OPINION 6

MODI LEFT WITH LESSER

WORLD 8

HEZBOLLAH FIRES SCORES

MONEY 10

NIFTY HITS FRESH ALL TIME HIGH:

Late City Vol.34 Issue 163 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Published From



NDIA BLED BY TERROR ON INDIAN SOII

s the mercury levels are peaking across the North Indian cities hordes of tourists are rushing to Kashmir to enjoy the cool climes. In contrast, the Jammu region has been bleeding for the last three days as terror revisited peaceful areas of the region in the run-up to the beginning of the Amarnath yatra on June 29. Since Sunday evening, three back-to-back incidents of terrorist violence have been reported in the districts of Reasi, Kathua and Doda triggering panic among the local population and the tourists visiting the region on a pilgrimage.

The frontier Rajouri and Poonch are already feeling the heat of a series terrorist strikes/ambushes involving security forces. Since October 2021 around one dozen incidents of violence have been reported in the area and in response, the security forces have failed to track down the footprints of terrorists went around the perpetrators of terrorist violence.

Nine pilgrims were killed and 41 others were injured in an audacious terrorist strike on a pilgrim bus for the first time the Reasi district on Sunday. Late Tuesday night terrorists struck at two separate places in the the overnight operation, a of firing while the second

districts of Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua and Chattergala area of Doda district.

A freshly infiltrated group of heavily armed foreign terrorists surfaced in a thickly populated area of Saida Sukhal breaching several layers of security in the Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua. As the hungry and thirsty village in search of drinking water the local villagers alerted the police authorities after which the encounter started.

Speaking to reporters at the encounter site on Wednesday, Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain said in

has so far eliminated two terrorists. One jawan of the Central Paramilitary Force (CRPF) also made a supreme sacrifice in the line of duty battling these terrorists and one civilian also received injuries in the heavy exchange of firing, Jain added. The CRPF jawans have been identified as Constable Kabir Dass of 121 Bn CRPE.

Sharing details Jain said two terrorists were spotted at village Saida Sukhal near Koota Morh in Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua district late Tuesday evening. One of the terrorists tried to lob a grenade and was killed in the exchange

area. "There has been no civilian death or any kind of hostage-like situation. Only one civilian has been injured and he too has been evacuated to the hospital," Jain said. Asserting that it was a fresh

towards Pakistan, was trying to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the region. On Chattargalla encounter, Jain said a joint Naka of 4 Rashtriya Rifles and police were fired upon by the

infiltration bid, the Jammu

Police chief said the hostile

neighbour, a reference

terrorists tonight and the security personnel retaliated. 'The encounter is on," he Rashtriya Rifles unit and one special police officer of Jammu and Kashmir police received injuries in the initial exchange of firing. The injured were shifted to the Bhaderwah sub-district hospital in the wee hours of Wednesday.

The increasing incidents of terrorist violence do not augur well for the region as the common citizens are eagerly awaiting to participate in the maiden Assembly polls after the reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and the Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A on August 5, 2019.

on a pilgrim bus is also bound to impact the tourist arrivals in the region in the coming season. Though the yatra to the Maa Vaishno Devi Shrine is going on smoothly but the security forces may have to pull up their socks to prevent any other strike on pilgrims in the coming weeks during the

yatra period. Till the time of filing the report, the operation in Hiranagar was still going on as the security forces suspected the presence of more terrorists in the area. The residents were also advised to stay indoors and exercise utmost caution, especially during the night hours to prevent any

Following these three back-to-

back incidents of terrorist violence, a high alert has been sounded across the Jammu The intelligence agencies have

also issued warnings anticipating suicidal attacks on vital security installations in the frontier district of Rajouri and parts of Jammu in the next 48 hours.

In Hiranagar, the security forces also recovered US-made M4 Carbine from the neutralised terrorist. The recovery suggested that the terrorists being most likely from the Pakistani terror group Jaish e Muhammad.

Continued on Page 2

Plot thickens, **NEET issue** reaches SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

s the controversy over ANational Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) undergraduate (UG)-2024 for admissions to MBBS, BDS and others courses continued, the National Testing Agency (NTA) informed the Delhi High Court on Wednesday that it will seek transfer of all the matters related to National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) undergraduate (UG) examination 2024 controversy to the Supreme Court while EdTech firm 'Physics Wallah', Alakh Pandey, has moved the Supreme Court against alleged random award of grace marks by the NTA.

The plea urged the top court to set up an expert panel under its supervision to "enquire into examination process and results of NEET (UG) 2024. Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the NEET UG results, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has addressed some frequently asked questions related to the examination. Earlier, Solicitor Genera (SG) Tushar Mehta appeared before a vacation bench of Iustice Neena Bansal Krishna of Delhi High Court and said the NTA will move a transfer petition before the Supreme Court. A vacation bench of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, meanwhile, issued notice and asked the NTA to respond to four petitions.

