur), Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra) and KL Thakur (Nalagarh) -- resigned from the assembly on March 22 and joined the BJP the following

The by-election to the Rupauli assembly seat, a part of the Purnea Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar, was necessitated following the resignation of sitting JD(U) MLA Bima Bharti, who recently switched over to the RJD and contested the Lok Sabha polls as its candidate from the Purnea seat.

The Badrinath seat in Uttarakhand fell vacant after Congress MLA Rajendra Bhandari resigned from the House in March and joined the BJP. The bypoll to the Manglaur seat was necessitated by the death of Bahujan Samai Party (BSP) MLA Sarwat Karim Ansari last October.

Sonia meets Bangladesh PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

ongress Parliamentary Congress random Sonia Gandhi met with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here on Monday and held discussions on a wide range of

Sonia Gandhi was accompanied by her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, besides her daughter and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed this afternoon in New Delhi," the Congress said in a social media post.

"We discussed a wide range of topics to further strengthen the natural bond that India

and Bangladesh share, based on trust, cooperation, and a commitment to mutual growth," Rahul Gandhi said in a post on his WhatsApp

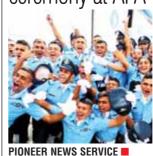
The Congress also shared the video, besides pictures of the meeting and said they discussed a wide range of topics to strengthen the India-

channel. He also shared

video of the meeting with

Bangladesh bond. The photos showed Hasina greeting Sonia Gandhi with a hug. The Gandhi family shares a close bond with Sheikh Hasina's family. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka also met with the visiting Bangladesh delegation accompanying the prime minister.

Hasina arrived in Delhi on Saturday to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on IAF Chief to attend graduation ceremony at AFA



IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari will attend the graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, in Hyderabad on June 15, officials said here on Monday.

This will mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the defence ministry said in a statement.

"The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad, will be held on 15 June, 2024, with traditional military splendour, to mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the Flying and Ground Duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF)," it

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari would be the Reviewing Officer of the parade, the statement said. During the function, he will confer the President's Commission to the graduating

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN MODI 3.0

NAME	MINISTRY
ra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of:
- 10	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and
78	Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy;
30 / Bh	Department of Space; All important policy issues;
1000	and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister
	CABINET MINISTERS
Singh	Minister of Defence.

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari Jagat Prakash Nadda Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shivraj Singh Chouhan Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Minister of External Affairs.

Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Minister

Minister of Heavy Industries; and Minister of Steel Minister of Commerce and Industry Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Education. Minister of Micro. Small and Medium Enterprises Minister of Panchayati Raj; and Minister

Minister of Culture: and Minister of Tourism

Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sarbananda Sonowal Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Dr Virendra Kumar Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Minister of Civil Aviation.

KR Naidu Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Pralhad Joshi Distribution: and Minister of New and Renewable Jual Oram Minister of Tribal Affairs Girirai Singh Minister of Textiles.

HD Kumaraswamy

Jitan Ram Manihi

Gajendra S Shekhawat

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Ashwini Vaishnaw Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. Jyotiraditya M Scindia Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region. Bhupender Yadav Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Annpurna Devi Minister of Women and Child Development Kiren Riiiiu Minister of Parliamentary Affairs: and Minister of Minority Affairs. Hardeep Singh Puri Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of

Youth Affairs and Sports. G. Kishan Reddy Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines. Chirag Paswan Minister of Food Processing Industries Minister of Jal Shakti MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences: Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the

Minister of State in the Ministry of New and

Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in

Rao Inderiit Singh

Jitendra Singh

the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Jadhav P Ganpatrao Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Javant Chaudharv Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship;

and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education. VINISTERS OF STATE Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Shripad Yesso Naik Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. Pankaj Chaudhary Krishan Pal Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation. Ramdas Athawale Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and

Renewable Energy.

Ram Nath Thakur Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Nityanand Rai Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Anupriya Patel

Welfare: and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. V Somanna Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways. Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural CS Pemmasani Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of

Communications. Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries. Animal SP Singh Baghel Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchavati Rai. Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and SS Karandlaie

Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment Kirtivardhan Singh Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution: and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport Ajay Tamta

and Highways. Bandi Saniav Kumar Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural

and Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.

and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways.

Food and Public Distribution.

Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs;

Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation; and

Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs;

and Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries,

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs:

and Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles.

Kamlesh Paswan Development.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Bhagirath Choudhary Farmers Welfare Satish Chandra Dubey Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister

of State in the Ministry of Mines. Sanjay Seth Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence. Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Ravneet Singh Industries: and Minister of State in the Ministry of

Railways Durgadas Uikey Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Raksha Nikhil Khadse

Sukanta Majumdar Minister of State in the Ministry of Education; and

Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Savitri Thakur Development.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Tokhan Sahu Urban Affairs. **RB** Choudhary Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries;

Bhupathi RS Varma

BL Verma

Shantanu Thakui

Suresh Gopi

L Murugan

Harsh Malhotra

NJ Bambhaniva

Murlidhar Mohol George Kurian

Pabitra Margherita

33.

22.

Haasan, founder of political party Makkal Needhi Maiam in Tamil Nadu, urged the prime minister to work together to create a "more

President Murmu meets Maldivian counterpart, Nepal PM at Rashtrapati Bhavan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday met her Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Muizzu and Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here. During the meeting with Prachanda, Murmu said Nepal

is a priority partner under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and conveyed the country's commitment to "further strengthen our unique ties". take forward the developmental initiatives across various sec-

tors in Nepal, which are bene-

fitting the people of both coun-

tries, a statement issued by the

Rashtrapati Bhavan said. Welcoming President Muizzu, Murmu conveyed her greetings to the new government and the people of the Maldives and expressed confidence that the



island nation will continue on the path of prosperity and development under his leadership."Both leaders noted the longstanding and multifaceted ties between two countries and our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation including peopleto-people linkages, capacity building cooperation, economic and trade relations and

development cooperation," the statement said. The President expressed hope that India-Maldives relations will continue to strengthen in

the years to come, it added. New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P. Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-Tenders are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following job against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & http://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these website for any

E-TENDER NOTICE

changes/amendments & corrigendum etc. Job No. Tender Opening Date and Time End Date Job No.-19/E-TENDER/ 11.06.2024 18.06.2024 19.06.2024 SPO/ 2023-24 11.00 AM 5:00 P.M Name of Work-Stitching of Winter Uniform of Contract Staff of Noida Authority, Estimated Rs. 69,80,550.00

Modi did no favours to farmers by releasing fund due to them: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did no special favour to farmers by releasing the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, which was due to them a month ago but delayed by the poll code, the Congress

said on Monday. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the release of the 17th instalment of funds, which Modi is touting as the first decision of his new government, is the legitimate entitlement due to farmers, according to the policy of his

If he is genuinely concerned about farmers, the prime minister should grant legal status to minimum support price (MSP) for their produce, announce a farm loan waiver and provide guaranteed insurance payment directly into their bank accounts, he said. Taking charge as prime minister in his third term, Modi on Monday signed his first file authorising the release of the 17th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, amounting to nearly Rs 20,000 crore that will benefit around 9.3 crore farmers. After signing on to the release of the fund, Modi said, "Ours is a government fully committed

Jaishankar holds meetings with leaders of neighbouring countries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DEI HI

Union Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held separate bilateral meetings with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe.

Jaishankar also called on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay and Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Afif.

India's neighbourhood and the Indian Öcean region were in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of

Ministers on Sunday. "Delighted to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of Maldives today in New Delhi. Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely," Jaishankar said on 'X'. Jaishankar was the external affairs minister in Modi's previous Cabinet. He took oath as a Union minis-

ter on Sunday. It was Muizzu's first visit to India after he became the island nation's president on November 17 last year. The ties between India and the



Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. The Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians earlier this month.

After his meeting with Hasina, Jaishankar said, Honoured to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh today. The India-Bangladesh Maitri continues to advance."

On his meeting with Wickremesinghe, Jaishankar said, "Appreciate President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka for receiving me this morning in New Delhi. Recognized the steady progress in India-Sri Lanka relations.

"Great to meet PM Tshering said on the meeting with Tobgay. He said the meeting Mauritius Prime Minister Jugnauth, reflected the special bond between the two countries.

On the meeting with the Nepalese prime minister, Jaishankar said: "So glad to call on PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of Nepal. Discussed the growing various facets of India-Nepal cooperation.

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif also attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony.

Celebrities congratulate Modi on securing third term as PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Film stars Chiranjeevi, Sidharth Malhotra, Varun Dhawan, Kamal Haasan and Paresh Rawal on Monday congratulated Narendra Modi for taking

to 'kisan kalyan (farmers' wel-

the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a

Shri @narendramodi ji on being sworn in as the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for a

Charan also congratulated

Congratulations to India's beloved Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji and पुरो Pun€ #NDAGovernment commencing your historic third term. Looking forward to a more prosperous India under your reign. Jai Hind #Narendramodi

Charan said.

Modi.

"PM @narendramodi, congratulations for a historic 3rd term. Jai Hind," wrote Malhotra on his Instagram Stories. His "Student of the Year" co-star Varun Dhawan tagged Modi on X and said: "May you guide our country to greater heights. Hari Om.

#PMOath #ModiCabinet,"

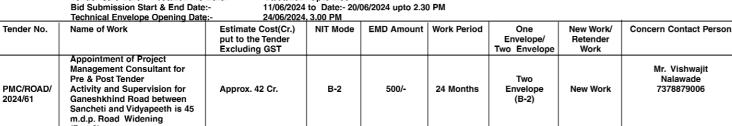
inclusive India".

the third consecutive term. Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi, historic third term! I wish you **NEW DELHI** Modi, 73, was sworn in as the who was named a Padma and all the wonderful ministers PM for the third time in a row Vibushan recipient earlier this in your cabinet all the strength at a grand ceremony at the year, extended his wishes to the to take our country forward on Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday prime minister on X. the path of prosperity and glory," he wrote. evening here. He became only Hearty Congratulations to His son and "RRR" star Ram

Store Purchase Officer, Noida. **CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION **CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2024-2025** Tender Sale Date:- 11/06/2024 to Date 20/06/2024 upto 2.30 PM

oath as the prime minister for



system only. B) If sales or submission not been available on last day also been submitted will be sole responsible of tender. C) Online tender process information will be available at Road Department, Pune Municipal Corporation. D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposite amount will be acceptable through Online Banking only. Tender rate for above Pre & Post tender activity works & appointment for (PMC) Project Management Consultancy to be filled on Company letter head as per financial bid in (Envelope2) To be uploaded will be considered only

A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender document which is available on website www.Mahatenders.gov.in sales & acceptances available by online

Advt. No. 3/20

2024/61

(Aniruddha Pawaskar Chief Engineer (Road)

With coffers running dry, Chandrababu as CM faces huge task to deliver super six promise

PTI AMARAVATI (ANDHRA

supremo Thandrababu Naidu who is set to take the reins of power in Andhra Pradesh shortly will have the daunting task of making bleak coffers ring to fulfill the "Super Six" that his party promised during the run-up to the recently concluded Assembly polls. Naidu is scheduled to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on June 12.

As a precursor to his journey of financial challenges, Naidu needs over Rs 4,500 crore to disburse social pensions to about 65 lakh beneficiaries by July 1.

As part of his "Super Six", Naidu promised to hike the monthly pension to Rs 4,000 from the existing Rs 3,000 along with a backlog of Rs 3,000 (Rs 1,000 for April, May and June) from July.

All together it would cost the exchequer Rs 4,500 crore in July, besides salaries to employees and pensioners which is pegged at another Rs 6,000 crore.

The new TDP government



will have to mop up over Rs 10,000 crore to fulfill the financial requirements for July, a retired senior bureaucrat said.

According to him, the state government has a committed expenditure of nearly Rs 1.30 lakh crore annually to meet the requirements of salaries, pensions, loan repayments and interests.

According to the Reserve Bank website, the Andhra government offered to sell securities worth Rs 2,000 crore on June 11 through

The state needs Rs 2,600 crore every month to meet the social pension alone.

Similarly, as part of the manifesto, the Telugu Desam Party promised free travel to women in government-run buses. An official of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation said the APSRTC earns about Rs 450 to Rs 500 crore through ticket revenue and women passengers are expected to be in the range of 35-40 per cent. He, however, said there was no study on women travellers

According to him, the Telangana RTC which implements a similar scheme estimated that women constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total commuters.

done so far in the state.

Towards the free travel scheme, the new government will have to reimburse nearly Rs 2,000 crore annually to the APSRTC.

Under "Super Six," the TDP also promised Rs 15,000 to every school-going child per annum.

The outgoing YRS Congress government

towards a similar scheme called "Amma Vodi." With Naidu removing the cap

the number beneficiaries, the amount may go up substantially.

The party also promised three free cooking gas cylinders to every household per year and Rs 20,000 annual financial assistance to every farmer, among others.

According to the government budget document 2023-24, the state has Rs 4.83 lakh crore public debt (33.3 per cent of GSDP), besides Rs 1.39 lakh crore government guarantees and Rs 26,296 crore of loans from the Centre.

The total Revenue Receipts in the Budget (vote-on-account) for 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 2,05,352.19 crore while the expenditure was pegged at Rs 2,30,110.41 crore.

While launching the YSRCP manifesto during the run-up to the recently concluded Assembly polls, the outgoing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged it will cost an exorbitant Rs 1.21 lakh crore per annum to fulfil the TDP's poll promises.

Suresh inclusion in Modi 3.0 game changer in Kerala's politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The swearing in of Suresh Gopi as minister of State in the third Narendra Modiled NDA Government is a gamechanger in Kerala's traditional bipolar politics dominated by the CPI(M) and the Congress. Had anyone dared to claim that the BJP would win a parliamentary seat from Kerala, leaders of even fringe political outfits would have scoffed at it

The declaration made by K Muraleedharan, the Congress candidate who fought against Suresh Gopi at Thrissur just two days before the counting of votes is the best example of how the rivals reacted to the latter's claim that the BJP would open its account in Kerala and the lotus is all set to bloom this time. "He will open a Bank account and that is what he is claiming. Also, the lotus would bloom as usual in the ponds. But this lotus will wither away on the day of counting," said Muraleedharan.

It is unlikely that politicians in the State would write off the Hindutva party after what happened in Thrissur. Suresh Gopi won with a majority of 74,686 votes in this constituency which is rated as

a citadel of the CPI(M). A considerable section of the Christian population voted for Suresh Gopi in this election as he polled 4,12, 338 votes out of the 10.8 lakh votes cast in the constituency. The person who ridiculed him, Muraleedharan bite the dust as he was relegated to the third position. "It was not a victory of the BJP alone. Hard work and dedicated public service were the main ingredients of this win," said Sudheer Damodaran, political critic who had worked for Narendra Modi's 2014 electoral win at Varanasi. Narendra Modi had made

two whirlwind tours to Thrissur this year. One was to address the public rally and another to attend Sureh Gopi's daughter's wedding at Guruvayur. His candidacy from Thrissur was from announced even before the poll schedule was released by the Election Commission. Though in the past, names of many film actors were linked to various political parties, Suresh Gopi is the first actor from the State to win an election to parliament.

Though Suresh Gopi had contested from Thrissur in 2019, he could poll 2,93, 822 votes (28.19 per cent) against

T N Prathapan of the (4,15,089 Congress votes/39.83 per cent) and Rajaji Mathew of the CPI (3,21,456/30.85 per cent) . Suresh Gopi's name was announced in the eleventh hour as the BJP could not find any candidate willing to get battered in the poll. But Suresh Gopi, despite his defeat in the hustings, made Thrissur his home turf though he was from Kollam in Southern Kerala. He was present everywhere in the constituency whenever

people faced any mishaps or Whoever emergencies. approached him with any needs returned with their hearts and hands full. His public service dis not confine to Thrissur alone and there were no geographic and political barriers. Suresh Gopi had no roles in

the faction ridden Kerala unit

of the BJP. 'Narendra Modi is my political God. It is he who inspires me to work for the public," he said after it was known on Sunday that he was being inducted in the union council of ministers. Interestingly, this film actor, described as one of the super stars of Malayalam cinema (the other two being Mohan Lal and Mammootti) was at

residence

Thiruvananthapuram Sunday, far away from New Delhi where jostling for a berth in the ministry was underway. It was a personal phone call from Narendra Modi that made him rush to the national capital.

Poll pundits are likely to take Suresh Gopi's victory in Thrissur as a case study to intricacies learn the associated with fighting an election. Yet another important rule diligently followed by Suresh Gopi was not to ridicule or humiliate the rival politicians and parties. Even the media in Kerala singled him out to troll and foist cases against him. But he did not react to the provocative comments and allegations even once. This national award winning actor is here to stay in Kerala's politics for the next one decade and is a living example for the dictum that hard work, dedication. discipline and honesty will

development that has come out of Suresh Gopi's win-Those who had forecast that BIP has no raison detre to be in Kerala has started telling that a BIP-centered front would evolve in the State

one more

People from Manipur taking refuge in Assam after fresh violence

 $P^{\text{eople affected by fresh incidents of}}_{\text{violence in Manipur have started}} \\$ arriving in Assam's Cachar district in search of safety, the local MLA said on

Security along the inter-state border has been tightened, a police officer said. Two police outposts, a forest beat office

and at least 70 houses were torched in Jiribam by suspected militants on Saturday, leading to fresh tension in the neighbouring state which has been witnessing ethnic violence since May

Residents of the bordering areas claimed that about 600 people have taken shelter in various parts of Lakhipur in Cachar district, entering the state by crossing the Jiri river over the last four days.