Vandals smash Mahatma Gandhi's bust in Italy PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

bust of Mahatma Gandhi was van-Abust of Manauma Gamen.

Adalised in Italy allegedly by Khalistani extremists on Wednesday just hours after its inauguration. The accused also wrote controversial slogans related to Khalisatni terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on the base of the bust. The incident came days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy to attend G 7 summit on Friday. Meanwhile, after the incident, the local

authorities said the area was cleaned up in "record time". The Indian Government flagged the issue to their Italian counterparts. According to Foreign Secretary Vinay

Mohan Kwatra here, Modi will be travelling to Italy's Apulia on Thursday to participate in the summit at the invite of Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.



Speaking about the incident, Foreign Secretary Kwatra said the Indian authorities raised the matter of Mahatma Gandhi's status being vandalised before Italian officials. Meanwhile, giving details about the Prime Minister's schedule in Italy, Kwatra said Modi will travel to Italy on Thursday to attend the annual summit of G7 advanced economies. It will be his first foreign visit after assuming office. Kwatra said Modi's participation in the G7

summit would provide an opportunity to follow up on outcomes of the G20 summit held under India's presidency last year.

The G7 summit, to be held in the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Italy's Apulia region from June 13 to 15, is likely to be dominated by the raging war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza.

US President Joe Biden, his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are among the top leaders attending the summit. Ükrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is also scheduled for a session on the Russian invasion of his country. 'We have always maintained that dialogue

and diplomacy is the best option to resolve it," Kwatra said when asked about the Ukraine conflict.

Kuwait and Kerala singed

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/

massive fire engulfed a Amulti-storey building in Kuwait housing foreign workers, mostly Indians, early on Wednesday, killing at least 49 people and injuring more than 50 others, according to officials. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar expressed shock and said the Indian Ambassador there has gone to the camp. Indians constitute 21 per cent (1 million) of the total population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its workforce

smoke inhalation while residents were sleeping, and a significant number occupants were evacuated, they added. The fire started in a kitchen in

the six-storey building in the Mangaf area in Kuwait's southern Ahmadi Governorate, officials said, adding that the building reportedly had nearly 200 people living in it, who are workers of the same company. In a statement, the Interior Ministry said the death toll from the tragic fire has reached 49, the Kuwait Times

(approximately 9 lakhs). newspaper reported.

Continued on Page 2 Most deaths were due to The Ministry said criminal

evidence personnel are currently working on identifying the victims on site and revealing the cause of the fire and added that strict measures will be taken against building owners who violate the law. Chief Minister Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to EAM Jaishankar seeking Centre's intervention in Kuwait fire incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the fire incident as "saddening" and said the Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the

situation. Continued on Page 2

MAJHI TAKES CHARGE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers attended the swearing-in ceremony of first BJP Chief Minister of Osdiha Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Modi led his Ministers and senior party leaders to grace the oath ceremony of TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu who was sworn as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term in alliance with the BJP

SC puts Delhi in hot water over 'tanker mafia' rule

RAJESH KUMAR | NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on the Delhi Government over the prevalence of tanker mafia and water tioned what measures it has taken against them as people in the national Capital undergo a crippling water crisis amid a heatwave. Observing that false statements had been made before it, a vacation bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Prasanna B Varale told the Delhi Government it will ask the city police to take action against the tanker mafia if it can't deal with them. If the same water can be transported using tankers, why it cannot be supplied through the pipeline, the bench said.

The bench said if there can be stringent laws to control theft of electricity, why can't there be laws to check water wastage. "If water is coming from Himachal Pradesh, where is it going in Delhi? There is so much pilferage, transportation loss, and tanker mafia working. Have you taken any action against these? If you are not taking any action, then we will hand it over to Delhi police. People are suffering. The same water is coming through tankers but there is no water in the pipeline. "There are visuals on every

Such brutal cases call for strict



Photo: The Pioneer

Loose talk lands Kerala BJP chief in soup

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The outburst made against a particular community by K Surendran, president, Kerala BIP, has put him in trouble. While speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Surendran had attacked Sreejith Panickar, the popular debater in TV news channels and used derogatory language against the latter. Panickar has said in a channel discussion that Suresh Gopi won from Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency because of the goodwill he had among the electorate and this turned into

Surendran, claimed that Suresh Gopi won the seat because of the good

campaign done by the BJP organisation and described Panickar in unparliamentary language. This comes at a time when there is wide resentment against the BJP State chief for his mishandling of party affairs. Surendran who had contested against Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency finished a poor

The Panickar Service Society, an outfit of astrologers in the State issued a statement condemning Surendran for the derogatory words he used against Panickar community. Though Sreejith Panickar

third behind Anni Raja,

spouse of CPI's global face D

does not belong to our our community, Surendran using such words and sentences against the people is highly deplorable and condemnable. A person like Surendran, who occupies an important position, should never have used such terms and this exposes the poor standard of his culture and tradition." said Beypore Muraleedharan Panickar, president, PSS. Kakkassery Raveendran Panickar, vice president of the PSS, pointed out that this was not the first time Surendran was humiliating people based on their religion and community. No political

leaders should do so, said

Raveendran Panickar

channel that the tanker mafia is working in Delhi. What measures have you taken in this regard? We can see from the affidavit that these matters have been coming in 2018, 2019, and 2021. Every time this court says we can't do it, let it be done by the Yamuna Water Board (Upper Yamuna River Board-UYRB). What measures have you taken to control water waste coming through the two barrages if this is a recurring problem? Please show us what action have you taken or FIR have you lodged against tanker mafias?" the bench observed orally.

The SC asked the Delhi Government to file an affidavit mentioning the steps it has taken to stop unnecessary loss of water. The affidavit may be

filed today or tomorrow before the hearing on Thursday, it said.

In an affidavit filed before the apex court, the UYRB referred to a letter sent to Haryana by Himachal Pradesh in which the hill State has said its share of unutilised water was already flowing uninterruptedly to the Hathnikund barrage and that Harvana should release it to Delhi. "As per above letter, the 137 cusec of unutilised water is already flowing

interruptedly from the territory of HP to Tajewala (in Haryana). It therefore emerges that Himachal Pradesh is not releasing any additional water subsequent to the order of the Supreme Court dated 06.06.2024 which could be measured by the UYRB. Continued on Page 2



kallul ulaliks Wayanad, in a fix over seat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE WAYANAD (KERALA)/NEW

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who won from Wayanad and Rae Bareli in the 2024 general elections, kept people guessing on Wednesday about which seat he will retain, even as Kerala Congress chief K Sudhakaran hinted that the Congress leader would relinquish the con-

stituency in Kerala. Congress-led INDIA Bloc partner Samajwadi Party oresident Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday resigned from his Karhal Assembly following his election to Lok Sabha from the Kannauj constituency. The newly elected party member from Faizabad Lok Sabha seat, Awadesh Prasad, too quit the membership of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. The SP

will now have to look for a new name in his place for the post of leader of Opposition in the assembly. According Representation of People Act, a candidate can contest from Lok two constituencies, but can hold only one seat at a time. Therefore, the Congress

Addressing a public meeting at Edavanna in Malappuram earlier in the day, Rahul said

leader has to give up one of

the two seats he has won.

Animal laws need more teeth, say activists

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Continued on Page 2

case in Pune last year saw Aa dog being thrashed brutally by a local resident, resulting in severe injuries to the animal. Despite the seriousness of the crime, the perpetrator was only fined ₹50 under the curfurious across the country.

rent law, leaving animal lovers "In addition to the Pune case, there have been other instances such as the merciless killing of a stray dog in Mumbai and Jagatpuri, Delhi to name a few. These cases illustrate the severity of animal cruelty and the inadequacy of current

penalties to serve as a

deterrent where some people have been brutal to these innocent animals

not reflect the gravity of the crime, effectively allowing offenders to get away with minimal consequences," rued Alokparna Director Managing Humane International/India. Sengupta, along with other

animal activists, has now

"But the lenient penalty does

Sengupta, Society

written to the new passage of the long pending proposed Prevention of Cruelty Animals (Amendment) Bill 2022 in the



180 parliamentarians had demanded such Government to ensure amendment. At least 50,000 emails and letters were sent last year by animal advocates and the general public to Prime Minister Narendra upcoming Monsoon session Modi to amend the 1960 Act.

The draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 proposes substantial changes, including fines up to Rs 75,000, a significant jump from the current maximum of

Rs 50, and imprisonment for

legislative action, Gauri Maulekhi, trustee of People for Animals (PFA), said, as she pointed out, "Amending the PCA Act is imperative and long overdue. It is well known that violence against animals is a precursor to violence against other vulnerable members of our society, be it women, children, or our elders. "Strengthening this law protects animals and serves as pivotal step towards cultivating empathy and respect, fostering a society where compassion thrives, and brutality finds no haven." Continued on Page 2 | hospitalised again with severe

WHO confirms second human case of avian flu from India **ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI respiratory symptoms, which were positive for unsubtyped

India has reported an H9N2 avian flu case involving a 4-

year-old child in West Bengal who was exposed to poultry, marking the country's second such case since 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday. The child, who had a history of

upper-airway disease, was first hospitalised in February for complications from respiratory virus infections, which included influenza B and adenovirus. In early March, the child was

influenza A and rhinovirus, said the WHO, noting that the child had direct exposure to poultry at home and in the surrounding environment. individuals other including family members and

close contacts, reported any symptoms of respiratory illness. Although the H9N2 virus generally causes mild illness in

humans, the global health agency has warned that sporadic human cases could continue to emerge.