They are taking shelter in villages at Jirighat and Lakhipur, though no government relief camp has been the Assam side is

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Saleem Ahmad S/o Mr. Babu Khan the owner
Residential Plot no. 119, area measuring 95 sq. yds. out of
Total Area 100 sq. yds. ie. 85.61 sg. mtrs. stutated at
Mohalla Kassawan Ghaziabad Tehsil & District Ghaziabad

Ihrough Registered Sale Deed Dated Ub U3: 2022 executed by (1) Mr. Shakeal S/o Late Mr. Ahsaan & (2) Mr. Akeal S/o Late Mr. Ahsaan & (3) Mrs. Sabana W/o Late Mr. Wakeel & (4) Aleena D/o Late Mr. Wakeel & (5) Aarham S/o Late Mr. Wakeel ob (1) Arbonigh For Guardian & Mother Ms. Sabana (6) Mohd. Saleem Uf Sallu S/o Late Mr. Ahsaan & (7) Mohd.

Mond. Saleem Urf Sallu S/o Late Mr. Ansaan & (?) Mond. Wassem S/o Late Mr. Ansaan in Aroun of Mr. Saleem Ahmad S/o Mr. Babu Vide Reg. no. 2268 at SR-V G/B the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with fed bank financial services limited. if any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or abirction shall he deemed in have been waived. Adv.

or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092;

caused to you in this regard.

Date : June 11, 2024 Place : Delhi/ Ncr

Indira Gandhi

Meerpur, Rewari

University

(5:00 p.m.).

Mobile No. 9811215181

The people who have come from Manipur are being allowed to stay here safely. The local administration is taking all steps to ensure no spread of any violence here," Lakhipur MLA Kaushik Rai told PTI.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Nomal Mahatto said that police and other security forces have been deployed in the border areas.

patrolling highway he told PTI.

The SP added that the situation on

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Kusum W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar the owner property bearing Plot in Knasra no. 622, area measuring 112.04 sq. mtrs., situated in unauthorized colony Rangpuri Extn., A-Block, Vasant Kurij, Delhi-110037 through Registered Authorization Slip Dated 04.65.2024 executed by DDA-PM UDAY YOJANA Cell in favour of Smt. Kusum W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Yide

Reg. no. 2024/8/1/2598, at SR-VII-A Delhi the above

mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien,

Amalacan institution having any calamin fragin, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Visnal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim lies or expected to the publication of the source of the publication of the publicat

claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have bee

waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardoom

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

इदिरा गांधी

<u>विश्वविद्यालय मीरपूर</u>

रेवाडी

Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile No. 9811215181

Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

CORRIGENDUM

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBDEL00002447141, LBDEL00003155923 Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower SANJAY KAPOOR/ AIRVOICE AVIATIONS PVT LTD/ ANAMIKA KAPOOR Notice under section 13(2) dated June 23, 2021, Published in News Paper The Pioneer (Eng.) & Pioneer (Hindi) on October 08, 2021. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentingly of the propagability of th

unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and Name of applicant/ Co-applicant/ Guarantor & Address is mentioned as SANJAY KAPOOR, SANJAY KAPOOR, B- 241, Sector 26, Uttar Pradesh instead of SANJAY KAPOOR/ AIVOICE AVIATIONS PVT LTD/ ANAMIKA KAPOOR, B- 241, Sector 26, Noida,

We therefore, request you to please read the Name of applicant/ Co-applicant/ Guarantor & Address as SANJAY KAPOOR/ AIRVOICE AVIATIONS PVT LTD/ ANAMIKA KAPOOR, B- 241, Sector 26, Noial Uttar Pradesh only. All other details mentioned in the aforesaid Notices will remain the same. We sincerely regret the inconvenience

(A State University Established under Haryana Act No. 29 of 2013)

Recognized u/s 12-B & 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956

Employment Notice

(Advt. No. 49/2024 to 63/2024)

Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur (Rewari) invites online

applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment

of Teaching Posts in various Departments against

sanctioned vacant posts. Subject-wise and category-wise

number of vacant teaching posts along with Advt. Nos.

detailed instructions, requisite qualifications, pay scales

and modalities for selection are given on the university

website www.igu.ac.in. The link for submission of online

application shall be available on the university website

w.e.f. 10.06.2024. The candidates who had applied

earlier against the post of Professor, Associate Professor

and Assistant Professor vide advt. No. 10/2023 to

55/2023, 04/2024 to 28/2024, 33/2024 to 45/2024 need

not to apply again. However, candidates can submit their

latest updates if any through hard copy by 10.07.2024

1312/11/36/2025/26554/C/27/7 Dated, 10/06/2024

incident in Cachar so far. Police Jirighat on the

border as well as along the national and nearby villages is being conducted,"

"There are no reports of any untoward Hmars.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MY CLIENTS Devi Dayal Verma S/o Ram Singh and his wife Prakasha Devi R/o G-2/A-53, Gali No-6, Sethi Enclave, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have debarred their Son Dheeraj, his wife Anina Verma and their son Hardik Verma from their all immovable and movable properties due to her hostile mis-behavior and misconduct. shall not responsible for any criminal activities, deed and liability toward her. My clients have severed all relation with Dheeraj, Anjna Verma and Hardik Verma through this "PUBLIC NOTICE". Tarun Sharma (Advocate)

I liak Nagar, Delhi. This owhership Was legally acquired through Two Sale Deddise. Sale Deed dated 16.05.2014 doc. no. 9177 executed by Smit. Prem Lata in around of Smrt. Shuchi Bhutanin in respect of Property Bearing No. 156-B, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. said property and Sale Deed dated 20.10.2015 doc. no. 1536 executed by Sh. Shaktl Svarup in favour of Smit. Shuch Bhutanin irrespect of Property Bearing No. 501.51 and 16.00 property Smith Shutanin Shutanin I should be sharing No. 16.00 property Bearing No. 16.00 property Bear

Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301: Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail accounts@knorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Regarding Misplace of Original Re-allotment Letter in respect of

Plot No. 347. Phase-I. M.I.E. Bahadurgari

All men by these presents hereby intimate that

the original Re-allotment letter bearing Ref. No. 1089 Dated 22-02-2023 in my the name

i.e Anu Dania W/o Mr. Sanjeev Dania in respec

of my Industrial Property bearing Plot No. 347

Phase-I, M.I.E. Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Hr.)

has been misplaced elsewhere and not traced

out ever after my unbeaten efforts and an Lost

Report under Application No. 1623756/2024

Dt. 08/04/2024 has also been lodged through

nline portal. I, Anu Dania W/o Mr. Sanjeev

Dania hereby declare and confirm that I have

not availed any loan/credit facility against the

said property and also has not misused the said

misplaced document anywhere for any illegal

benefit and the property is free from all sorts

of encumbrances and disputes till today. Now

concerned department.

Industrial

Distt. Jhajjar (Hr.).

Ch.No.1206, 12th floor Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Liyakat Ali S/o Sh. Shokat

Mandoli Delhi 110093, has severed all relations (socially and economically) and disowned/debarred his son Moho Danish, due to their rude behavior from his all movable and immovable properties. Henceforth, Mohd Danish

5 Rajiv Nagar Mandoli Delhi - 110093

ATHE PIONEER A

CHANGE OF NAME

no. 155/36 executed by Sh. Shadt Svarup in favour of Smt. Shuchi Bhutahin irrespect of Property Beaning No. 15/6-A area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. of said property. Mrs. Shuchi Bhutahin intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of Second Floor without roof rights of aforementioned property osmt. Asha Kumari. Subsequently, Smt. Asha Kumari is in the process of mortgaging the said IDFC First Bank Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 10 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 10-days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 10-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Banshidhar Sharma r/o A3/40 Sector 5 Rohini Delhi-85 have changed my name Sudhir kumar Sharma to Sudhir Sharma.

PD(519)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE and his wife Smt. Kiran Seth, both R/o A 208/1, First Floor, Derawal Nagar, Delhi-110009, have severed all their relations 110009, have severed all their relations with their son Karan Seth and his wife Smt. Richa Seth due to their disobedient and quarrelsome behaviour towards my clients and their other family members of their movable and immovable properties immediate effect.

M.U. Rehman (Advocate)

minutes book, payment receipts voucher, office docs, fd details, files, PvI Ltd agreement stamp docs, file copy of security cheques collected from chit members, customer, File copy of security sign by customer and their cheque copy of security sign by customer and their cheque copy of security sign by customer and their cheque copy of security sign by customer and their cheque copy of security sign by customer and their cheque copy of security sign collected and not traceable yet. The report of the same has been lodged at the Crime Branch Police Station on dated 03/06/2024 vide LR NO. 1788203/2024. If found, kindly inform to Mr.Omana Kuttan.K Director of M/s GanganaPathy Chit Fund PvI Ltd, office situated at S-8A, Pankaj Plaza, 2nd M.U. Rehman (Advocate)

Ch. No.372, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054. | Delhi-110075, Mobile no. 9540000404. NOTICE/CIRCULAR

Dear B & D Block Members It is for gener

nformation that we are in advance stage

of discussions with Competent Authorities and in the process of finalisation of formalities for regularisation of B & D Block

llotment/ draw of lot/ regularisation/ete of B & D Block, the members, those no alling into any of the following categor hall be included in the list to be submittin competent authority for allotment/drav of lot/ regularisation/etc.:

a. As per society records, members

being defaulter

b. Non-submission of affidavit along with other documents (KYC),

c. There shall not be any pending cour cases filed by concerned member

against society herefore, it is requested that all B & I Block members shall ensure not to fall in the aforementioned category. In case, any nember (s) is falling in any of above ategory then please arrange to remov

non-compliance of the same equirements, i.e. remain in either aforementioned category, within next 15 days then their names shall not be orwarded in the affidavit to be signed and submitted by society in terms of clause

15 of Schedule-VII under Sub-Rule (1) of

Rule 90 of DCS Rules 2007 to comp

t is pertinent to mentioned that in case the equisite information/ requirements are no complied/furnished within the stipulated time by member (s), then the society shall not be responsible for any such lapse (s) on the part of the those members.

For and On Behalf of FMCGHS Amarjeet (President) Copy to: ARCS, Section-III, O/o the RCS Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice is hereby given that the documents of M/s GanganaPathy Chit Fund Pvt Ltd , office situated at. Sangahar any Ghit Fulld Public II, chines subated at . S-8A, Pankaj Plaza, 2nd Floor, Plot No.7, Pocket-7, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 and all the documents pertaining to this Company i.e., Bank cheque book, company registration certificate ninutes book, payment receipts voucher, office Floor, Plot No.7, Pocket-7, Sector-12, Dwarka, New

PUBLIC NOTICE

Industrial Built-up / Plot No. 76 - D. Phase: IV. Udyog Vihar, Gurugram measuring 450 sq. was re-alloted by the Corporation to Mr. Shyam Sunder Bajaj & Mrs. Sharda Bajaj 2017. The Corporation has been informed that the original allottee Mrs. Sharda Bajai W/o Mr. Shyam Sunder Bajaj has expired on 23-08-2023. The legal heirs of the deceased allottee, Mrs. Sharda Bajaj are Amit Bajaj, Pooja Budhiraja, Raina Chadha, Shyam Sunder Bajaj and have approached the Corporation for transfer of the said Plot in question in favour of Mr. Shvam Sunder Bajaj. The Corporation is in process of considering their request & transferring the said Plot in the name of Mr. Shyam Sunder Bajaj. Through this public notice, it is hereby informed that in case any of the legal heirs of Mrs. Sharda Baiai W/o Mr. Shvam Sunder Bajaj or any other person/body/institution having any sort of right/claim/title/ lien/reservation/ objection for the transfer of plot shall put forth the same in writing before the undersigned along with an affidavit publication of this notice. In case no

Corporation shall go ahead with the transfer of the plot in favour of him. AGM (Estate) for& behalf of Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Dev. Corp. Ltd. HSIIDC UdyogMinar Building, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram, Haryana

response is received within the afore said

period, it will be presumed that nobody has

my objection to the transfer of the said plot

in the name of Mr. Shyam Sunder Bajaj S/o

late Sh. Baldev Lal Bajaj and the

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

pay off.

There

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borro Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"). Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.06.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 30.80,5811- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLVAS00411929, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 03.06.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 04.06.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SHARIFUDDIN MALIK and ROSHANARA MALIK. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25.00.000/- (Rupees

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. S. F. 4 (M. I. G.) ON SECOND FLOOR (REAR LEFT HAND SIDE) (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), HAVING AREA 700 SQUARE FEET, EQUIVALENT TO 65.029 SQUARE METERS, IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS SHYAM PARK EXTENSION, CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. D/9A, BLOCK - D, BALAJI ARCADE - II, SITUATED IN SAHIBABAD, HADBAST VILLAGE JAGOLA GHAZIABAD - 201010, UTTAR PRADESH.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@indiabulls.com. Fo

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulish Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"). the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "what there is" basis on 28.06.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recover Rs. 23,93,547/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Hundred Forty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLLAJ00380178, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 03.06.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from HAKIM SINGH RAWAT and PRATIBHA@PRATIBHARAWAT.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 16,50,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,65,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10%

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

BUILT - UP SECOND FLOOR, UP-TO CEILING LEVEL ONLY (WITHOUT ROOF TERRACE RIGHTS) HAVING AREA MEASURING 58 SQ. YARDS I. E. 48.49 SQ MTRS, WITH COMMON RIGHTS OF STAIRS, PASSAGES, ONE TWO WHEELER MAINTAIN & OTHER COMMON FACILITIES ALONGWITH RIGHT TO INSTALLY
MAINTAIN WATER TANK & T. V. ANTENA ON ROOF OF TOP FLOOR, FITTED
WITH ELECTRICTY AND WATER CONNECTION IN RUNNING CONDITION, PART OF PROPERTY NO. 4650/11 OUT OF KHASRA NO. 189 SITUATED AT VILLAGE CHANDRAWALI @ SHADHARA, IN THE ABADI OF GALI NO. 7, NEW MODERN SHADHARA, MANDOLI ROAD, ILLAQA SHADHARA, NEW DELHI - 110032, TOGETHER WITH THE UNDIVIDED, INDIVSIBLE, PROPORTIONATE FREEHOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDERNEATH WHICH IS BOUNDED AS

NORTH: PROPERTY OF OTHERS SOUTH: PROPERTY OF OTHERS PROPERTY OF OTHERS WEST: ROAD 20 FT. WIDE

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com; Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@indiabulls.com. For pidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

RC/82/2023

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun **DEMAND NOTICE U/S 25 To 28**

Notice Under Sections 25 To 28 Of The Recovery Of Debts Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993 And Rule 2 Of Second Schedule To The

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN

Income Tax Act. 1961. Date:04.06.2024 **Punjab National Bank**

Versus

Sachin Sharma & Ors. Sachin Sharma S/o Sh. Naresh Sharma, R/o Flat No.-153, I Floor, Gali No.-11, West Guru Anand Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi- 110092.

Second Address: 124, UGF, Near Vishnu Jweler, Krishna Kunj Extention, Luxm Kakardooma, Shakarpur, Gandhinagar, East Delhi, New Delhi- 110092 2. Rashi Sharma W/o Sachin Sharma R/o Flat No.-153, I Floor, Gali No.-11, Wes

Guru Anand Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi- 110092. econd Address: 124, UGF, Near Vishnu Jweler, Krishna Kunj Extention, Luxm

Kakardooma, Shakarpur, Gandhinagar, East Delhi, New Delhi- 110092

Pushpanjali Realms & Infratech Limited having its registered office at Nath House, Devpura, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of

orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN in OA/553/2021 an amount of Rs. 29,98,724.48 (Rupees Twenty line lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four And Paisa Forty Eight Only) along with pendente-lite and future interest @ 7.30% Simple terest Yearly w.e.f. 08.12.2021 till realization and costs of Rs. 62,000/-(Rupees Sixty Two Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and 2. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that it is not

possible to serve you demand notice in ordinary course, thereore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to pay the above sum within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing . Your are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 09.08.2024 at

10.30 a.m. for further proceedings.

In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay.
 Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after

this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for ecovering the amount due

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on : 04.06.2024 Recovery Officer **Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Franch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

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

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

·····									
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch					
1.	Narendra Singh Gusain/ Rekha Narendra Singh Gusain/ LBDEL00005679498	Flat No. 401, 4th Floor, on Plot No. 17, Sector 50, Sky Creeva, Village Dronagiri, Taluka Uran, District Raigad, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400702/ June 06, 2024	January 08,2024 Rs. 16,36,696/-	Delhi Ncr/ Maharashtra Navi Mumbai/ Uttarakhand Garhwal					
The above-mentioned harrowers(s)/guarantars(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Natice to renay the									

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Franch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the

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

	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch	
		Raj Sharma/	Address- 1: Property Measuring 10 Marla Bearing Khewat No. 186/208, 190/212, Khasra No. 180 (6-2), 180/1(0-17) Situated at Sukhiabad, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Address- 2: Property Measuring 9 Marla 183½ Sq. Feet Bearing Khewat No. 3/4, 5/6, 14/15, Khasra No. 382(1-2), 339/2/333(0-4), 334(0-3), 335(0-10) Situated at Premgarh, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Address- 3: Property Bearing No. B-II-478/2 Measuring 2 Marla 1 Sarsai Situated Mohalla Krishna Nagar, Tehsii and District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Address- 4: Property Bearing Khasra No. 3998/ 1449 (4-7), 3997/1447 (23-14), Khata No. 830/ 1321-1329 Wakia Rakba, Premgarh, Hoshiarpur, Punjab./ June 06, 2024	February 06, 2024 Rs. 1,96,52, 864.00/-	Hoshiar- pur	
The above-mentioned harrowers(s)/gugrantars(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Natice to repay to						

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: June 11, 2024 Place: Delhi

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Date: June 11, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR

I am planning to sell-out my said property and hence I am in need to obtain duplicate attested copy of the said misplaced document from In case, if any person(s) finds out the abovesaid misplaced document anywhere, please

by any person(s) for getting unfair benefit on the basis of said misplaced documents, the same may be treated as null and yoid and legal litigation will also be initiated against such f any person is having objection in obtaining duplicate attested copy of misplaced document or in selling out the said property, he/she can

ubmit objections in writing to the concerned HSVP/HSIIDC, Bahadurgarh, alongwith evidences within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, necessary proceedings as per rules and norms may be initiated accordingly by the concerned department and any subsequent claim/ bjection may not be entertained, if any. Mrs. Anu Dania

ntimate to the undersigned immediately. Any unfair and illegal practice or effort being done

W/o Mr. Sanjeev Dania D-72, Ground Floor Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110021

composition of Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife that has been raging in the northeastern state since May last year. The MLA said that most of the people

completely under control and the police

are keeping a strict vigil following the

Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic

violence in Jiribam.

who have entered Cachar are Kukis and

AN R/o B-52 Gali No 1, Rajiv Nagai not has the right of inheritance on the

property of my Client. Rahul (Advocate) Office- Aios, Gaii No

I. Sudhir Kumar Sharma s/o

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Restive Valley

There has been a sudden uptick in terror incidents, coinciding with the plans to hold elections in J&K

error-mongers in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) don't share the enthusiasm and optimism of the local population and political parties, nor of the Election Commission's, to hold polls in the Union Territory anytime soon. There has been a noticeable increase in terror attacks in the region aligning with the conduct of the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. The stability and security of the region, which has a protracted history of conflict and violence, are seriously threatened by this escalation. There have been several insurgency stages in the area, especially since the late 1980s, when militant organisations wanted to combine Kashmir with Pakistan or grant it independence. A turning point was the Indian Government's abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which gave J&K special autonomy. This action resulted in heightened tensions and an upsurge in militant activity. There are various reasons for the revival of militancy in the strife-torn region, which had only recently started



limping back to normal. Militant groups have been actively seeking new members, frequently using social media to draw in young Kashmiris. Furthermore, despite intense surveillance, cross-border infiltration continues to be a problem. For their part, militant organisations frequently seek to sabotage elections in order to cast doubt on the authority of the State machinery and to express opposition to the democratic process that the Indian Government wants to nurture in the region. The J&K security and administration are severely impacted by the rise in the incidents of terror attacks. Additionally, these accidents cause disruptions to daily

life, which hinders the growth of the region by impacting tourism, education and economic activity. In response to the increase in violence, the Indian Government and security services have taken a number of initiatives. In an effort to drive away militants, there has been a rise in cordon-and-search operations. These activities are intended to reduce collateral damage and are frequently predicated on particular intelligence inputs. Also, increased efforts have been made to win over the hearts and minds of the local population. Conversations with local authorities, youth involvement initiatives and development projects that enhance livelihoods and infrastructure are among other similar initiatives. In terms of politics, the Government is eager to hold elections in J&K to install a local Government, which it views as essential to ensuring long-term peace and stability. However, the current state of security presents considerable obstacles to this undertaking. Even while the Government and security services are working hard to pacify the area, there are still many obstacles in the way of long-term development and stability. In order to achieve enduring peace in J&K, it is imperative that the underlying reasons of alienation are addressed, effective governance is ensured and a sincere dialogue with all stakeholders is fostered.



Clouds hover over the skyline, in Bastar district

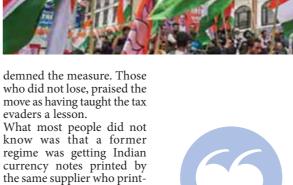
What actually upset the Modi applecart



hat would Prime Minister Narendra Modi be feeling? So little recognition for doing so much! Why? Did he err somewhere to have endured the reduction to 240 seats from the erstwhile 303? Was aspiring for his country to join the First World by 2047 wrong? Or was promising that Bharat would enlarge its GDP to be the third largest in the world before long, a mistake? Or introducing the GST, which laid the foundation of transforming the national economy? Indirect tax collection is rising and reducing the transport time by 40 per cent. Isn't that a gift to the economy? Maybe asking for beyond 400 was misunderstood as having already won the election and therefore no pressing need to go out to cast one's vote, especially when the weather is very hot. Perhaps the schedule of seven phases of voting was phased out over too long a period of 43 days, enough time for possible mischief. Some might have resented the abrogation of Article 370, but the economy of Jammu & Kashmir has prospered substantially.

Modi's Government over the last 10 years has pulled out some 25 crore out of poverty. Whatever was given to them was directly to the individuals, not through village headmen. According to the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, only 15 paise of a rupee reached the poor people, while 85 paise were eaten away by the middlemen. Such corruption significantly explained the contemptuous expression coined by the Nehruvian acolytes "Hindu rate of growth". India's economists used to proudly claim that 40 per cent of the Indian economy was black or 'informal' and 60 per cent was white or 'formal'.

The back of this black economy began to be broken on the night of November 8, 2016, when Modi demonetised ₹1,000 and ₹500 currency notes. The measure was not confided even to his Finance Minister for the sake of a source of fear from thieves secrecy. Public opinion in India and income tax raids. It canwas divided down the middle; not be lent with confidence or those who lost money con- even a minimal lack of worry.



ed Pakistan's and Bangladesh's

currency notes as well. These

neighbours could thus import

India goods without spending any foreign exchange, in fact

any money, except the pur-

chase price of the fake notes.

Until this demonetisation,

our neighbours were finan-

cially comfortable. Not long

after November 8, 2016, news

came that Pakistan was mov-

ing towards shambles. Later,

we had to loan Bangladesh

\$9.5 billion. One cannot deny

there is still black money in

the economy today, but at

least half the original quan-

tum is gone. Implementation

of GST and digitalisation has

also helped in this objective.

White money is wealth that

can be invested, lent out; it can

be used for expanding the

economy. Black money, on the

other hand, is largely unpro-

ductive and, in private hands,

MAYBE ASKING FOR BEYOND 400 WAS MISUNDERSTOOD AS HAVING ALREADY WON THE ELECTION. PERHAPS THE **VOTING SCHEDULE** WAS PHASED OUT OVER TOO LONG A PERIOD

Do all these deserve only 240 seats? This is indeed a painful question. While voting, many Hindus forgot that it is this Government and this Supreme Court that enabled them to see the magnificent temple of Shri Ram Lalla at Ayodhya become a reality, considering five centuries had run their course since Mughal invader Babar's henchman Mir Baqi had destroyed the original temple that had immortalised Ramjanmabhoomi.

splendid new temple has been built in the flash of a year. This was a revival, recovery and replacement of a lost temple and civilisational ethos. This Government has also

made history dance. I doubt whether any religion has enabled another religion to build its place of worship in its own country. This Government has been able to charm the Sultan of Abu Dhabi to donate 27 acres of land on the main highway to Dubai for Hindus to build a grand temple in what most Muslims would consider a violation of the forbidding of or idol worsnip. This was the Sultan's celestial endeavour to atone for all the temples desecrated in India over the centuries. As a wag

put it, this was a magnificent reconciliation that should have gifted, as it were, a thousand seats. All Hindus should pray for having overlooked this unique sacrifice on behalf of Islam.

The only excuse that can hold was yet another omission, like many others. Only two days ago, an acquaintance from Lucknow dropped in to explain why the Lok Sabha seat that contains Ayodhya was lost. A number of shops and houses was demolished to broaden the main street. Compensation was offered, although at the old rates.

With the rapid construction of the temple, real estate prices went up much faster than expected. As a result, the old rates seemed like peanuts and, therefore, unacceptable to the old-time residents and shopkeepers. Meanwhile, lakhs of pilgrims had come, gone and enriched the shopkeepers, who weren't really short of money. In the process, they not only protested but also voted for the opposite side. When asked by iournalists what they gained by voting against the temple, they

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

Sunshine on shoulders, a spring in my step!



We still have time to take a step back to pause, reflect and act, to leave a better world for the generations to come

ummers have been harsh this year. I do not recall ODelhi temperatures shooting to 50 degrees plus in the 26 years since we shifted to the national capital. Advisories have been issued by the state governments to avoid venturing out in the afternoons. However, a month down the line, we would forget the harrowing days; and long for a glimpse of sun as monsoon clouds darken the skies.

A few months back, I looked out of my window one morning. The sun was struggling to light up the day with just a pale glimmer of its full-blown glory. It transported me back a few decades when I was posted in a railway production unit in east India. One afternoon in March or April, while driving me back to the office after lunch, the driver commented, "Sir, I don't like this month. The days are so sad." His observation was a revelation to me. The afternoon during the two months is often dull in the eastern part of the country, with a haze of moist air shrouding every-

I have travelled to England a couple of times for vacations.

We were chilled to the bones during the first visit as we braved the heavy rains lashing us. We walked with a spring in our steps as bright sunshine greeted us the second time. We noticed that on such rainy days, even the locals longed for the sun to peep out of the clouds. This welcome respite would be enough for the parks to be filled with screaming children, sedately walking adults, and sprinting health enthusi-

Sun plays an important role in our lives in other ways also. My wife, and even others, insist on drying clothes under the sun. I have also witnessed this in other countries. I have often wondered about the reasons despite the availability of devices serving the same purpose. The argument

is that no equipment can impart the antibacterial properties or the fresh smell and crisp feeling that exposure to sunlight does. I would tend to agree, as even I do not like the smell of moist clothes left indoors to dry under the fan during rainy months.

There are health benefits too. We are told to spend a few minutes under the sun to get the sunshine vitamin, most essential for our health. Sunshine is also celebrated through numerous phrases that compare the people in our lives or even their attributes to the bright light. A friend calls an octogenarian friend, 'sunshine', simply because the older person is ever smiling. There are several other similar compliments like 'You are the sunshine that

brightens my world with love'

shine' and many more. Eulogies have been paid to other celestial bodies as well, but they pale when compared with the brightest star in our firmament. Sun

or 'Smiles are little rays of sun-

Temple in Konark is a testament to the importance accorded to the life-giver. Many cultures, religions, and earlier civilizations were based around sun worship. All these myriad thoughts flit-

ted through my mind as I sat sipping my tea that pale morning. I realised that the feeble sunlight was also due to our self-serving desires without paying heed to the need to create a pollution-free environment. We still have time to take a

step back to pause, reflect, and act, to leave a better world for the generations to come! They also have the right to hum the timeless opening lines of the beautiful song by John Denver, "Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy. Sunshine, almost always, makes me high."

(The writer conducts workshops on creative writing for young adults and corporate executives. Views are personal)

WATER CRISIS IN THE CAPITAL

Madam - Apropos the editorial "Parched Capital," published on June 10, this is my response. As a daily newspaper reader, it's alarming to witness Delhi's worsening water crisis. The refusal of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to supply water during these scorching months significantly impacts millions in the NCR. The Supreme Court's directive for these states to uphold water-sharing agreements is crucial, but enforcement appears weak. The Delhi BJP's call for a special Assembly session is a necessary step to prioritise this dire issue.

Delhi's 35 million residents face severe water shortages, exacerbating public health risks and forcing reliance on unreliable private tankers. This situation demands a multi-faceted approach: strict adherence to water agreements, improved infrastructure and public education on water conservation. Investing in treatment plants and reservoirs, along with enhancing wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting, could provide longterm relief. It's imperative for states to cooperate and ensure a stable water supply to prevent further hardship and potential health crises.

Meera Rao | Raipur

VIGILANCE FOR FOOD SAFETY

Madam — Apropos the news story "Protecting health through food safety;" published on June 10, this is my response. As a daily newspaper reader, I'm alarmed by the state of food safety today. We often overlook the quality of what we eat, leading to chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Street food stalls, which are popular in many places, frequently lack hygiene standards and even supermarket food is not always trustworthy. The inconsistency between food labels and actual ingredients is troubling.

The WHO's statistics are staggering: 600 million people fall ill annually from contaminated food, with 420,000 deaths. This year's World Food Safety Day theme, influenced by external factors.

Modi's historic third term

THE EDITOR



propos the news story "Narendra Modi Asworn in as Prime Minister for the third consecutive time," published on June 10, this is my response. As a daily reader of the newspaper, it's clear that Narendra Modi's third consecutive term as India's Prime Minister marks a significant chapter in the nation's political history. Mirroring the legacy of Jawaharlal

"Prepare for the Unexpected," highlights the urgent need for robust food safety measures. The globalisation of our food supply chain complicates these efforts, making contamination harder to trace. Technological advancements like blockchain for traceability and IoT sensors for real-time monitoring can help. Ensuring food safety is a proactive commitment necessary for public health. We must innovate and stay vigilant to protect humanity from foodborne illnesses. Vihaan Sharma | Udaipur

ATTITUDE SHAPES HUMAN BEHAVIOUR Madam — Apropos the news story "Factors that influence our attitudes," published on June 10, this is my response. Reading about the Mahabharata and its timeless narratives offers profound insights into human nature. The epic, attributed to sage Veda Vyasa and transcribed by Lord Ganesha, vividly portrays the complexities of human attitudes. It showcases a spectrum of emotions and standpoints that drive actions, often

Nehru, Modi's repeated electoral success underscores his enduring popularity and polit-

nad no answer.

The swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan was a testament to India's vibrant democracy, drawing participation from key political figures and foreign dignitaries. This underscores India's growing influence on the global stage. However, the BJP's reduced Lok Sabha seats highlight a more complex political landscape, necessitating greater reliance on NDA allies. The strategic inclusion of allies like the TDP and JDU in ministerial positions suggests a pragmatic approach to coalition politics. As Modi 3.0 unfolds, it will be interesting to see how the government balances internal dynamics while continuing developmental policies. The next few years will be crucial in determining the trajectory of Modi's legacy and India's future. Saanvi Jain | Jamshedpur

Duryodhana, a prominent character, exemplifies how arrogance and anger, fueled by his uncle Shakuni and others, lead to destructive behaviour. This mirrors historical atrocities like the Nazi genocide, highlighting the dangers of prejudice and hatred.

Conversely, the story of the Zen Master and the Thief underscores the transformative power of compassion. The Master's forgiveness and understanding helped the wayward student reform, illustrating that empathy can foster positive change. Human attitudes, shaped by social interactions and experiences, can lead to either constructive or destructive outcomes. This continuous learning process underscores the importance of compassion and understanding in shaping a better society. Harold S Geneen aptly encapsulates this, emphasising that leadership is reflected in attitudes and actions,

Aarush Kapoor | Vijayawada

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FIRST COLUMN

A TREASURE TROVE OF **TIMELESS WISDOM**

The Puranas, with their vast and varied content, are living texts



SWAMI CHARNASHRIT

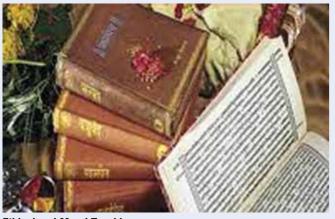
The Puranas are a vast genre of ancient Indian literature that holds a significant place in the cultural, religious, and philosophical tapestry of India. These texts are not merely historical or mythological accounts; they are rich repositories of wisdom, encompassing a wide array of subjects that continue to resonate with and inspire people across generations

Origin and Structure of the Puranas

The term "Purana" is derived from the Sanskrit word "pura," meaning "ancient" or "old." Traditionally, the Puranas are attributed to Vyasa, the sage who is also credited with compiling the Mahabharata and the Vedas. There are eighteen major Puranas, known as the Mahapuranas, and an equal number of secondary Puranas, known as Upapuranas. Each Purana varies in length and content but generally follows a similar structural format comprising five main topics: the creation of the universe (Sarga), the secondary creation (Pratisarga), genealogies of gods, sages, and kings (Vamsa), the reigns of Manus (Manvantara), and the history of dynasties (Vamsa Charitra).

Cosmology and Metaphysics

The Puranas offer a profound exploration of cosmology and metaphysics, detailing intricate theories about the creation, sustenance, and destruction of the universe. The concept of cyclical time, as opposed to linear time, is a central theme, with the universe undergoing endless cycles of creation and dissolution. This perspective provides a holistic view of existence, emphasizing the impermanence of the material world and the eternal nature of the soul



Ethical and Moral Teachings

At their core, the Puranas are repositories of ethical and moral teachings. They emphasize the principles of Dharma (righteousness), Artha (prosperity), Kama (pleasure), and Moksha (liberation). Through various narratives and parables, the Puranas highlight the importance of living a virtuous life, the consequences of actions (karma), and the ultimate goal of attaining liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

Theistic Devotion

The Puranas are rich in devotional content, promoting Bhakti (devotion) towards various deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, and the Goddess. They provide detailed descriptions of the forms, attributes, and stories of these deities, fostering a personal and emotional connection between the devotee and the divine. This devotional aspect underscores the idea that sincere love and devotion can lead to spiritual enlightenment and libera-

Social and Cultural Insights

The Puranas play a crucial role in preserving and transmitting the cultural and religious traditions of ancient India. They serve as encyclopaedic texts, containing information on rituals, festivals, pilgrimages, and social customs. By doing so, they have helped maintain continuity in cultural practices and have provided a sense of identity and continuity to gen-

The Arts and Sciences

The Puranas are remarkable for their integration of art and science. They include discussions on astronomy, astrology, medicine, architecture, and even the performing arts. For instance, the Vishnu Purana and the Bhagavata Purana provide elaborate accounts of cosmology, while the Agni Purana offers insights into various scientific disciplines, reflecting the comprehensive knowledge system of ancient India.

(The writer is a spiritual guide, views are personal)

The long and short of Modi's welfarism



The Govt is doing a good job of supplying food, fuel and fertiliser at subsidised cost but the largesse recipients are unlikely to make space for other deserving people

n overarching policy instru-ment Prime Minister Narendra Modi uses in relentless pursuit of a welfare State is his unflinching commitment to ensuring adequate supply of three essential items, namely fertilisers, food and fuel, to the target beneficiaries/consumers at

'throwaway' price or even for free. In fact, he tells them about his intentions in this regard well in advance. Look at these facts: Urea is a widely used fertiliser that supplies primary nutrient nitrogen or 'N' and constitutes nearly half of India's total fertiliser consumption. To make it affordable to farmers, the Union Government controls its maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level unrelated to the cost of production/import and distribution, which is much higher. The excess cost over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer/importer as subsidy which varies from unit to unit, depending on its cost.