Continued on Page 2

he was in a dilemma as to which constituency he should relinquish. He said that whatever decision he takes, both constituencies will be happy with it. "We should not be saddened as Rahul Gandhi who is supposed to lead the nation cannot be expected to remain in Wayanad.

Continued on Page 2

TMC lost in at least 20 Assembly segments compared to 2021 State elections: Data

Despite a stellar victory in the recently concluded Parliamentary elections in which it picked up 29 seats wresting back as many as six from the BJP, the Trinamool Congress is losing at least 20 Assembly segments if compared to the 2021 State elections. Not only this, the party is trailing in at least 8 Assembly seats presently held by some important State Ministers. In 2021 the party won 212 seats whereas it is ahead in only 192 Assembly seats in 2024 general elections.

Among the ministers in whose seats the TMC is trailing are Shashi Panja and Sujit Bose the two Cabinet colleagues considered close to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. While the TMC is trailing from Shyampukur Assembly seat presently held by Panja the4 party is behind the BJP at Bidhannagar seat too from



where Fire Brigade Minister Bose won in 2021. Apart from this the party is trailing behind BJP in

Hemtabad seat from where State junior Education Minister Satyajit Burman won in 2021. In Hemtabad the TMC is trailing by more than 8,000 votes. Harischandrapur Assembly segment of neighbouring Malda North Parliamentary constituency --- held by State Minister Tajmul

Hussein --- the party is trailing

by behind the BJP more than 5,000 votes whereas from the Mothabari Assembly seat in Malda South parliamentary constituency --- a stronghold of State minister Sabina Yasmin --- the TMCis trailing behind the Congress by more than 34,000 votes. The Congress

liamentary seat. Down south in Krishnagar parliamentary seat TMC MP Mohua Moitra has trailed by more than 9,000 votes from

has won the Malda South par-

segment. The seat was won by State minister Ujjwal Biswas in

Similarly in Contai and Tamluk parliamentary seats falling in East Midnapore district a stronghold of State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari the TMC has not only lost to the BJP but also it is trailing behind the saffron outfit from the two Assembly seats from where two State ministers Akhil Giri and Biplab Roychowdhury won in 2021.

While from Giri's

Ramnagar Assembly seat the TMC is trailing behind BJP by more than 9,000 votes from neighbouring Panshkura East Assembly segment the saffron party has beaten the TMC by more than 3,000 votes. Incidentally Giri is the minister who had hit the national headlines in 2023 when he used disrespectful words against President Droupadi

Massive fire breaks out at Dombivli factory

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

T ess than three weeks after a Lmassive explosion-cum-fire claimed 13 lives and left 60 others in a chemical factory at Dombivli in the neighbouring Thane district, a massive fire broke out on Wednesday in another factory located near an industrial unit where an earlier mishap had taken place. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported from the mishap site.

The fire broke out at around 10 am in the factory of Amines Ltd, which manufactures several chemicals, at the State-run Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) complex, Phase II, at Dombivli. The cause of the mishap has not been established as yet.

"The fire broke out at around 10 am. In addition to the fire, there was also one explosion in the chemical factory," chief of the Disaster Management Cell of the

Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) Dipak Nikam said.

However, eyewitnesses said that there were two explosions after the fire enveloped the chemical factory. Before long, thick clouds of black began emanating from the mishap-hit factory. The fire brigade personnel from the KDMC, who rushed to the mishap site shortly after the fire, doused the blaze. There were no injuries or casualties in the mishap.

M/s Indo Amines Ltd, where the fire broke out on Wednesday, is located some 300 metres away from M/s Amudan Chemicals Pvt Ltd where 13 persons were killed and 60 others injured in multiple explosions and consequent fire on May 23. Shockingly enough, the Phase II

of the state-run MIDC where there have been several mishaps over the years, is located in a residential area.

Following the May 23 disaster, chief minister Eknath Shinde RSS irrelevant, Constitution does not need them: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress Wednesday claimed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Rashtriya Sangh (RSS) has become "irrelevant" and said the Constitution, democracy and society do not need the Sangh or its chief Mohan Bhagwat as they can protect themselves. The opposition party's assertion came Bhagwat's remarks on a host of issues, including on the Manipur violence and the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls.