During its first term, under a comprehensive New Urea Policy 2015 announced on May 13, 2015, the Modi Government had frozen the urea MRP of ₹268 per 50 kg bag for a period four years till 2019-20. Even thereafter, the price remained unchanged at ₹242 per 45 kg bag (currently, urea is sold in 45 kg bag; so on pro rata basis, the price is the same as earlier). This price is nearly one-tenth of the cost of making it available leading to huge subsidy payout. On June 28, 2023, Modi announced its continued availability to the farmers at this price for three years, up to FY 2025-26.

As for food, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) enacted by the erstwhile UPA Government in 2013 had provided for giving wheat, rice and coarse cereals to eligible beneficiaries at a throwaway price of ₹3/2/1 per kg respectively. The excess of minimum support price (MSP) paid to farmers plus handling and distribution costs over this price (read ₹3/2/1 per kg) was reimbursed to the State handling agencies such as the Food Corporation of India

Even as the NFSA had frozen the price to be paid by beneficiaries for three years, ie till 2016, the then Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Ram Vilas Paswan, announced that the price won't be increased for three years. In 2020, due to the Corona pandemic, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Government also started giving 5 kg of rice or wheat per person per month for 'free' to all the 820 million beneficiaries

Meanwhile, the pandemic-induced PMGKAY was withdrawn from January 1, 2023. However, from the same date, the Government started giving regular supplies under the NFSA for 'free' (instead of ₹3/2/1 per kg charged earlier). This modified scheme was renamed as PMGKAY. Later in the year, in November 2023, addressing a poll rally in Chhattisgarh, Modi announced extension of the PMGKAY for another five years, ie till 2028.

In case of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), ever since 2015, the Government remains committed to making it available for household consumption at a low price although unlike in fertilisers and food, Modi hasn't announced as to 'for how long'. At present, over 100 million poor households who have been provided free gas connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujiwala Yojana (PMUY) are eligible to receive subsidy at the rate of ₹300 per cylinder (14.2



WE COULD END

UP WITH A SCENARIO WHERE CRORES OF PEOPLE DON'T **NEED TO EARN** THEIR LIVING AND SIMPLY WAIT FOR THE STATE FREEBIES TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THEIR NEEDS

If the welfare scheme beneficiaries are assured that they will continue to receive the benefits perpetually, all the more when these concern essential items such as fertilisers, food, fuel and that too with zero or near-zero price tag, they couldn't have asked for more. They can use the money thus saved for spending on other things, say education, health etc that can help them enhance their productive capacity and improve the quality of living. But, this may not happen in all cases. What if they fritter away the savings on unproductive stuff? A bigger risk has to do with com-

placency that this could give rise to amongst the recipients of the benefits. When the Government arranges their basic needs for free (in Delhi, the State Government gives electricity and water free), it could trigger a feeling as to 'why should they work at all?' We could end up with a scenario where crores of people don't need to earn their living and simply wait for the State freebies to take care of all their

Such an approach also comes in the way of extending the benefit of welfare schemes to other deserving persons who are currently not included in beneficiaries list. For instance, the current list of PMGKAY beneficiaries being based on the Census of 2011, over 100 million persons who became eligible post-2011 don't have access to

free food.

Giving them access without deleting equivalent number from existing list will require more allocation for food subsidy. If fund constraints don't permit hike in the budget, those 100 million will continued to be denied access.

Under the current system of giving fertiliser subsidy, farmers are prone to excessive use of urea leading to imbalance in fertiliser use, drop in crop yield, deterioration of soil health and adverse impact on the environment. Even as there is a dire need to reduce imbalance by curbing excess use of urea, its availability at throwaway price won't let that

For this very reason, there is rampant leakage/diversion of urea for industrial uses. Further, because manufacturers and importers get full reimbursement of the excess of cost over the MRP as subsidy on 'actual' basis, there is no incentive to reduce cost and improve efficiency in operations. The existing system of giving food subsidy also suffers from leakages, misuse and inefficiency in operations.

When Modi says the supply of fertilisers and food for free or at throwaway prices will continue perpetually, dubious operators too get to continue with their illicit gains. To address these anomalies, the Government needs to drastically restructure its welfare schemes.

for a beneficiary under the scheme. The clause can be triggered when she crosses the poverty threshold. For instance, 250 million persons who have come out of poverty shouldn't be eligible for free food under PMGKAY

Two, our political brass should do away with the 'free' tag to any item even if it is food. While no one can deny the need for some subsidy to make it 'affordable' to the poor, insisting that the commodity be given for free or at small fraction of tne cost (as in case of urea) is a risk idea. It is an invitation to all kinds of wrongs such as fictitious claims, diversions, inflated cost and so on. Three, instead of delivering a commodity at a low price, the Government should deposit the subsidy in the account of the beneficiary. The latter can buy her needs from the market where prices are determined in a competitive manner, thereby ensuring that the gains of efficiency improvements and cost reduction accrue to all consumers. In this scenario, there won't be any scope for misuse or diversion.

Four, a plethora of subsidies under different heads can be merged and given as a single lump sum amount as income support. This can save a lot of administrative work and associated costs involved in running multiple schemes.

(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

Canada in covert talks with India over Nijjar's killing

India and Canada share a complex relationship, shaped by historical ties, diaspora influence and geopolitical interests

n the intricate dance of international diplomacy, Canada's intelligence chief, David Vigneault, embarked on clandestine visits to India earlier this year, delving into the shadowy realms of the Khalistani activist's controversial demise. These covert exchanges, veiled in secrecy, unfold against the backdrop of heightened tensions between the two nations, as a parliamentary report unveils India's ranking as the second most significant foreign threat to Canadian democracy, closely trailing behind China. With Prime Minister Trudeau's pledge to confront foreign interference head-on, Canada grapples with safeguarding its democratic integrity amidst the swirling currents of global power struggles.



India and Canada share a complex relationship, shaped by historical ties, diaspora influence, and geopolitical interests. The Indian diaspora in Canada, particularly the Sikh community, has played a significant role in shaping Canadian society and politics. However, issues related to Sikh separatism and human rights in India have often been contentious points in bilateral discussions. Nijjar's assassi-

nation has brought these issues to the forefront once again, reigniting debates about the treatment of minorities in India and the extent of Canada's involvement in addressing these concerns. The Indian diaspora in Canada is significant and steadily growing. It's estimated that here are over 2 million people of Indian origin in Canada, making the Indian community one of the largest and most influential ethnic groups in the country. Over the years, the Indian diaspora has made significant contributions to various sectors of Canadian society, including business, politics, academia, and culture. This demographic's influence is a testament to the deep-rooted connections between the two

Nijjar's assassination has prompted a range of reactions from both Indian and Canadian officials. Canadian officials have condemned the act and called for a thorough investigation, while also reaffirming their commitment to dialogue and cooperation with India. However, the incident has undoubtedly strained relations between the two countries, with potential implications for trade, investment, and strategic partnerships. Some argue that Nijjar's death underscores the need for greater attention to human rights violations in India, while others caution against jumping to conclusions and emphasize the importance of evidencebased investigations.

At the diplomatic level, the fallout from Nijjar's assassination



has led to increased scrutiny of Indo-Canadian relations. The alleged involvement of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and a close aide of Ajit Doval in covert operations underscores the complex interplay between intelligence, diplomacy, and geopolitics. As India seeks to assert itself on the world stage, it must nav-

caution, ensuring that its as a reminder of the imporactions are guided by princitance of upholding democraples of transparency, accountability, and respect for international law. For Canada, the incident has highlighted the delicate balancing act it must perform in managing its diverse population while upholding democratic values. The Canadian government's response has been measured, ocusing on ensuring justice for Nijjar while maintaining diplomatic channels with India. This approach is crucial for preserving the multifaceted relationship that exists between the two countries. While differences may exist on certain issues, there are also areas of common interest where cooperation can flourish. Moreover, the tragic loss of

tic values and protecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds. This commitment to justice will not only honour Nijjar's legacy but also reinforce the values that both nations espouse. Moving forward, Indo-Canadian relations will likely face challenges as both countries navigate the aftermath of this incident. However, with mutual respect, dialogue, and a commitment to shared values, there is hope that they can emerge stronger and more resilient than before. In conclusion, the assassination of Jaswinder Singh Nijjar has cast a spotlight on the intricacies of Indo-Canadian relations, highlighting both the igate these challenges with Jaswinder Singh Nijjar serves challenges and opportunities

that lie ahead. It is a pivotal moment for both nations to reflect on their shared history. reaffirm their commitment to justice, and work towards a future marked by cooperation and mutual respect. The road ahead may be fraught with difficulties, but with a concerted effort, India and Canada can continue to build a relationship that is both robust and resilient, benefiting not only their citizens but also contributing to global peace and stability. Indo-Canadian relations are like a symphony, where each note, no matter how different, contributes to the harmony of the whole. Let us play our parts with respect, understanding, and a commitment to peace.

(The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

Far-right election surge shakes EU, prompting Macron's snap polls

ar-right parties rattled the Far-right parties rather than the European Union with major gains in parliamentary seats, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron, who called snap legislative elections.

Some ballots in the vote for the European Parliament were still being counted Monday, but the outcome showed the 27nation bloc's parliament membership has clearly shifted to the right. Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her party's seats in the assembly. And despite being hounded by a scandal involving candidates, the Alternative for Germany extreme right party still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Sensing a threat from the far right, the Christian Democrats of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had



French President Emmanuel Macron appears on television screen at the French farright National Rally party election night headquarters, Sunday,

already shifted further to the right on migration and climate ahead of the elections — and were rewarded by remaining by far the biggest group in the 720seat European Parliament and de facto brokers of the ever-

expanding powers of the legis-

But the surge by nationalist and populist parties across Europe will make it much harder for the assembly to approve legislation on issues ranging from climate change to agriculture policy for the next five years. Undoubtedly however, the star on a stunning electoral night was the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Macron immediately dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections to start later this month. It was a massive political risk since his party could suffer more losses, hobbling the rest of his presidential term that ends in 2027.

Le Pen was delighted to accept the challenge. "We're ready to turn the country around, ready to defend the interests of the French, ready to put an end to mass immigration," she said, echoing the rallying cry of so many far-right leaders in other countries who were celebrating substantial wins

Her National Rally won over 30% or about twice as much as Macron's pro-European centrist Renew party that is projected to reach less than 15%

European election dents German leader's authority, boosts conservatives, far right

Dismal results for Germany's governing parties in the European Parliament election have dented Chancellor Olaf Scholz's authority and could prompt even more of the infighting that just cost the government

A clear win for Germany's mainstream conservative opposition boosts its confidence as the country begins to look ahead to a national election expected in the fall of 2025, but raises guestions about why it isn't benefiting more from the unpopularity of Scholz's government.

And a second-place finish for the far-right Alternative for Germany, despite scandals and setbacks, underlines its enduring appeal to many unsettled voters and its strength in the formerly communist east — where it emerged as the strongest party and hopes to win three state elections in September.

The defeat of the three parties in Scholz's unpopular coalition "really wasn't surprising, but the level they've dropped to is quite shocking for a governing coalition," said Andrea Rommele, a political science professor at the Hertie School in Berlin.

Scholz's Social Democrats, the environmentalist Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats secured less than a third of the vote. Scholz's party polled only 13.9 per cent, its worst post-World War II showing in a nationwide vote, while the Greens crashed to 11.9 per cent from a peak of 20.5 per cent five years ago. All were significantly pelow their performance in Germany's 2021 national election.

Scholz's coalition government set out to modernize Germany but has gained a reputation for constant discord and poor communication as the economy struggles to generate growth.

The coalition partners argued through the campaign about how to put together a 2025 budget while adhering to Germany's tight self-imposed rules on running up debt. That problem already forced a hasty, courtmandated rehash of the 2024 budget, complete with subsidy cuts that prompted protests by farmers. "The sense in Germany at the moment is that the current government is not getting things done," Römmele said. "I do think they are getting things done, not all of them but quite a number of them, but they have to communicate that properly ... and they have to stop having these internal coalition fights." Chances of that don't look good. The Social Democrats' co-leader, Lars Klingbeil, said Sunday night that "our people want to see us

fight" for its priorities. The party's general secretary, Kevin Kühnert, told Phoenix television that, with the Cabinet due to present a draft budget within weeks, "it isn't plausible that everything will get quieter tomorrow if all just pull them-

selves together." Opposition leader Friedrich Merz celebrated his Union bloc's win and described the outcome as "a serious defeat for the chancellor, who was on posters across the country." Fellow conservatives suggested that Scholz should call a parliamentary confidence vote or that new elections might be needed — suggestions the governing parties dismissed.

Indian-origin man killed in Canada; targeted killing suspected

Ottawa (PTI): A 28-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in a suspected "targeted killing" in Canada's British Columbia province, according to the police, who have arrested and charged four people with first-degree murder in connection with the case.

The victim, identified as Yuvraj Goyal, was found dead by the police when they were responding to the call of a shooting in Surrey on Friday morning, the homicide unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Goyal worked at a car dealership in Surrey, Global News reported, quoting his sister, Charu Singhla. She said the family had no idea why he was killed and that they had no indication that he had any ties to organised crime. Goyal's brother-in-law, Bawandeap, said the victim was on the phone with his mother, who lives in India, just before he

was shot. "He came back from his gym (his) daily routine, and he stepped out of his car, and he was shot," Bawandeap said. Police arrested four suspects – 23-year-old Manvir Basram of Surrey, 20-year-old Sahib Basra of Surrey, 23-year-old Harkirat Jhutty of Surrey, and 20-yearold Keilon Francois of Ontario

They have been charged with first-degree murder, CBC News quoted the police as saying. In a statement released on

Saturday, the homicide unit said authorities were alerted to a vehicle fire shortly after the

shooting. On Saturday, the four were charged with first-degree murder, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said.

Police said that while initial evidence suggests it was a "targeted shooting, investigators are working to determine the reason that Mr Goyal, a 28year old community member with no history of police contact, was killed."

anyone with information or people driving in the area with dash-camera footage to contact the police.

The homicide unit also urged

UN food agency pauses aid work at Gaza pier over security concerns

AP WASHINGTON

he director of the UN World The director of the Ory Trong the programme has "paused" its distribution of humanitarian aid from an American-built pier off Gaza, saying she was "concerned about the safety of our people" after what had been one of the deadliest days of the war

Saturday saw both an Israeli military assault that freed four hostages but left 274 Palestinians and one Israeli commando dead, and, Cindy McCain said, two of WFP's warehouses in Gaza had been "rocketed" and a staffer injured. Sunday's UN announcement of the pause appears the latest setback for the US sea route, set up to try to bring more aid to Gaza's starving people.

The US Agency for International Development described the pause as a step to allow for a security review by the humanitarian community in Gaza. USAID works with the World Food Program and their humanitarian partners in Gaza to distribute food and other aid com-



Smoke rises in the Palestinians Al Fara'a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank following an Israeli military raid, Monday, June 10, 2024. Israel's military killed a 15year-old Palestinian in an overnight raid on Al Fara'a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, according to Palestinian health officials. The military said Monday that it had begun what it described as a "counterterrorism" raid into the camp. It said soldiers killed one militant and injured two more with live fire and said the heavy exchanges of gunfire were ongoing

ing from the US-operated pier. Completed in mid-May, the US pier was operational for only about a week before being knocked offline by storm damage for two weeks. After repairs,

it returned to operation again Saturday, bringing in 1.1 million pounds (492 metric tons) of food and other aid, before McCain said her agency was pausing its humanitarian work there.

The UN agency gave no further details, including how long the pause would last. WFP spokespeople did not respond to requests for further details. Asked about the pier operation

during an appearance on CBS's "Face the Nation" McCain said: "Right now we're paused."
"I'm concerned about the safety of our people after the incident yesterday," McCain said, without

elaboration. "We also, two of our warehouses, the warehouse complex were rocketed yesterday." "We've stepped back for the moment," she said, and want "to make sure that we're on safe terms and on safe ground before we'll restart. But the rest of the country is operational. We're doing ... everything we can in the north and the south."USAID said in a statement to The Associated Press that it was working with other US government officials and with humanitarian groups in Gaza "to ensure that aid can safely and effectively resume movement following completion of

the security review that the

humanitarian community is cur-

rently undertaking."

Sweden's populist party faces first electoral setback in European polls

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

The elections in Sweden to the European Parliament marked the first electoral setback for the Swedish populist party with far-right roots that grabbed more than 13 per cent of the votes but came fourth, according to preliminary fig-ures Monday. That made Sweden one of the few countries in Europe where the far-right is in retreat.

The Sweden Democrats — the Scandinavian country's second largest group in the Swedish parliament - grabbed 13.2 per cent of the votes, down 2.2 per cent, and would keep their three seats in the EP assembly, according to preliminary fig-

They came in behind the opposition Social Democrats, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson's conservatives Moderates and the Greens, which made some of the largest gains Sunday in the EU election for Sweden's 21 seats. The Social Democrats grabbed nearly one-fourth of the votes and would get five seats while the Moderates would get four and the Greens three. The poor showing by the Sweden Democrats was "the election night's greatest sensation," said Mats Knutson, the political analyst with Swedish broadcaster SVT.

He said the reasons for the poor showing could be that the party faced a storm of criticism after a television station had alleged that it had been operating fake social media accounts, badmouthing political opponents and allies, spreading doctored videos and posting racist remarks. Knutson also noted that the migration issue wasn't particularly important to voters this time.

Christine Nissen, an analyst with the Copenhagen-based think tank Europa, said that migration wasn't the top issue in northern Europe in contrast to southern Europe where 'issues such as migration are important for the voters there." The Sweden Democrats, who today support membership in the 27-member bloc, have toned down their rhetoric and expelled openly racist members. Since then, they have grown from a marginal movement with less than 2 per cent support to becoming the country's second-biggest party. In the 2022 parliament elec-

tions, the Sweden Democrats, who won nearly 21 per cent support — up from 17.5 per cent four years ago — gained on the rising fears of crime in largely immigrant neighbourhoods in segregated districts that are home to large numbers of migrants who have failed to integrate into Swedish society. The party which maintains a hard line on immigration, supports Sweden's three-party centre-right government in the 349-member Riksdag, but is not part of it. Kristersson's government has been moving toward a tougher stance on criminal gangs by increasing prison sentences for gang members and introducing stop-and-frisk zones for police to crack down

Hunter Biden's gun trial enters its final stretch guilty and has accused the Biden was actually using drugs in court of his 2021 memoir he was waiting for a dealer and

AP WILMINGTON

Monday as the defense tries to chip away at prosecutors' case laying bare some of the darkest moments of Hunter Biden's drug-fuelled past. Hunter Biden's lawyers could call at least one more witness when the case resumes in Delaware's federal court — the first of two trials he's facing in the midst of his father's re-election cam-

It's unclear whether prosecutors will call any rebuttal witnesses before the case goes to closing arguments, and then to

Hunter Biden is charged with three felonies stemming from the October 2018 purchase of a gun he had for about 11 days. Prosecutors say he lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. Hunter Biden has pleaded not

the case and separate tax charges after a deal with prosecutors fell apart last year. Hunter Biden has said he has been sober since 2019, but his attorneys have said he did not consider himself an "addict' when he filled out the form. The case has put spotlight on

a turbulent time in Hunter Biden's life after his brother Beau's 2015 death. First Lady Jill Biden has watched it unfold from the front row of the courtroom. President Biden was away in France much of last week, and heads to Europe again this week for the Group of Seven leaders meeting in

Hunter Biden's struggles with a substance addiction before getting sober more than five years ago are well documented. But defence lawyers argue there's no evidence Hunter

The criminal trial of President Joe Biden's son The president Donald Trump

Justice Department of bending in the 11 days that he possessed the gun. He had completed a rehab programme weeks ear-

Jurors have heard emotional and tawdry testimony from Hunter Biden's former romantic partners and read personal text messages. They've seen photos of Hunter Biden holding a crack pipe and partly clothed, and video from his phone of crack cocaine weighed on a scale. His ex-wife and two onetime girlfriends testified for prosecutors about his habitual crack use and their failed efforts to help him get clean. One woman, who met Hunter Biden in 2017 at a strip club where she worked, described him smoking crack every 20 minutes or so while she stayed with him at a hotel. Hunter Biden hasn't taken the witness stand and it's unclear if he will. But jurors have heard him describe at length his descent into addiction through audio excerpts played

written after he got sober, covically. A key witness for prosecutors is Beau's widow, Hallie, who had a brief troubled relationship with Hunter after his brother died of brain cancer. She found the unloaded gun in Hunter's truck on October 23, 2018, panicked and tossed it into a garbage can at a grocery store in Wilmington, where a man inadvertently fished it out of the trash.

"I didn't want him to hurt himself, and I didn't want my kids to find it and hurt themselves." Hallie Biden told jurors.

From the time Hunter returned to Delaware from a 2018 trip to California until she threw his gun away, she did not see him using drugs, Hallie told jurors. That time period included the day he bought the weapon. But jurors also saw text messages Hunter sent to Hallie in October 2018 saying

"Beautiful Things." The book, written after he got sober, covers the period he had the gun bought the gun. The second The defence has suggested Hunter Biden had been trying to turn his life around at the time of the gun purchase, having completed a detoxification and rehabilitation program at the end of August 2018.

There is no evidence of contemporaneous drug use and a gun possession," defense lawyer Abbe Lowell wrote in court papers filed Friday. "It was only after the gun was thrown away and the ensuing stress ... that the government was able to then find the same type of evidence of his use (e.g., photos, use of drug lingo) that

he relapsed with drugs." Hunter Biden's daughter Naomi took the stand for the defence Friday, telling jurors about visiting her father while he was at a California rehab centre weeks before he bought

Islamic State militants kill dozens in Congo

on crime.

Congo have killed at least 41 people in several villages in North Kivu province, the national government said Monday, as residents openly wondered why security forces weren't protecting them. The statement said Friday's attacks were carried out by Allied Democratic Forces militants in the villages of Masala, Mahihi and Keme.

Local civil society members asserted that the true toll was higher, with as many as 80 killed. Richard Kirimba, a civil society official in the area that was attacked, said the militants appeared to be expanding their operations and that local mines were drawing them in. "There's no state authority in this area, and in many villages there are no police, no soldiers, no national intelligence agency," he told The Associated Press.

Goma (Congo) (AP): "The population is worried Militants allied with the because the enemy is roaming said Kambale Vunyatsi Kiongozi, who represents some

civil society groups. Residents have long called on the Congolese army to protect the local population. The government statement said Congo's government has launched an operation to pursue the militants responsible and has killed a number of them and freed hostages in the process, without providing fig-

Eastern Congo has struggled with armed violence for decades as more than 120 groups fight for power, land and valuable mineral resources, while others try to defend their communities. Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings.

The violence has displaced nearly 7 million people, many beyond the reach of aid.

Gen Z turning away from military service in Aus

Tasmania: The Australian Defence Force is facing an acute recruitment crisis. Only 80 per cent of the 69,000 personnel needed to meet future challenges have signed up. The government announced recruitment will be opened up to some foreign cit-

Not only is the Australian military failing to achieve planned growth, it is actually shrinking, as Defence Chief General Angus Campbell told a Senate inquiry in February. There are two fundamental

izens to try to fill this gap.

reasons for the current recruitment impasse economic - low unemployment and a perception of better opportunities, work conditions and future prospects in

the private sector The other reason is cultural: a declining willingness of Gen Z to identify with - and fight to

defend – their nation. Either way, the key to the recruitment crisis lies in understanding the motivations of this generation, the main pool of potential recruits today. We recently interviewed 19 serving Australian soldiers from a range of demographics (two were Gen Z) and across military

branches in a study funded by

the Australian Defence Force. We wanted to find out what makes Gen Z recruits tick, and what the force might do to persuade more of them to serve their country. Researchers study every new generation as a guide to the future, from the baby boomers to Generation X (like the authors of this article), and millennials. None is

more distinctive than generation Z, or Zoomers - people born roughly between 1997

They are the first generation to grow up with smartphones and social media. In his current bestseller, The Anxious Generation, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt outlines the cataclysmal effect: he claims a large increase in depression and anxiety in young people is ering enlistment. Weiss argues

the direct effect of unsupervised social media use during adoles-

Zoomers' mental health is a barrier to service, as US Marine Corps Lieutenant Matthew Weiss spells out in his book on Gen Z military recruitment. A military career can be detri-

mental to psychological wellbeing, as Australia's Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide has demonstrated. The force's rigorous mental health entry standards may have reinforced this perception. The soldiers we spoke to said

mental health is an issue for recruitment. On one hand, they agreed that service is mentally challenging, and that younger soldiers are more psychologically vulnerable. On the other hand, interviewees said the force's mental health support has been improving. This is a step in the right direction – it may well be that media coverage of veterans' mental health

issues worries Zoomers consid-

private sector jobs (and money) afford much more online currency than military service. The respondents in our interviews agreed younger recruits were very savvy about pay and conditions.

But there may be another motivator: as shadow Defence Minister Andrew Hastie recently told the ABC: "People who join the Defence Force don't just do it for economic reasons, they do it because they love their country. This means if love of country

falls from generation to generation, military recruitment falls too. Weiss suggests in the United States, low patriotism partly explains Gen Z's reluctance to enlist. Our interviewees said traditional nationalism played only a

modest role for enlisting for young people. They thought a lesser sense of obligation and service is one

Another is the fact that the black-and-white picture of "my

country right or wrong" has been muddied following media coverage of alleged Australian war crimes in Afghanistan. The evidence confirms waning national pride among young Australians. We analysed publicly available data from the World Values Survey, a wideranging poll of people's values around the globe conducted since 1981. It shows in 1981, 70.3 per cent of Australians were "very proud" of their nationality. This fell to 60.8 per cent in 2018, the first year to feature Gen Z members in the survey. That year, only 41.6 per cent of twentysomethings (including some millennials) were very proud Australians the lowest proportion of any Australian age group in any year since the survey began. All else being equal, older adults tend to be more nationalistic, as surveys in different periods and countries show. But the nationalism gap between old and young has opened up further with Gen Z.

Aus PM urges activists to 'turn heat down' after US Consulate vandalised

Sydney (AP) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian debate to 'turn the heat down" after the US Consulate in Sydney was vandalized on Monday.

Survellence video showed a person wearing a dark hoodie using a small sledgehammer to smash nine holes in the reinforced glass windows of the building in North Sydney after 3 am, a police statement said.Two inverted red triangles, seen by some as a symbol of Palestinian resistance but by others as supporting Hamas, were also painted on the front of the building.

Albanese urged people to have respectful political debate and discourse." People are traumatized by what is going on in the Middle East, particularly those with relatives in either Israel or in the Palestinian Occupied Territories," Albanese told reporters. "Ānd I just say, again, reiterate

my call to turn the heat down and measures such as painting the US consulate do nothing to advance the cause of those who have committed what is of course, a crime to damage property," Albanese added. The consulate was closed on

Monday because of a public holiday in New South Wales state but would reopen on Tuesday, a consulate state-ment said.New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said an overwhelming majority of Australians did not approve of such vandalism.

'We can make our point in this country without resorting to violence or malicious behavior," Minns said.

Bulgaria's centre-right party sweeps in national polls Sofia (AP): Bulgaria's centre-

right GERB party led by former Prime Minister Boyko Borissov has received most votes in the country's parliamentary election but will need at least two partners to form a governing coalition. The country's sixth vote for the National Assembly in three years was held Sunday parallel with European Parliament elections. Both votes were marked by apathy that kept turnout at a record low of about 30 per cent. The results produced one more deeply fragmented parliament, which does not offer many options for restoring political stability in the European Union's poorest member country. Many observers suggest that the most likely scenario is another snap parliamentary election later this year.

South Korea says North installing own loudspeakers along border

South Korea's military on Monday said it's detecting signs that North Korea is installing its own loudspeakers along their heavily armed border, a day after the South blared anti-Pyongyang propa-ganda broadcasts over its speakers for the first time in years as the rivals engage in a Cold War-style psychological warfare. The South's resumption of its loudspeaker broadcasts on Sunday was in retali-ation for the North sending over 1,000 balloons filled with trash and manure over the last couple of weeks.

North Korea has described its balloon campaign as a response to South Korean civilian groups using balloons to fly anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border.

Pyongyang has long condemned such activities as it's extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule. The tit-for-tat over speakers and balloons has deepened tensions between the Koreas as talks over the North's nuclear ambitions remain stalled. In their latest nuclear planning talks in Seoul, US and South Korean officials reviewed an undisclosed guideline map-



ping out their nuclear deterrence strategies to counter growing North Korean threats. They also discussed strengthening the allies' combined military training involving strategic US assets, the participants said in a news conference. Cho Chang-rae, South Korea's deputy defense minister for policy, and Vipin Narang, acting US assistant secretary of defense for space policy, refused specific comment when asked to assess the threat posed by North Korea's balloon activ-

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately comment on the number of suspected North Korean speakers or where along the border they were spotted being installed. It said the speakers were still silent as

of Monday afternoon. South Korea on Sunday activated its loudspeakers for an initial broadcast into North Korea, which reportedly included news, criticism about North Korea's government and South Korean pop music.

Hours later on Sunday, Kim's powerful sister warned that the South created a "prelude to a very dangerous situation." She said South Korea would witness an unspecified "new response" from the North if it continues with the broadcasts and fails to stop civilian activists from flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border. I sternly warn Seoul to immediately case its dangerous activities that would further provoke

Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Kim's comments represented a heightened verbal threat from North Korea but he did not provide a specific assessment on the actions the North might take. Lee said the South was conducting broadcasts in sites where soldiers have sufficient protection and are equipped to swiftly hit

back if attacked.

"(We) don't think that they could provoke us that easily," Lee said during a briefing Monday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't specify the border area where Sunday's broadcast took place or what was played over the speakers. It said that any additional broadcasts are entirely dependent on North Korea's behaviour."

The South withdrew loudspeakers from border areas in 2018, during a brief period of engagement with the North under Seoul's previous liberal government. In deciding to restart the loudspeaker broadcasts, South Korea's presidential office berated Pyongyang for attempting to cause "anxiety and disruption" in the South and stressed that North Korea would be "solely responsible" for any future escalation

US, Poland launching group to help Ukraine counter Kremlin disinformation

Warsaw (AP): The United States announced on Monday that it is setting up an operation in the Polish capital to help neighbouring Ukraine counter Russian disinformation. The US State Department's Engagement Centre, which works to highlight disinformation by what it considers hostile states, said in a statement that the

US and Poland have jointly launched Ukraine Communications Group "to support Ukraine against Russia's aggression in the information

Increasingly, Polish officials say Poland is also a target of sabotage and other disruptive measures by the Russian secret services. Poland is a member of NATO along the military alliance's eastern front. It has been a hub for Western weapons sent to Ukraine. It has also been a place of refuge for a significant number of Ukrainians who have fled Russia's full-scale invasion that began in February 2022. The State Department said the new group would bring together allies to "coordinate messaging, promote accurate reporting of Russia's full-scale invasion, amplify Ukrainian voices and expose Kremlin information manipulation".

It asserted that the Kremlin "repeatedly uses lies and manipulation to peddle false pretexts for its unjustifiable invasion, obfuscate its war aims and attempt to fracture worldwide solidarity with the Ukrainian

Ukraine's air force may keep some F-16 warplanes abroad

Tkraine may keep some of the F-16 fighter jets it's set to receive from its Western allies at foreign bases to protect them from Russian strikes, a senior Ukrainian military officer said on Monday.

Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway have committed to providing Ukraine with over 60 US-made F-16 fighter jets to help it fend off Russian attacks. Ukrainian pilots are currently undergoing training to fly the warplanes ahead of the deliveries expected to start later this year.

Serhii Holubtsov, head of aviation within Ukraine's air force, said that "a certain number of aircraft will be stored at secure air bases outside of Ukraine so that they are not targeted here." Holubtsov told the US government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that those F-16s could be used to replace damaged aircraft as they undergo repairs as well as for training Ukrainian pilots abroad. "This way, we can always have a certain number of aircraft in the operational fleet that corresponds to the number of pilots we have," he said. "If there are more pilots, there will be more aircraft in Ukraine."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Moscow could consider launching strikes at facilities in NATO countries if they host the warplanes used in Ukraine. "If they are stationed at air bases outside the Ukrainian borders and used in

and where to strike the assets used in combat against us," Putin said last year. "It poses a serious danger of NATO being further drawn into the conflict." In March, the Russian leader allies against providing air bases

again warned Ukraine's Western from where the F-16s could launch sorties against the Kremlin's forces. Those bases would become a "legitimate target," he said.

"F-16s are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, and we will also need to take that into account while organising our combat operations," Putin stated. The F-16s require a high standard of runways and reinforced hangars to protect them from attacks on the ground. It's not clear how many Ukrainian air bases can meet those requirements, and Russia would be certain to quickly target a few that could accommodate them once

Holubtsov noted that the F-16s will help protect front-line and border regions from Russian glide bombs that have inflicted significant damage to both troops and residential areas, including Kharkiv. Glide bombs are heavy Soviet-era bombs fitted with precision guidance systems and launched from aircraft flying out of range of air defences.

"I think we will succeed, first of all, in pushing back the aircraft that drop glide bombs farther from the contact line," he said. "If we manage to push them back at least another 30-50 km

90 countries to attend Swiss-hosted Ukraine

be considered a turning point and an achievement, if not of superiority, then of parity in the airspace? Ukraine's Western allies are try-

ing to bolster military support for Kyiv as Russian troops have launched attacks along the more than 1,000-km (620-mile) frontline, taking advantage of a lengthy delay in US military aid. Ukraine is currently fighting to hold back a Russian push near its second-largest city of Kharkiv, less than 30 km (less than 20 miles) from the border. The US and other NATO allies have responded to the latest Russian offensive by allowing Ukraine to use weapons they deliver to Kyiv to carry out limited attacks inside Russia. The decision could potentially impede Moscow's ability to concentrate its troops for a bigger offensive near Kharkiv and in other border areas.

Last week, Putin responded by warning that Moscow "reserves the right" to arm adversaries of the West worldwide. "If they supply (weapons) to the combat zone and call for using these weapons against our territory, why don't we have the right to do the same?" Putin said. He didn't specify where such arms might be sent. The US has said that Russia has turned to North Korea and Iran to beef up its stock of relatively simple weapons, but Moscow could dip into its stock of high-tech missiles to share with adversaries of the West if Putin decides to ful-

Pak PM vows to 'eliminate terrorism'

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday pledged to "relentlessly eliminate terrorism" from the country after seven soldiers, including a Captain, were killed in a terrorist attack in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province a day earlier.

The incident occurred when the convoy of security personnel heading towards Kachi Qamar, Sarband Post of the Lakki Marwat district, came under attack by the ter-The terrorists blasted an

improvised explosive device (IED) initially and later opened fire on the convoy. "Deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Pak Army personnel, including a Captain in a targeted attack in Lakki Marwat District," Sharif said in a post on X.

"The sacrifices of our brave soldiers and citizens is a debt on us that we must repay by relentlessly eliminating terrorcondoling the deaths.

Shehbaz, Nawaz wish Modi on taking oath as PM

a crisis of confrontation," Kim Yo Jong said through state

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother and the ruling party supremo Nawaz Sharif on Monday wished Narendra Modi for taking oath as the prime minister for the third consecutive term.