Congress' media and publicity head Pawan Khera said, "Mohan Bhagwat ji, you reap what you sow. The fault is not of the soil, the fault is of the gardener."
"When farmers were facing

police just outside the capital, you were silent. When a Dalit girl was raped and murdered in Hathras, you were silent. When the rapists of Bilkis Bano were released and your ideological brothers welcomed them, you were silent. When Dalits were being urinated upon, you were silent. When Pehlu Khan and Akhlaq were killed, you were silent. When Kanhaiya Lal's killers' links with the BJP were

the wrath of the weather and

Khera said of Bhagwat. "Your silence and Narendra Modi have made you and the Sangh irrelevant. You've been made irrelevant by Amit Shah and the BJP. Your last chance was when the BJP leaders were talking about changing the Constitution, you should

exposed, you were silent,"

Railway board sanctions final location survey of new international connectivity projects

PNS MALIGAON

Indian Railways has recently sanctioned the Final Location Survey (FLS) for 14 new railway connectivity routes connecting the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and also alternate routes

towards Northeast. The total length of the Final Location Survey sanctioned is 1275.50 km. The total length of Final Location Survey for New Railway Lines connecting Bangladesh is 861 km, and with Nepal is 202.5 km. The proposed alternate routes towards

Northeast will be of 212 km length.The sanctioned routes for FLS of Rail connectivity between India and Bangladesh are Balurghat - Hili -Parbatipur – Kaunia Lalmanirhat – Mogalhat Gitaldaha section. This will be of 32 km out of which 14 km

will be new railway line and 18 km will be gauge conversion. Proposed Balurghat -Gitaldaha - Bamanhat -Sonahat - Golakganj - Dhubri section will be of 56 km length, out of which 38 km will be new railway line and 18 km will be gauge conversion.

Aurangabad MP Bhumre receives threat

SAMBHAJINAGAR (MAHA)

n anonymous letter with a Athreat to kill newly-elected Shiv Sena MP Sandipan Bhumre has been received by police, a senior official said here on Wednesday.

The letter was received by the office of Maharashtra Director General of Police a few days ago, he said. Bhumre, a state minister, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Aurangabad constituency in the recent elections. The letter writer claimed that people

close to Bhumre were doing injustice to people, and especially mentioned officials at the Bidkin police station. The writer threatened to attack Bhumre's convoy if the MP tried to 'save people doing injustice' in the district. Superintendent of Police Maneesh Kalwaniya said the letter has been forwarded to the concerned police station, and investigation was underway. Bhumre, meanwhile, told reporters that anyone can threaten anonymously, and the writer should have identified

Animal laws need more teeth...

The draft Bill introduces amendments to the current including animal law stringent penalties for animal cruelty, newer cognizable offenses, and establishes five fundamental freedoms for every animal-freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury, and disease; and freedom to express normal and natural behavior.

H9N2 circulates as a low-

pathogenic virus in poultry in

Though there have been two

deaths reported from across

the world due to the infection

so far, the WHO said that the

overall risk is low, given that

H9N2 hasn't shown a capacity

people. According to reports,

neighboring China's mainland

has reported five infections

involving the virus this year.

many parts of the world.

proposes substantial changes, including fines up to Rs 75,000 and imprisonment since its adoption, giving for severe offenses. "This is a significant increase from the go scot-free after committing existing penalties and is aimed at providing a more effective deterrent against animal cruelty," pointed out

The activists lamented that despite India having some of highlighting the pending the strongest animal laws in status of the bill despite the world, the Prevention of recommendations from the

WHO said: "Most human

cases of infection with H9N2

viruses are exposed through

contact with infected poultry

virus in poultry populations,

have been some cases where

like the one from West Bengal.

contaminated

environment... Given the contact with animals and continued detection of the poultry and areas

sporadic human cases can be faeces. Contact should be

tends to be mild, but there hands thoroughly with soap

hospitalisation was required especially before and after

WHO confirms second human case...

expected."

In its risk assessment, the With most cases of bird flu WHO.

Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 has remained unchanged scope to animal offenders to serious crimes against

Last year, Mercy For Animals India Foundation among other activists too had written to the Prime Minister,

being reported by people who

handle poultry, it is important

that animals and poultry are

"People need to minimise

and

contaminated with their

avoided with dead animals.

and water as often as possible,

handling animals," said the

handled with care.

Animal Welfare Board of India and more than 140 MPs. "In the absence of a robust law, incidents of animal cruelty are on the rise as offenders are aware of the weak penalties under the current law," said Nikunj Sharma, CEO of Mercy For Animals India Foundation. Anjana Kashyap, an animal

lover and resident of Mayur Vihar Phase 2 in the national Capital said, "We can't live

with outdated laws. There is a need for stricter penalties and better enforcement of animal protection measures. What are we teaching our kids when they see animals being beaten cruelly by some perverted

"We need to promote a compassionate society where animals are treated with kindness, for our children's sake so that they become better humans."

dilemma before me, whether

contested from Amethi and Wayanad, but lost the north Indian constituency to BJP's Smriti Irani, and won from would relinquish the Rae In 2024, the Congress leader contested from Rae Bareli and Wayanad and won both

SC puts Delhi in hot water...