In his message posted on X, Nawaz, the former prime minister and chief of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), said that Modi's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in his leadership and asked him to seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia.

Modi was sworn in as prime minister on Sunday for a recordequalling third term, heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

ter from India's neighbourhood



who wasn't invited to the swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi, took to X to wish his counterpart on his return from China, . Pakistan's all-weather ally.

"Felicitations to @narendramodi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of India," he said in a

'My warm felicitations to Modi Ji (@narendramodi) on assuming office for the third time. Your party's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership. Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the of South Asia," Nawaz said.

Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region, including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday graced the historic swearing-in ceremony. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif also attended the glittering ceremo-

peace summit that Russia is snubbing

AP ■ BERN (SWITZERLAND)

Nearly 90 countries and organisations, half from Europe, have confirmed attending the Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit over the weekend despite Russia's refusal to participate in the conference, Switzerland's president said on Monday. Viola Amherd told reporters

in the Swiss capital that the summit, on Saturday and Sunday, will aim to chart a path toward possible peace nearly 28 months after Russian forces invaded Ukraine and the war grinding on.

"This is not propaganda," said Amherd. "This is about the basis of humanitarian aid provided by Switzerland...and to initiate a dialogue.

The Swiss president added

represented at the level of head of state or government are country leaders, but "a handful" are from organisations like the United Nations. Some, including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, are expected to attend the summit at the Buergenstock resort overlooking Lake Lucerne.

About 160 invitations have been sent out and Amherd said it was not a "disappointment" for the Swiss government that fewer than 100 have so far announced participation in the first phase of the peace

Swiss authorities said the final list of participants was expected by Friday, but key developing countries like Turkey, South Africa and Brazil haven't take part but it isn't clear at which level. Brazil and China said they

wouldn't take part unless both sides - including Russia were at the table, according to Swiss officials. Beijing has been one of the top supporters of Russian President Vladimir Putin since the war started.

Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis also addressed reporters, saying Switzerland has repeatedly acknowledged that there cannot be a peace process without Russia. "The question is not whether Russia will be on board, the question is when.'

He also said Switzerland is in frequent contact with authorities in Moscow about the conference. Ukraine has helped coordinate the summit, Zelenskyy is expected to details.

attend. Cassis said Swiss officials had to balance considerations that Ukraine might not have attended if Russia was represented.

Swiss officials say the conference aims to set a course toward "lasting peace" in Ukraine, to reach a "common understanding" toward getting there, and draw up the "roadmap" on how to get both sides involved in talks. Nuclear security, humanitarian aid and food security are also on the summit's agenda. As many as 4,000 military personnel will be deployed to provide security and support air transportation, surveillance and roll out security fencing and steel wire for the event, officials said, adding that an increase in cyberattacks in the run-up to the summit was

Newly chosen Haitian PM discharged from hospital after spending a night

Port Au Prince, Haiti (AP): Haiti's newly selected Prime Minister Garry Conille was discharged from a hospital on Sunday after spending a night in treatment for an undisclosed condition.

In a video published on YouTube, Conille said he is now feeling well and is "ready" to continue to help steer the country out of its current security crisis by forming a government that will also prioritize issues like health care.

"The whole time I was at the hospital, I was thinking of something," Conille said in Sunday's video. "People that other countries.

need to go to the general hospital can't get there" due to security problems. "People who need health care" can't afford it. Conille arrived in Haiti on June 1 after a transitional council selected him as the nation's new prime minister. He had been working outside the country as UNICEF's regional director for Latin America.

Gang violence is still surging in parts of Haiti's capital and beyond as Conille takes over the helm of the troubled Caribbean country awaiting the UN backed deployment of a police force from Kenya and

Missile attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike 2 ships in Gulf of Aden: US military

AP MANAMA (BAHRAIN)

issile attacks by Yemen's MHouthi rebels struck two ships in the Gulf of Aden, authorities said on Sunday, the latest assaults on shipping in the

One anti-ship ballistic cruise missile hit the Antigua- and Barbuda-flagged cargo ship Norderney forward station late Saturday, starting a fire that those on board put out, the US military's Central Command said. It added that a second antiship cruise missile also hit the Norderney. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre similarly reported the attack and fire in the same area off Aden, saying "damage control is underway."

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the attack in a prerecorded video message Sunday, saying the vessel had been targeted with both missiles and drones. Tracking data analysed by The Associated Press showed the Norderney was still in the Gulf of Aden on Sunday afternoon. In a second attack, a Houthi ballistic missile hit the Tavvishi, a Liberian-flagged, Swiss-ownedand-operated container ship in the Gulf of Aden, Central Command. Saree claimed the attack happened in the Arabian Sea, but provided no evidence. Tracking data suggested the Tavvishi was in the Gulf of Aden at the time of the attack. The Tavvishi reported damage but has continued underway," Central Command said. A second ballistic missile fired by the Houthis at the ship was intercepted by a coalition warship, it added. Saree also claimed an unreported attack on a warship, without providing any evidence to support his claim. The Houthis have exaggerated some of their attacks since launching their campaign. The Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital nearly a decade ago and have been

since shortly after, have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. They say the attacks are aimed at stopping the war and supporting the Palestinians, though the attacks often target vessels that have nothing to do with the conflict. The war in Gaza has killed more than 36.000 Palestinians there, while hundreds of others have been killed in Israeli operations in the West Bank. It began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage.

the initial estimate at a 2.0 per cent contraction, according to revised government data on Monday. The revision was due to private

sector investments, at minus 0.4 per cent, up from the previous minus 0.5 per cent. Seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product, or GDP, a measure of the value of a nation's products and services, remained in negative territory, **PPGCL**

previously thought as exports and consumption

The Japanese economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year, slightly better than

declined from the previous

Quarter-to-quarter, the economy slipped 0.5 per cent in the January-March period, according to the Cabinet Office, unchanged from last month's results. The annual rate measures what would have happened if the quarterly rate last-

ed a vear. Wage growth has been slow, and prices on imports have risen amid a decline in the Japanese yen against the US dollar. The dollar is trading at nearly 157 yen lately, up from about 140 yen a year ago.

Apple poised for late start in AI race with big ambitions

A pple's annual World Wide Developers Conference on Monday is expected to herald the company's move into generative artificial intelligence, marking its late arrival to a technological frontier that's expected to be as revolutionary as the invention of the iPhone. The widely anticipated display of AI to be embedded in the iPhone and other Apple products will be the marquee moment at an event that traditionally previews the next version of software that powers the company's hardware lineup. And Apple's next generation of

software is expected to be

packed with an array of AI fea-

tures likely to make its often-

bumbling virtual assistant Siri

smarter, and make photos,

music, texting — and possibly

even creating emojis on the fly

entertaining experience. True to its secretive nature, Apple hasn't provided any advance details about Monday's event being held at the company's Cupertino, California, head-

But CEO Tim Cook has dropped strong hints during the first few months of this that Apple is poised to reveal its grand plans to enter a space that has been fuelling an industry boom during the past 18 months. AI mania is the main reason that Nvidia, the dominant maker of the chips underlying the technology, has seen its market value rocket from about USD 300 billion at the end of 2022 to about USD 3 trillion. The meteoric ride allowed Nvidia to briefly surpass Apple last week as the second most valuable company in the US Microsoft earlier this

year also eclipsed the iPhone maker on the strength of its sofar successful push into AI.

But analysts have been have been getting increasingly worried that Apple may be falling too far behind in the rapidly changing AI space, a concern that has been compounded by an uncharacteristically extended slump in the company's sales. Both Google and Samsung already have released smartphone models touting AI features as their main attrac-

That's why analysts such as Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities view Monday's conference as a potential springboard that catapults Apple into another robust phase of growth. Ives believes infusing more AI into the iPhone, iPad and Mac computer will translate into an additional USD 450 billon to USD 600 billion in market

ference "represents the most important event for Apple in over a decade as the pressure to bring a generative AI stack of technology for developers and consumers is front and centre," Ives wrote in a research note. Apple definitely could use the boost that AI may be able to provide, particularly for its 13year-old assistant Siri, which Forrester Research Dipanjan Chatterjee now calls an "oddly unhelpful helper." Meanwhile, OpenAI's

ChatGPT is getting increasingly conversational — so much so that it recently sparked accusations of intentionally copying a piece of AI software voiced by Scarlett Johansson — and Google last month previewed an AI "agent" dubbed Astra that can seemingly see and remember things. Besides using AI to spruce up

Siri, Apple may also team up with OpenAI to bring some elements of ChatGPT to the iPhone, according to a wide range of unconfirmed reports leading up to Monday's conference. This will be the second straight year that Apple has created a stir at its developers conference by using it to usher in its entrance into a trendy form of technology that other companies already had been making inroads. Last year, Apple provided an

early look at its mixed-reality headset, the Vision Pro, which wasn't released until early this year carrying a USD 3,500 price tag that has been a major impediment to gaining much traction. Nevertheless, Apple's push into mixed reality, tweaked with a twist that it bills as "spatial computing," has raised hopes that what is currently a niche technology

will turn into a huge market. Part of the optimism stems from Apple's history of releasing technology later than others and then using sleek designs and services combined with slick marketing campaigns to overcome its tardy start to unleash new trends.

"Apple's early reticence toward AI was entirely on brand," Forrester's Chatterjee wrote in a preview of the developers conference. "The company has always been famously obsessed with what its offerings did for its customers rather than how it did it."

Bringing more AI into the iPhone, in particular, will likely raise privacy issues — a topic where Apple has gone to great lengths to assure its loyal customer base that it can be trusted not to peer too deeply into their personal lives.

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Japan economy shrinking,

although slightly less than

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) fron eligible vendors for Fire Service for PPGCL Plant and Associates areas of 3x660 MV Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist

Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document et may be downloaded using the URL- https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 16th June 2024.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. E-499218/3

Dated 10th June 2024

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 47 building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The last date of submission of tender is 02-07-2024 upto 2:00

Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axon Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

yog/CF/150/24/11-Jun-24

Sensex, Nifty breach record levels | Equity mutual fund inflow but settle lower amid profit booking

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday after hitting their all-time high levels in early trade amid selling in blue-chip IT stocks and HDFC Bank.

After breaching the 77,000mark during the early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex came under selling pressure at the fag-end of the session and ended 203.28 points or 0.27 per cent lower at 76,490.08. During the day, the benchmark jumped 385.68 points or 0.50 per cent to bit a points or 0.50 per cent to hit a new record of 77,079.04.

Halting its three-day rally, the NSE Nifty dipped 30.95 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 23,259.20. Intra-day, it climbed 121.75 points or 0.52 per cent to hit the 0.52 per cent to hit the lifetime peak of 23,411.90.

Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister on Sunday for a record-equalling third term, heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers that put emphasis on continuity, youth and experience, while also rewarding partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Among the 30 Sensex companies, Tech Mahindra,



Infosys, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bank, Technologies and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major laggards. Ultra Tech Cement, Power Grid, Nestle, NTPC, Tata

Steel and Axis Bank were among the biggest gainers. "Volatility returned "Volatility returned to markets, as Sensex slipped from its new high and fell sharply towards the close amid profit-taking in IT, metals and oil & gas stocks. Lacklustre sentiment also prevailed due

to weak global cues after recent data from the US indicated that rate cut may not happen soon," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.04 per cent and midcap index jumped 0.56 per cent. Among the indices, services rallied 1.61 per cent, realty 1.34 per cent, jumped commodities (1.28 per cent), utilities (1.11 per cent), healthcare (0.77 per cent) and industrials (0.49 per cent).

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,391.02 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

"The Indian market currently

lacks fresh catalysts following the formation of the new government at the centre, suggesting that some consolidation may occur in the near term. Institutional flows indicate a mixed trend, with FIIs gradually covering their shorts and DIIs booking profits after the market reached historic highs," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green while Seoul ended lower. Markets in China and Hong Kong were closed for holidays. European markets were

trading in the negative territory. US markets ended lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude climbed 0.18 per cent to USD 79.76 a barrel. The BSE benchmark ended at 76,693.36, up 1,618.85 points or 2.16 per cent, on Friday.

cent at 23,290.15.

With these inflows, the The Nifty settled with a jump of 468.75 points or 2.05 per

swells to ₹34,697 crore in May returns on the back of the Indian growth narrative,

Equity mutual funds growth with inflow reaching a record high of Rs 34,697 crore in May, marking a 83 per cent surge from the preceding month, propelled by contributions from thematic funds and intermittent corrections that provided buying opportunity to investors.

This also marks the 39th consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Monday. Moreover, monthly

contributions Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to Rs 20,904 crore in May, from Rs 20,371 crore in April, marking the second consecutive month of inflows exceeding Rs 20,000 crore.

Overall, the mutual fund industry has witnessed an inflow of Rs 1.1 lakh crore in the month under review as compared to Rs 2.4 lakh crore in April. The inflow was due to investment in equity as well as debt schemes.

industry's net assets under management rose to Rs 58.91 lakh crore in May-end from



Rs 57.26 lakh crore in April-

As per the data, equityoriented schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 34,697 crore in May, way higher than Rs 18,917 crore in April.

Except for the focused and equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS) categories, all the other categories witnessed good net inflows.

funds Sector/thematic continue to attract investor attention with the highest net inflows of Rs 19,213 crores during the month. This was largely owing to the new fund offering (NFO) of the HDFC Manufacturing Fund, which collected around Rs 9,563

"Intermittent corrections provided investors some buying opportunity in a market which has largely witnessed a secular uptrend for a long time now.

Moreover, the expectation of the NDA-led government coming back to power also propelled buying from investors, as they would have expected the markets to rally the further if indeed government Himanshu formed,"

Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Manish Mehta, National Head — Sales, Marketing & Digital Business at Kotak Mahindra AMC, said that record inflows were aided by NFO listings and investors taking advantage of volatility to add equity schemes to their investments through SIPs as well as lumpsum.

"The record inflow in May came despite high volatility from FPI selling and general elections. Investors remained steadfast in their pursuit of

buoyed by confidence in the incumbent government securing a record third consecutive term, Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President of Research at FYERS, said. Apart from equities, debt

experienced net inflows of Rs 42,495 crore on preference for safety which drove the flow in the segment. Liquid funds recorded inflows of Rs 25,873.38 crore.

"Given the uncertainty surrounding the interest rate cycle, most of the flows have flowed into categories having a duration profile of less than a year such as ultrashort and money market. Significant flows have also been received by overnight and liquid fund categories, but that is largely corporates and institution driven and usually of very short tenure," Srivastava said. categories witnessed net outflows are

short duration, medium duration, dynamic bond, credit risk, gilt fund and floater fund. Besides, hybrid category

schemes attracted Rs 17,991 crore and index funds and other ETFs collectively garnered Rs 15,180 crore

Rupee falls 10 paise to close at 83.50 against US dollar

PTI MUMBA

The rupee settled for the day lower by 10 paise at 83.50 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, following a rising American currency in overseas markets and a sluggish trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said the downside in the rupee was restricted by easing political uncertainties as Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister on Sunday for a record-equalling third term. At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 83.48 and settled

for the day lower by 10 paise at 83.50 (provisional) against the American currency.

On Friday, the rupee appreciated 13 paise to 83.40 against the US dollar.
"We expect the rupee to trade

with a slight negative bias on strong US Dollar amid rising expectations of a delay in interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve due to tight job market," said Anuj Choudhary – Research Choudhary Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

However, softening crude oil prices and optimism over a government may support the rupee at lower



levels. Traders may take cues from inflation data from India and the US.

Investors may also watch out for the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting this week. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.80. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.27, higher by 0.37 per

Brent crude futures, the benchmark, advanced 0.21 per cent to USD 79.79 per barrel. Modi will be heading a 72member Union Council of Ministers putting emphasis on continuity, youth and while also experience, rewarding partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Along with Modi, senior BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar, all ministers in the Modi 2.0 cabinet, took oath as cabinet ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 203.28 points, or 0.27 per cent, to close at 76,490.08 points. The

broader NSE Nifty settled 30.95 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 23,259.20 points. Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets

on Friday, as they purchased

shares worth Rs 4,391.02

crore, according to exchange Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped USD 4.837 billion to a new all-time high of USD 651.51 billion for the week ended May 31, the RBI

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped USD 2.027 billion to USD 646.673 billion.

said on Friday.

Higher property prices, changes in law to boost debt recovery from stressed realty projects: Report

Recovery of debt from stressed residential realty projects is set to increase in the current financial year due to higher property prices as well as changes in rules, a report said on Monday. The bad loan recovery rate is

estimated to touch 16-18 per cent at the end of FY25 from 11 per cent as on March 31 2024, domestic rating agency Crisil said in a report.

"This will be driven by improved viability of stressed projects due to healthy demand and appreciation seen in residential real estate and appreciation greater investor and promoter interest in reviving such projects," the agency said.

added that recent amendments the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) regulations for real estate



projects should strengthen resolution of stressed real estate assets in the medium term.

The agency said it analysed performance of its portfolio comprising security receipts of Rs 9,000 crore from 70 stressed realty projects with a saleable area of 66 million square feet while arriving at the estimates.

It said residential realty demand is set to increase by 10-12 per cent courtesy a healthy economic growth and housing segments in top-six

Additionally, it said low unsold inventories across major micro markets will also ARCs (asset reconstruction companies) turn around stressed real estate projects faster with support from promoters or external investors.

A bulk three-fourths of the projects it analysed turned non-performing assets (NPA) between 2019 and 2022, and were impacted by falling sales and slower collections during the Covid-19 pandemic. The remaining are pre-2019 NPA projects that faced liquidity issues due to weak demand, it

Crisil's senior director Mohit Makhija said 33 million square feet of unsold inventory is likely to be sold at appreciated market prices because of a significant two fiscals and healthy demand for residential rea

estate. "The emergence of distressed asset credit funds is expected to improve the accessibility of last-mile funding for project completion, supporting faster restructuring of debt by promoters with ARCs," he added.