From Page 1

"Himachal Pradesh does not have any storage from where it can release the additional water amounting to 137 cusec in pursuance to Supreme Court order and therefore excess water released by Himachal Pradesh for Delhi can only be ascertained using two methodologies which has also been mentioned by Haryana," the affidavit, filed through advocate Brajesh Kumar, stated.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Delhi Government, sought to assuage the court's concern, saying action has been taken to prevent water wastage, including disconnection of supply to places where there is no pressing need for it. He said water tankers are being provided by the Delhi Jal Board.

"In so far as police is concerned, we will be more the AAP Government formed take action in this (to check water mafia)," he said. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi

passed by the UYRB in 2018 under which Delhi must get 1013 cusecs of water. "However, as against this 1013 cusecs, the actual water received is varying between 800-900 cusecs," Singhvi said. Reacting to the top court observations, the Raj Niwas official said despite knowing that a large scale water mafia is operational in Delhi, extorting money from the poorest of the poor, the Delhi Jal Board under AAP never thought it proper to even complain to the police about the same, leave apart filing an FIR, that would have automatically ensured police action. "They never came to LG asking for action to be taken. They of course could not have because the water mafia in Delhi operates in connivance with the AAP under direct patronage and blessings of its leaders," they

In response to the water crisis, Tuesday to monitor the main water distribution network and ensure there are no leakages. Water and Revenue Government, cited an order Minister Atishi stated on X on

Wednesday, "Given Delhi's severe water shortage amid the heatwave, measures are being implemented to prevent any water wastage... Atishi on Wednesday wrote to

the Chief Secretary directing him to ensure that these teams monitor and inspect the main water distribution network from water sources to the water treatment plants and from WTPs to primary underground reservoirs Meanwhile, Delhi BJP leaders

met the Delhi police chief on Wednesday and demanded the formation of a special investigation team and registration of an FIR over the alleged theft of water from the Munak Canal and other sources by the tanker mafia. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva along with the party's North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia met Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora at Delhi Police a complaint from the party. In the complaint, the party requested the Delhi Police to register an FIR over water

Vandals smash Mahatma Gandhi's bust in Italy

The foreign secretary said India's regular participation in the G7 summit points to increasing recognition of New Delhi's efforts to address global challenges

Prime Minister Modi will be accompanied by a high-level delegation that is likely to include External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval, it was learnt.

The prime minister is set to hold a number of bilateral meetings including with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Modi had attended the previous G7 summit in . Hiroshima in May last year. On the sidelines of the summit, he had held talks with Zelenskyy and a number of other leaders.

The G7 comprises the US, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan. Italy is holding the current presidency of the G7 (Group of Seven) and is hosting the summit in that A key focus of the Italian

presidency has been to defend the rules-based international Russia's military action in

Ukraine has undermined its principles and triggered growing instability, with multiple crises unfolding worldwide, according to Italy. The G7 will give equal importance to the conflict in the Middle East, with its consequences for the global agenda, it says.

The bloc expanded into the G8 between 1997 and 2013, with the inclusion of Russia. However, Russia's participation was suspended in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.

In line with its tradition, representatives of a number of countries and international organisations are invited to the summit by the host nation that holds the chair.

Besides India, Italy has invited leaders from 11 developing countries in Africa, South America and the Indo-Pacific region to attend the summit. Though the European Union is not a member of the G7, it attends the annual summit. Meanwhile, responding to a question, Kwatra said India will participate in the peace summit in Switzerland at an

appropriate level. Kwatra did

not specify who will represent

India at the summit.

'Therefore, we should not

From Page 1

be sad. Everyone should understand that and give all their wishes and support to him," Sudhakaran said.

Rahul...

Later, during his speech, Rahul Gandhi said many Bareli or the Wayanad LS seat. "Everybody knows the

I should be the MP of Wayanad or of Rae Bareli. What I will commit to you is that both Wayand and Rae Bareli will be happy with my decision," the Congress leader said.

2019, Rahul had answer to this, except for seats with a huge margin of myself," he said. "I have a over three lakh votes.

Plot thickens, NEET issue...

The petitions have been filed by National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024 candidates raising these grievances. Following in the footsteps of the Supreme Court, the high court also refused to stay the counselling

Mehta told the court that petitions related to the NEET UG exams have been filed before several High Courts of the country and to ensure that there are no conflicting views by the High Courts, the NTA will request the Supreme Court to hear all such

The court granted the NTA counsel's prayer for time to respond to the petitions and listed the matter for further hearing on July 5. At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that several pleas have been filed in seven different high courts relating to

of the NEET-UG, 2024 examination and some are pending before the Supreme Court. He said the NTA will soon file a transfer petition in the apex court for consolidating all the pleas. "We are filing transfer petitions in the Supreme Court because there is a likeliĥood of conflicting views by different high courts. Could your lordship consider waiting for a week or two? We will file a transfer petition," Mehta told the court. The law officer said these petitions

can be broadly categorised as raising issues of grace/compensatory marks, alleged paper leak and anomalies in answers to certain questions. The counsel for some of the petitioners urged the court to direct the authorities to not start the counselling for the time being or note that the counselling will be subject to the outcome of these petitions.

The top court had said on Tuesday alleged irregularities in the conduct the sanctity of the National

Eligibility-cum-Entrance Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024 has been affected and sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on another plea seeking holding of the examination afresh on grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices.

Lawyer J Sai Deepak, who appeared for Pandey, mentioned the plea for urgent listing on Tuesday before a vacation bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah. The bench asked him to approach the apex court registry with

"Multiple petitions have been listed in the Court. Some of the petitions were filed before the declaration of results on the basis that there had been a leak of the paper itself. Notices have been issued in regard to those petitions. Our petition is slightly

"We represent Alakh Pandey, who has collected signatures from about 20,000 students which clearly shows that close to about 70 to 80 marks have been awarded in grace marks randomly to at least 1,500 students. We are challenging the arbitrary award of grace marks. The court has indicated that our matter will also be taken up with the other matters but the court is clear that it will not stay the counselling process at this stage,'

lawyer Sai Deepak said. The NEET-UG 2024 examination was held by the NTA on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in Government and private institutions across the country.

INDIA BLED BY ERROR ON

From Page 1

Similar weapons were used in the Reasi terror attack as well. As per the police, the recovered arms and ammunition included; three magazines containing 30 rounds, one another magazine containing 24 rounds, 75 rounds in a

grenades, 1 lakh currency (200 notes of rupees 500), (Pakistan-made eatables chocolates, dry channa and stale chapatis), Pakistanmade medicines and injections (pain-killers), 1 syringe, 2 packs of A4 batteries and 1 handset wrapped in tape having antenna and 2 wires separate polythene, 3 live hanging from the handset.

Chronology of terrorist attacks in Jammu region since 1 January 2024 running bus packed with pilgrims is fired at leaving 9 Kuwait and Kerala singed since 1 January 2024 April 22, Rajouri: government official is killed in Shahdara Sharief area exactly 20 years after his father was also killed

April 28, Udhampur: A Chochru Gala when terrorists opened fire on a patrol party.

May 4, Poonch: A convoy of Indian Air Force attacked at Shahsitar. A corporal level officer was killed, four others injured June 9, Reasi: First terror

dead. The attack coincided with From Page 1

the oath ceremony of Prime | "The fire mishap in Kuwait Minister Narendra Modi. possibly Engagement, still in

check-post

City is saddening. My thoughts June 11, Kathua: Attack are with all those who have lost fresh their near and dear ones. I pray VDG member was killed in infiltration. Two foreign Chochru Gala when terrorists killed, and an earliest. The Indian Embassy injured trooper succumbs. in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation and working with the authorities there to assist June 12, Doda: At least six the affected," Modi said on X. security personnel are "Unfortunately, we received a injured in a midnight report of a fire at... Exactly 6:00 attack. am (0830 IST) in the Mangaf Engagement is in progress. | area," Major General Eid Al-

Owaihan, head of the interior ministry's General Department of Criminal

Evidence, said.

The majority of the deceased were Indian nationals from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and north Indian states. Their ages ranged between 20 and 50 years, he was quoted as saying by English language daily Arab Times.

The building is rented by the NBTC group. said Sources

firefighters sustained injuries during the rescue operation. "In connection with the tragic fire accident involving Indian workers today, the Embassy has put in place an emergency helpline number: +965-65505246. All concerned are requested to connect over this

helpline for updates. Embassy remains committed to render all possible assistance," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait said in a post on X.

Indians constitute 21 per cent

population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its workforce (approximately 9 lakhs). The fire mishap in Kuwait

(1 million) of the total

City is saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation and working with the authorities there to assist the affected," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X.

Raj Niwas questions AAP negligence over water mafia operating in city

n a day when the Supreme Court rapped the Delhi Government on the water crisis issue, Raj Niwas officials said here on Wednesday despite knowing that a large scale water mafia is operational in Delhi.

Stating this, they said though mafia is extorting money from the poorest of the poor, the Delhi Jal Board under AAP never thought it proper to even complain to the police about the same, leave apart filing an FIR, that would have automatically ensured police

Further, Saxena has directed Delhi Police to ensure strict vigil and monitoring along Munak canal to prevent any theft of water by tanker mafia and also catch hold of such persons who have been involved in such illegal activities in the past. He has asked the police to take necessary legal action against such mafia elements and directed them to submit a compliance report to him.