The agency further said the amendments in insolvency rule made in February this year enable resolution of individual projects by delinking them from the entire corporate involving multiple projects and group inter-linkages.

Speaking of the necessity of the amendments, it said only 8 per cent of the admitted cases have been resolved under IBC and debt worth Rs 40,000 crore was stuck across 100 ongoing realty cases for more than two years

Gold remains flat at AI Express union flags ₹71,800/10 grams; | concerns over charge silver rises ₹200

PTI NEW DELHI

old prices remained flat at GRs 71,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on

Monday. According to Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, gold traded flat on Monday, after Comex spot gold declined as much as 3.45 per cent on Friday, the most

since August 2021. However, silver prices rose Rs 200 to Rs 92,100 per kg. In the previous session, it had closed at Rs 91,900 per kg.

"In the Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading flat at Rs 71,800 per 10 grams, unchanged from the previous close," Gandhi

In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at



USD 2,293 per ounce, down USD 1 from the previous

close. However, silver was quoted higher at USD 29.50 per ounce. It had ended at USD 29.15 per ounce in the

previous session. Gold prices traded within a narrow range, after a minor gap-down opening. This mainly movement was influenced strengthening US dollar, following strong nonfarm payrolls data," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at

LKP Securities, said



PTI ■ MUMBAI

An Air India Express staff union has claimed the airline has issued charge sheets against 200 cabin crew members for reporting sick last month when the carrier faced significant disruptions. The Āir India Ēxpress Employees Union (AIXEU) has termed the airline's move as unfortunate and unfair labour practice.

In a letter to Air India Express chief Aloke Singh on Sunday, the union also warned the Tata Group-run airline's management that such actions could be detrimental to the interests of the company and

passengers. There was no comment from Air India Express. According to Union sources, the chargesheet was issued to around 200 cabin crew members on June 5, with a deadline of 72

hours to file a response. Around 200 cabin crew members of Air India Express went on strike on May 7, to protest against the alleged mismanagement in resulting airline, cancellation of hundreds of flights.

Consequently, the airline management terminated the services of 25 cabin crew members and warned the others to join work or else face the same action.

Three days later, the strike was called off after a conciliation meeting between the representatives of cabin crew members and the airline management at the Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in Delhi on May 9.

'The charge-sheet was issued by the Chief of HR to many of the cabin crew members regarding their sick reports. It is very unfortunate and constitutes unfair labour practice to reopen the case and issue charge-sheets for



matters that have already been settled through conciliation.

The termination orders of the 25 cabin crew members were also withdrawn during conciliation based on the settlement agreement," the Union, which is affiliated to the RSS, said in the letter. Requesting the management

to refrain from reopening settled issues, AIXEU president K K Vijayakumar said in the letter, "Such actions could be detrimental to the interests of the enterprise and its passengers. Instead, I urge you to seek opportunities for cooperation to strengthen our industrial

relations.

Stating that the entire issue was discussed before the Central Labour Commissioner (CLC) on May 9 and was amicably settled between management and the union, it added, "Pursuing the charge-sheet and initiating punitive action against

employees would only lead to unpleasant situations and worsen the already affected industrial relations. "It was clearly stated in the last hearing held on May 28

in front of the CLC that no punitive action would be initiated against employees in this regard," the Union said. "Additionally, since the issue

was settled on May 9, I believe that the employees were available for duty the following day.

Ras Al Khaimah eyes 20 per cent increase in tourists footfalls from India

PTI MUMBAI

R as Al Khaimah, one of the seven emirates in the UAE, is eyeing over 20 per cent growth in tourist arrivals from India with targeted marketing campaigns and addition of new hotels, the emirate's Tourism Development Authority CEO Raki Phillips has said.

"In 2023, we saw a significant increase in visitors from India, up 20 per cent compared with the 2022 numbers. This represents a strong recovery and growth compared to 2019. For 2024, expect year-on-year growth exceeding 20 per cent, driven by targeted marketing campaigns and introduction of new hotels and attractions that resonate with Indian travellers, Phillips told PTI in an

interview through email. In 2023, he said, Ras Al Khaimah welcomed the highest numbers of overnight arrivals of 1.22 million visitors, surpassing the previous record of 1.13 million visitors in 2022. "This growth reflects our

strategic efforts in enhancing our tourism offerings and promoting the Emirate globally. For 2024, we anticipate continued growth, projecting a 10 per cent increase in the number of arrivals as we introduce new hotels and experiences that cater to a diverse range of travellers," he added.

India is the fifth largest source market of Ras Al Khaimah after Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, he said, adding that this steady growth of Indian tourists underscores



When asked about how much Indian tourists spend on an average, Phillips said, "while I cannot provide exact figures due to varying factors, however, I can confidently say that Indian tourists are among the top contributors to our tourism economy in the

Khaimah as a preferred

Indian

destination for

travellers.

Indian travellers spend an average of USD 1,200 per trip to GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries, according to the latest data from Euromonitor International, he added.

Further, Phillips said, the majority of Indian tourists visiting Ras Al Khaimah are families, adventure enthusiasts, and wellness seekers. However, there is a growing trend of young

couples and honeymooners UAE and India will also help choosing Ras Al Khaimah for boost tourism from India its unique blend of adventure, luxury, and tranquillity, he stated. "In 2024, we aim to attract a diverse range of segments

from India, including family vacationers, adventure enthusiasts, and luxury travellers. We are also focusing on promoting meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) tourism. Weddings are also an important segment for us, and we have seen a growing interest destination weddings. Our Emirate offers a range of breathtaking wedding venues, from beachfront resorts to desert oases, and we work closely with our partners in

participating in roadshows, media events, fam trips, and exclusive events with leading wedding planners.

implementing India," he added. marketing campaigns to Phillips said, the robust air connectivity between the offerings," Phillips added.

with numerous direct flights which take just over three hours. "Ras Al Khaimah benefits from its proximity to Dubai International Airport, one of

connected airports globally, located just 45 minutes away, he added. the To keep current momentum tourist footfalls from India, he said, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority is

the busiest and most well-

We have been forging strategic partnerships and targeted

Carlos Alcaraz Wimbledon title defense starts July 1

arlos Alcaraz plans to continue his tradition of ✓celebrating Grand Slam titles with tattoos by getting ink of the date he won his first French Open championship and a drawing of the Eiffel

That art to help remember Sunday's 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 comeback against Alexander Zverev in the final at Roland Garros will go near Alcaraz's left ankle.

His right ankle already bears the date of his 2023 Wimbledon triumph and an image of a strawberry; his left arm carries the date of his first major trophy, which arrived at the 2022 US Open.

At the rate he's going, the 21year-old from Spain might run out of skin. Alcaraz, though, noted Sunday that he assured his mother he would not keep printing the dates of every Slam victory for the rest of his career on his body. Instead, he'll keep it to just

dates of the first title from each tools, as Zverev and so many of the four most important events in tennis - which means that remains is the Australian Open, and who would doubt that he eventually will add that one, too?

As it is, Alcaraz is the youngest man to collect a Slam title on clay, grass and hard courts, much as he was the youngest, at 19, to reach No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

"My game suits ... Every surface," he explained, "because I practice it."

He first learned the sport on clay. He finds himself most comfortable on hard courts he sought to excel there because that's what is used at most tournaments - and his always-look-to-attack style is a perfect fit for grass, as his win over seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic in last year's final at the All England Club proved. Alcaraz's title defense there begins July 1. Of course, he said, he works on his defence. And, his drop shots and volleys are valuable

against top seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia.

In women's singles, eighth seed

Aakarshi Kashyap will lead the Indian charge. She will play Ukraine's Polina Buhrova in

the opening round. Ashmita Chaliha will play

Peru's Ines Lucia Castillo,

Anupama Upadhyaya will lock

horns with Malaysia's Wong

Ling Ching, Samiya Imad Farooqui has a tough opponent in top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, while Keyura Mopati and Malvika Bansod will feature in an all-

No Indian features in the men's

Rutuparna and Swetaparna,

seeded seventh, and the pair of

Harshita Rout and Sruti Swain will lead India's charge in the

There are three Indian pairs in

Eighth seed B Sumeeth Reddy

and Sikki Reddy will play Malaysian duo of Wong Tien

Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in their opener, while Tarun Kona and

Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli

will be up against another Malaysian combination of Hoo

Pang Ron and Cheng Su Yin.

The third Indian mixed

doubles pair of Ayush Raj

Gupta and Sruti Swain will

play against Australian duo of

Jordan Yang and Sydney

Tjonadi in the opener.

Indian contest.

women's doubles.

the mixed doubles.

others see.

But Alcaraz's underlying principle is this: "My main goal is being aggressive, as much as I can.

In the semi-finals in Paris, he wore down Jannik Sinner who replaced the injured Djokovic at No. 1 in the rankings on Monday, ahead of No. 2 Alcaraz - and came back from a two-sets-to-one deficit by grabbing eight of the last 11 games in a four-hour, nineminute match.

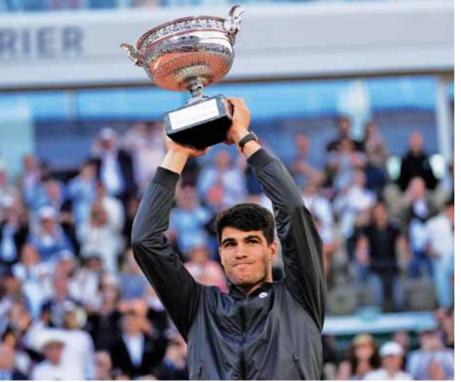
In the final, Alcaraz wore down the fourth-ranked Zverev, again erasing a 2-1 deficit in sets, this time by rolling through 12 of the last 15 games in a four-hour, 19minute match. We're both physically strong,

tennis at is different to other people," Zverev said. "He can do so many different things."

Alcaraz dealt with cramps against both Sinner and Zverev and said the real key he has

but he's a beast. He's an animal,

for sure. The intensity he plays



found is in the mind.
"If you're not strong in your

head and you don't show mental strength," Alcaraz said, "you won't win Grand Slams." Greatness has been predicted of him for quite some time and, so far, he has met the outsized expectations. The standards he's setting only serve to increase the volume of the praise - and the projections of what might be possible.

As he answered questions in English and Spanish on Sunday night, Alcaraz was asked in both languages how many of these trophies he could keep winning.

A reporter mentioned Djokovic's men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles (which, if you're keeping track, is 21 more than where Alcaraz's total stands). Another brought up that number, as well as the French championships won by his countryman and, to use Alcaraz's word, "idol," Rafael Nadal (just, oh, 13 ahead of

Open

those two accomplishments otherworldly.

When someone wanted to know whether equaling Djokovic is something he dreams about and

achievable, Alcaraz smiled that wide smile of his. "I don't know," he said. "I hope

Then, Alcaraz related a conversation he had Saturday with his coach, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, about how "difficult" it is to win one Slam - and how "unbelievable" it is that Djokovic has won 24.

"Right now, I can't think about it. I just want to keep going, and let's see how many Grand Slams I'm going to (own) at the end of my career. Hopefully, reach the 24," Alcaraz said before reaching his left hand toward the silver Coupe des Mousquetaires he had just earned and adding, "but right now, I'm going to enjoy my third one and let's see in the



Prannoy to spearhead Indian challenge in Australia Open badminton

 $H^{S\ Prannoy\ will\ look\ to}_{regain\ his\ lost\ form\ when}$ he spearheads India's challenge at the Australian Open tournament badminton starting here on Tuesday.

Prannoy, seeded fifth here, didn't have best of results in the last two tournaments. He was stunned by compatriot Meiraba Luwang Maisnam in the men's singles opening round of Thailand Open last

If that was not enough, world No. 10 Prannoy lost to world No. 11 Kenta Nishimoto 13-21 Round of 16 match in Singapore Open.

And the Indian will be desperate to turn things around in the BWF Super 500 event here as he opens his campaign against Ygor Coelho

of Brazil Sameer Verma will play Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo of Indonesia in the opening round, while Ravi faces a tough opponent in eight seed Loh

Kean Yew of Singapore.

Other Indians to feature in the men's singles are Mithun Manjunath, who will take on Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, Kiran Geoge who is up against Canada's Xiaodong Sheng, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian who is pitted

PTI ■ DOHA

The influential Sunil Chhetri's absence will be a difficult void to fill as the Indian football team enters a testing transition phase with a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying match against heavyweights Qatar here on

time on his glorious international career by playing

than a decade.

the 32-year-old first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who has so far appeared in 72 internationals and is the most experienced player in the 23-member squad after Chhetri's after

An acid test awaits India as they run into two-time Asian champions Qatar at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, knowing well that a defeat will end their campaign and dash all hopes of securing a maiden entry into the third round of the

The 39-year-old Chhetri called

international career by playing in last week's fixture against Kuwait in Kolkata, which ended in a goal-less draw as the team failed to give him a fitting farewell. Chhetri ended with 94 goals in 151 matches, having led the country with aplomb for more than a decade.

The Indian team will be led by

retirement.

phase with crucial WC qualifier against Qatar World Cup Qualifiers. India remain in the second spot with five points and a goal difference of -3. Afghanistan, who also played out a 0-0 draw with Qatar in their last outing in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, are in third spot with a goal difference of -10, the stalemate making the job much more difficult for Igor Stimac's

wards. Qatar, who have already qualified for the third round as group-toppers, have named a largely youthful squad, with 21 out of their 29 players below the age of 24.

We have watched the Afghanistan versus Qatar game and will work on the attacking transition, with a hope to start scoring goals from the chances we create," said Stimac on arriving here. India had their first practice in Doha on Sunday evening and are having the official training session on Monday at the match venue.

For the Blue Tigers, a result is a must. If they lose against Oatar, they will be eliminated



Chhetri less India enter testing transition

from the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers third round. They will then be doing battle

the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers third round matches for a place at the 2027 tournament in Saudi Arabia. However, if India beat Qatar, they will be in pole position to World Cup make the Qualifiers third round and a

direct spot at the Asian Cup thanks to their much-superior difference Afghanistan.

If India draw against Qatar, they will qualify for the third round only if the match between Kuwait and Afghanistan, which will kick off in Kuwait City two hours after India's match, also ends

In that scenario, India will finish second in the group with six points, the same as Afghanistan, but with a better goal difference.

Kuwait are at the bottom of the table with four points but with Oatar already through to the third round, all the other three teams remain in contention

for the second and final berth from Group A. For over a decade, one question that has dogged Indian football is, "Who, after

Sunil Chhetri?' The team is yet to find a lethal striker to succeed him.

Rahim Ali struggled as a substitute in the previous match and lacked clinical finishing skills. The likes of Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh and David Lalhlansanga comprise India's forward line but they are yet to make a statement upfront.

The fancied Qatar side will look to exploit wherever the India team is found wanting, making it extremely important for defenders Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Nikhil Poojary and Rahul Bheke to be on their

toes at all times.
In the midfield, the likes of Sahal Abdul Samad, Anirudh

Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco and Lallianzuala Chhangte will need to be creative with their passing and intelligent with movement off the ball

Nagal attains 77th place in ATP rankings; set to represent India in Paris

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I} ndia's Sumit Nagal climbed 18 places to 177th in the latest ATP rankings issued on Monday, all but sealing a spot in the Paris Olympics men's singles draw. Nagal has 713 ATP points. The

improvement in his rankings was due to Nagal bagging the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany on Sunday, beating Switzerland's Alexander Ritschard in a three-set thriller.

The Indian won 6-1 6(5)-7 6-3 in the final that lasted two hours and 22 minutes. Rankings, as on Monday, will be the basis for deciding entries for the Games.

As per the established criteria, the top 56 players, both in men's and women's rankings, will attain automatic qualification for the Olympics but no



more than four per country can make the cut for the Games, a rule which allows lower ranked players to sneak into the

Nagal looks good to secure the last available ranking-enabled spot in the draw. The last time India had a player in the Olympics main draw was the 2012

Games when Somdev Devvarman made it

Elated to win the title in Heilbronn this week. It was an important week for me, and I'm proud to have produced my best tennis when it mattered the most," Nagal

posted on X after his final win. If I win a match like this, I can be proud because the fight was insane. Ranking is secondary, first goal is to play good tennis,"

he said at the end of his match.
The 26-year-old Nagal would be the sole Indian in the men's singles event in Paris. This was the sixth ATP Challenger title for Nagal and the second of the year after the Chennai Open crown on home soil earlier

Nagal, who is currently the best-ranked Indian singles player, has won four ATP Challenger titles since 2023 and the win in Heilbronn was his fourth title on clay

my God, that's an animal.' Last year, a bird flew into my car,

so I didn't want to have a

groundhog stuck in my car as

Verstappen joined Hamilton and Michael Schumacher as

the only drivers to three-peat

in Montreal. The three-time

season champion is third on

the career victory list behind Hamilton (103) and Michael

Ferrari had a terrible

weekend. Leclerc retired on

exited later when he spun out. "Just a very weak, disappointing weekend for the whole team," Sainz said. "We

Schumacher (91).



Di Maria scores, Messi returns in Argentina's Copa America warmup victory over Ecuador

AP ■ CHICAGO

Angel Di Maria scored as Lionel Messi returned to the international stage for the first time in six months, helping Argentina to a 1-0 victory over Ecuador in a Copa America warmup match.

Messi was sidelined for the first half before replacing Di Maria in the 56th minute on Sunday night. A right hamstring injury kept the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and Inter Miami star from participating in Argentina's previous two Copa America warmup matches against El Salvador and Costa Rica in

"Sometimes there is no need to risk it, not only with Leo. It is about taking care of them so that they arrive in optimal conditions," Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni said of his decision to sit Messi for the first half. With Messi watching from the bench, Di Maria sent a reverse pass from Christian Romero into the net to open the scoring

"It helps to play against a rival like that, especially because Ecuador plays at a high level, they make it difficult for anyone," Scaloni said.

"And we needed to get togeth-

squad will wrap up its pre-Copa America slate in Washington D.C. On Friday with a warmup match against Guatemala before opening its group stage of the tournament against Canada on June 20. Ecuador: A pair of internation-

utive goal in an international match. He also scored against

Costa Rica on March 26. With

the 31st goal of his Argentina career, the 36-year-old mid-fielder is tied with Gonzalo Higuain for the fifth-most goals

in the country's history and sits

just four scores behind Diego

Maradona at No. 4 on the

Argentina - the reigning World

Cup and Copa America champion - hasn't fallen in its last

seven meetings with Ecuador, a streak dating back to 2019.

"The goal is to continue compet-

ing, and these guys have competing in their blood," Scaloni

"Sometimes it turns out well and other times it doesn't turn out

well. But you have to keep play-

ing. There are always things to

play for. Now the Copa América, then the qualifiers. ... Our goal

is always to compete at our best."

UP NEXT

Argentina: Lionel Scaloni's

leaderboard.

al friendly matches remain against Bolivia on Wednesday and Honduras on June 16 before opening the Copa America schedule against Venezuela on

AP MONTREAL

Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year for the Red Bull star's 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season.

Verstappen started second in the rain alongside pole-sitter George Russell and dominated late again at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Ile Notre-Dame on Sunday. The 26-year-old Dutchman has a staggering 50 victories in

the last 75 F1 races. Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36kilometer) road course. Last

year, Verstappen started from the pole and led every lap. The race Sunday started with a soaking wet track before the sun emerged 10 minutes in, but rain showers returned periodically throughout the afternoon

"It's a lot of fun to drive these kinds of races now and then," Verstappen said. "You don't want it all the time because that's too stressful. But I had a lot of fun out there today.

Norris lost a 10-second lead

when Logan Sargeant brought put the safety car on Lap 26.

Grand Prix for 60th Formula 1 victory "We should have won the race today and we didn't so, frustrating," Norris said. "We

had the pace. We should have won today. It's as simple as Mercedes took the third and

fourth spots, with Russell and seven-time Montreal winner Lewis fourth. Oscar Hamilton Piastri was fifth for McLaren, followed by Aston Martin drivers Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, the lone Canadian in the race.

"It was a tough track with the condition, so I'm really satisfied to score points," Stroll "Lots of points, the sixth and

seventh positions are really good for the team."
Verstappen increased his season lead to 56 points over second-place Charles Leclerc

of Ferrari. 'As a team, we made the right calls today," said Verstappen, coming off a sixth-place finish



Max Verstappen wins 3rd straight Canadian

a row here. I hope I can add more in the future. On Lap 46, Norris stayed out

while Verstappen and Russell the way. pitted. Verstappen regained the lead three laps later when hitting a groundhog on Lap

McLaren driver came out of the pit lane. Verstappen hung onto the top spot the rest of Verstappen managed to avoid

was almost dead," Verstappen said.

"I started to get to the last chicane and I thought it was debris initially. So I started to close in and then I'm like, Oh

never seemed to find pace." Organisers said 350,000 spectators made the trip to the track over the event's three

Verstappen started second Sunday on a tiebreaker after having the same lap time as Russell in qualifying Saturday.

March. Lap 43 after gambling with his tire strategy and falling far behind, and Carlos Sainz

in the 40th minute.

er, compete, add minutes and feel the sensation of putting on the shirt before a Cup that is

going to be difficult."
It was Di Maria's second consec-

Demoralised Pakistan eye hig win against | Pakistan lost the plot after 15 overs, Canada to keep T20 WC hopes alive

Shocked by the USA and scarred by India, Pakistan have little to play for and everything to lose when they meet Canada in their penultimate group league encounter of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

If the Super Over loss against the co-hosts in their opening Group A match was not enough, Pakistan slumped to six-run loss at the hands of arch-rivals India in a lowscoring match here on Sunday. Pakistan's Super Eight qualification chance now hinges on winning big against Canada and Ireland, besides hoping that the Americans lose big to India and Ireland.

Even in that scenario, both the teams will end on four points each and it will boil down to which team has a better net run rate. Hence Pakistan can only pray for divine intervention in best case scenario.

USA after two wins enjoy a healthy run-rate of +0.626 and just a victory against Ireland would suffice while Pakistan with a dismal NRR of -0.150 would not only need to win but comprehensive margins.

In the two matches so far, the 2009 champions never really looked the formidable side it was once known to be.

There seems to be no clarity in Babar Azam's leadership. The two factions in the team -- one led by the skipper with his close friends Mohammed Rizwan and Shadab Khan while other including, recently



sacked Shaheen Shah Afridi is also making matters worse. Not a single department clicked for Pakistan in the two matches so far and they will need a more cohesive effort in the remaining matches to give themselves an outside chance. While Babar and Shahdab Khan scored 40 odd runs

Pakistan failed to defend the target, losing the match in Super Over. And then while chasing an underwhelming 120-run target, none of the Pakistani batters could up the ante as they consumed 59 dot balls to

against USA to post 159 for 7,

Pakistan's major concern going forward is the underwhelming

be restricted 113 for 7.

performance of their batters as the likes of Fakhar Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed played loose shots to make life difficult for them against India. While Mohammed Rizwan took 44 balls to score his 31 runs, Wasim consumed 23 balls for his 15.

The only bright sport for Pakistan on Sunday was the performance of their bowlers with Naseem Shah (3/21) and Mohammad Amir (2/23) leading from the front.

But premier fast bowler Shaheen needs to take more responsibility upfront in the remaining two games to give Pakistan an outside chance. He has hardly been able to get

swing in conducive conditions. Going forward Pakistan will have to do some soul searching if they want to revive their faltering campaign. Canada, on the other hand, are

placed third in Group A with one win out of two games. After the seven-wicket loss to USA, Canada bounced back in style to beat Ireland by 12 runs

in their next match. In Navneet Dhaliwal, Canada have a veteran top-order batter who was a part of that 2019 victory over Ireland, and a lot

will be riding on him. Canada will also take heart from the defeat against the USA because they had posted an imposing 194, albeit in a

players under pressure: Kirsten

Derplexed by Pakistan's Psudden disintegration in the T20 World Cup match against India here, the team's recently-appointed head coach Gary Kirsten said his batters "lost the plot" after 15 overs and are under pressure after failing to perform at their best. Pakistan are on the verge of being eliminated from the tournament after consecutive losses to debutants USA and arch-foes India. The loss to Rohit Sharma's on Sunday was a classic case of implosion with the side going from 80/4 in the 15th over to ending at 113/7 while chasing a modest 120.

Kirsten emphasised the significance of strike rotation, particularly on challenging surfaces like the one here. He said his team failed to follow the strategy.

"I think certainly on a pitch like that, it is really, really important to be able to rotate the strike. So, I agree with you that sometimes it's fun to watch a game like this where it's not only about hitting boundaries," Kirsten said in the post-match press conference. "But you also have to be able to use 120 balls really well. As I said, we did for 15 overs and

then we lost the plot...We're losing too many wickets. "As a batting unit, you can't lose as many wickets as we are losing. Players have got to take responsibility when that opportunity comes," he added. Pakistan were guilty of consuming 59 dot balls during chase. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah did

the most damage with figures

The side's next game will be at the same venue against Canada on Tuesday. It will be a virtual do-or-die encounter for the runners-up of the last edition.

"These guys are all international players and they're aware that when they're not performing at their best that there's going to be pressure put on them. That's understandable," Kirsten, who has coached the 2011 ODI World Cup-winning Indian team, said. "...But a lot of these guys have played a lot of T20 cricket around the world over many, many years and it's really up to them to decide how they're going to take their games forward," the South African stated.

Asked if the team lacks the ability to handle pressure, Kirsten stressed upon the importance of continual growth and adaptation in the fast-paced world international cricket.

"I'm having a look into the environment and looking at what the issues are. I look at these players, I've watched them play many, many years on TV and kind of getting to know them, they're fantastic guys," Kirsten, who was appointed just a few weeks

before the World Cup, said. "I mean, there's a lot of very disappointed guys in the change room now. I think for me the most important thing for every international player is that you continue growing...," he explained.

"The game is changing pretty much every year. So, if you're not up to it and you're not improving, you're going to get found out somewhere.

On what exactly was the team's strategy while chasing, Kirsten said the focus was on capitalising on loose deliveries and rotating the strike. However, he expressed disappointment over the team's loss of momentum during the crucial phase of the innings.

"...I thought we did that brilliantly for 15 overs. We kept it at a run a ball, and then we lost wickets and then we stopped scoring ones and then looking were boundaries and once you've got to that point, it was always going to be hard.
"So, the message was to do

what we executed on for 15 overs," the coach said. Amid the disappointment of

defeat, Kirsten found solace in team's bowling performance, especially in the

death overs. "(It) got better and better and we've tracked their stats over the last 15 odd games, and they've been an incredible bowling unit from overs 10 to 20. I think our record between overs 10 to 20 as a bowling unit is up there with the best," he

'We've got four fantastic seamers and Imad Wasim I thought bowled really well today as well. So, we've got some nice options on the ball with the team and I think we're going to be a difficult team to bat against if we bowl like that," he added.

Kirsten diverged from the criticism aimed at the drop-in pitches of the Nassau stadium, refraining from joining the bandwagon of discontent.

Despite witnessing a series of low-scoring matches, he remained diplomatic about Sunday's wicket and the chatter surrounding its uneven bounce, which has been dubbed dangerous in several

T think it wasn't dangerous, I mean the odd one rose up, but not many. Generally it kept a little bit lower, it was difficult to score from both batting sides and also a fairly slow outfield so it was never going to be a big total," said Kirsten.

'I would have said 140 would have been a really good score on that pitch, so India didn't get that and so I thought we had the game," added the

Year ago people asked if I am finished, now they say I am at my best: Bumrah

PTI ■ NEW YORK

asprit Bumrah couldn't help but laugh at how the narrative about him has changed in a year's time from being someone whose career is finished to the one who is at the peak of his

În 2022, Bumrah underwent surgery for a lower back stress fracture and missed the T20 World Cup in Australia. Just before his comeback in a home bilateral series, he developed a strain and was out for more than 10 months. As a result, people became sceptical of his ability to handle the workload of three formats.

sealed the lips of 'Doubting Thomases' with 67 wickets across three formats in the last one year, including a match-winning 3/14 against Pakistan in the low-scoring T20 World Cup thriller on Sunday.

"See a year ago, the same people were saying that I might

not play again and my career is Outside noise and pressure can over and then now the question changed," he said taking a shot at all those who doubted his ability to fight

India restricted Pakistan to 113/7 after posting a mere 119 here thanks largely to Bumrah's stupendous performance. He understands the fickle nature of criticism and knows that despite being a cliched phrase, controlling the controllables works best for him.

"For me, I am not looking at whether I am bowling at the best of my ability. I try to solve the problem that is there in front of me. I know it's a cliched answer...But I was best option over here on a wicket like this," the 30-year-

old revealed. "How do I make shot-making difficult? What are the best options for me? So that way, I try to stay in the present and focus on what I have to do."

NO BAGGAGE OF IPL:

gobble one up in a high-stakes game. But its' something that Bumrah successfully avoids by creating his his own bubble. Because if I look at the outside

noise, if I look at people and pressure and emotion takes over, then things don't really work for me," the 30-year-old explained.

The IPL-17, that concluded last month saw an unprecedented 1260 sixes being hit on tracks that resembled roadways. The 'Impact Player' rule also hurt top quality bowlers who were often dispatched to the stands with disdain. "When it's bat vs bat, I switch

off the TV. I have been a fan of When there is a challenge between bat and ball, that is the game I like," Bumrah said.

But the Indian bowling unit that has come for the T20 World Cup hasn't shown any scars of the IPL.

"Obviously, the IPL that we played was not very bowler-



friendly but we are very happy that we didn't come here with that baggage and when we are getting help here, we were trying to use it.

"I have played a lot of cricket in

my young years. - when the bat Bumrah, the bowler, has and ball challenge is good it is more interesting to watch the

played most of his franchise cricket under Rohit Sharma's match."

ROHIT, BUMRAH AND bowler combination was the first central to Mumbai Indians' five

title wins and Bumrah saidn he knew how to control lowscoring games. "So, once we started, we were

very clear the message in the huddle was that now that is over, what is next? What are the things that are in our control? So, we will try to focus on that and not to create panic because yes, there will be boundaries here and there.

"People might play good shots, but we'll have to try and be composed and try to hold our shape. So that was the biggest positive, not at any stage did I feel that the panic had spread in the team and we were looking too far ahead. So that's a really positive sign for us."

MAGIC DELIVERIES OFTEN DON'T WORK:

Low-scoring matches often force bowlers to try effort deliveries like yorkers or bouncers but Bumrah doesn't want anyone to overdo that

stuff.
"If we go for magic deliveries
he too desperate, and try to be too desperate,

run-making becomes easy and they know the target. So, we had to be very mindful of not overdoing it," he said.

"Whenever there is help, you can get excited. You can try pole hunting -- bowl bouncers, out-swingers, in-swingers. But you don't have to do that. I have learned that. "But this time, it was not

happening a lot. The ball was

not doing a lot. Yes, we did create pressure. A little bit of lateral movement was there but not too much, not as pronounced as the last game." JASSI JAISA KOI NĂHIN':

As one of greatest pacers active currently, Bumrah could well be called the leader of 'Fast

"I always advocate bowlers, but we're very happy with the appreciation that bowlers have received because our country is obviously a batsman-loving country and we understand but we are very happy that bowlers are coming up front," Bumrah said.

Lamichhane to join Nepal team in West Indies for last two league matches

PTI ■ KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT)

Denied US visa, Nepal's most high-profile cricketer Sandeen Lamichhane is joining his team for its Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup campaign, the country's cricket association said on Monday.

Lamichhane, who had an eight-year sentence for rape overturned on appeal because of "lack of evidence", was denied US visa twice last month despite interventions from the Nepal government. The 23-year-old was initially included in Nepal's 15-member squad for the tournament last month tournament last month.

The T20 World Cup is being co-hosted by the United States and West Indies. "We would like to inform you

that Nepali player Sandeep Lamichhane will be included in the Nepali national cricket team for the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in West Indies," the CAN said in a statement.

Lamichhane also confirmed the development on X.

"I am now joining the national team for the last two



matches in the West Indies and looking forward to fulfilling my dreams and the dream of all cricket lovers," Lamichhane posted on X,

formerly Twitter. He was arrested in October 2022 over allegations of raping an 18-year-old woman, leading to his suspension by the CAN. But after he was acquitted by the Patan High Court in May, the player was reinstated by the country's apex cricket body.

Lamichhane's addition to the Nepal squad will have to be approved by the ICC's Event Technical Committee. Nepal take on South Africa on June 14 and play Bangladesh

on June 16.

New Zealand looked rusty and disorganised: lan smith PTI ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

 $F_{\text{Smith has questioned the}}^{\text{ormer New Zealand cricketer Ian}}$ readiness of his country's team in the T20 World Cup, saying it looked rusty and completely disorganised in the humiliating defeat Afghanistan

suffered Zealand embarrassing 84-run loss to Afghanistan in their tournament opener here on Friday. They were dismissed for 75 in their chase of 159, with Rashid Khan and Fazalhaq Farooqi grabbing four wickets each.
The Kiwis are placed fifth and last in
Group C and will next play the West
Indies in Trinidad on Wednesday with the negative net run rate making their task of qualifying for the

knockouts an uphill task. "They've got to beat the West Indies, and hope that they (West Indies) get beaten by Afghanistan, because New Zealand's run rate situation is so poor - we're going to be very behind the eight ball when it comes to that," Smith, who has played 63 Tests and 98

"I just don't know they're going to get up to speed from the flat performance they had the other day (against Afghanistan). What kind of team are they going to pick? Are they going to make any changes? The people they bring in haven't played any cricket either," he added.

semifinals of the 2022 T20 World Cup

ODIs, told Sen Radio on Monday. But with Conway returning to the side after a long injury layoff and Finn

Allen not quite hitting his straps, things are not looking great for the Kiwis, known for their work ethics and competitive spirit. Besides, they have entered the World

Cup having not played a single official warmup match. "He (Conway) looked decidedly rusty,

New Zealand had made it to the



on practice with the gloves on. And after topping the group stage, riding on fine performances from Devon he's been out of form with the bat for Conway, Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, among others. a little while," Smith said of the toporder batter who missed the entire IPL 2024 due to injury.

"Apart from the fact that he's had injures, Conway played no cricket in the IPL even though he was contracted, and still they maintained they didn't need to have anything like a specialist wicketkeeper in this

tournament. With Finn Allen going for a first-ball duck and Conway mustering just in fact very average, he looked down eight runs, the Kiwis didn't get the

desired start in the chase against Afghanistan.

"They missed opportunities to put pressure on Afghanistan early on, one partnership was all they needed to win the game. It was probably one of the worst performances I've seen, when you consider all aspects of the game, from a Blackcaps side that I can

recall," Smith said. 'It was underdone, it was rusty, it was disorganised — they were so far not

ready it was not funny. "Finn Allen has got a bit to prove, I've been saying this for a while — they basically ended the career for Martin Guptill to make way for Allen. They couldn't pick him in the 50-over World Cup because he wasn't consistent enough at that point, and I don't see much difference between then and now," Smith added.

Smith also lamented the poor Kiwi fielding saving it was quite unlike the

fielding, saying it was quite unlike the side that puts its heart and soul into

every aspect of the game. "One thing New Zealand has always done over the years is field well as a unit. We've been able to answer (to that) pressure with some really good fielding performances, we aren't

doing it at the moment. "Here again, we start with a poor performance, and I kept going back to Kane Williamson (in the post-match interview) and he said 'we lost it in the first ten overs' because that set the tone," Smith said.

"The only way you get those things sorted is to play cricket."

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