Moreover, they never came to Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena asking for action to be taken. They of course could not have because the water mafia in Delhi operates in connivance with the Aam Aadmi Party under direct patronage and blessings of its

This assertion came as the apex court asked the AAP Government to submit a report as to what it is doing to arrest wastage, leakage and pilferage of water in Delhi. A sting operation carried out by a prominent news channel more than established the water mafia operating in the city, forcing a reluctant Water Minister, Atishi, till now in denial, to issue perfunctory statements, officials said.

On Tuesday, AAP Water Minister in Delhi, Atishi issued a patently and blatantly false statement, blaming Haryana for scarcity of water in Delhi and charged the Delhi LG with Convolutedly, she based her fanciful assertions on the affidavit filed by Government of Haryana in



regard, in the Supreme Court, they said.

Elaborating upon officials said even a cursory reading of the affidavit that she relied upon busts her lies and calumnious statements. The Press Release issued by Atishi reads, "Atishi exposes lies of LG, who blames Delhi Government for everything". "According to LG, Delhi is getting sufficient amount of water whereas according to Haryana's affidavit filed in Supreme Court, Delhi got less water than agreed upon".
"LG claims that water coming

from Munak Canal is being stolen from tankers in Delhi; reality is that less water is coming at Bawana entry point in Delhi. However, facts quoted from the affidavit filed by Haryana Government said "That from the perusal of various documents annexed with this status report, it is evident that the State of Haryana is continuously supplying water more than its allocated share to Delhi and is committed continue its efforts for complying with the order of this Hon ble Court". (para 22

"On the allegation made by Delhi that Haryana has not been releasing Delhi's share of water, it is pertinent to mention that the State of has Harvana continuously releasing the required share including the additional water (330 Cusecs) to Delhi from Munak head and not even a single day the quantum of water released has gone down below 1050 (para 18 of the Cusecs". affidavit)

of the affidavit)

Not only this, the affidavit further debunks Atishi's claim

of short supply by giving to the courts the exact amount of water released from 23.05.2024 to 09.06.2024. It reads,

theOfficer/ Member of UYRB visited Munak, Kakroi and Bawana after the hearing of this Hon'ble Court and it was found that Haryana in fact is releasing more than the allocated share of water of Delhi.

the Haryana Also, Government affidavit has taken majorly from the Daily Bulletins published by Delhi Jal Board under the AAP Government and specifically its Water Minister.

In para 15 of the affidavit, it states, "A perusal of these Daily Bulletins published by the Delhi Jal Board shows that the total production of drinking water from all the Water Treatment Plants operated by it is more than its capacity.

The contention of the petitioner (GNCTD), that the State of Harvana has not been releasing enough water as it is required to release as per the share and also as per the direction of this Hon'ble Court, is not maintainable as same is contrary to the facts

and ground reality. Even on 06.06.2024, the total production of water as per the Bulletin issued by the Delhi Jal Board was 613.70 MGD against the designed capacity of 571, for the 07 WTPs operating from Yamuna and Ravi-Beas Waters", supplied through the Munak Canal. The claim of the petitioner that except for the Wazirabad water treatment plant; all the

remaining water treatment

plants are running at

Atishi seeks probe into collusion of water mafia with top officials

आप की सरक

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Atishi wrote to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday, demanding the formation of an inquiry committee on the possible collusion of the Chief Secretary and CEO of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) with illegal tanker mafias amid the national capital reeling under intense heatwave conditions. She also requested the LG to deploy an ACP-level police officer to patrol the stretch of Munak Canal in Delhi to ensure that no illegal water filling activity happens there. There is a need for an enquiry into potentially collusion by senior officers in the Delhi government with the tanker mafia because it seems that there has been deliberate and substantial reduction of the tankers deployed by the Delhi Jal Board in the last one year," she claimed. Citing numbers, Atishi said that in January last year, 1,179 tankers were deployed by the Delhi Jal Board and this number was 1,203 in June the same year.

"However, this number was reduced to 888 in January 2024 without any approval from me. In fact, without any consultation with me. repeatedly kept flagging the issue of grievances regarding water tanker shortage and asking the CEO DJB to increase the number of tankers, but he did not do so," she alleged. Atishi said when a severe

water crisis started and she threatened to "investigate this collusion in an open meeting", were the number of tankers increased.

"Even now the number of water tankers deployed by the DIB is lesser than June 2023, while there are much more severe heat wave conditions and a far greater shortage of

that the number of water tankers deployed by the DJB should have been more in this heat wave than in the previous years," the minister said. Atishi recalled the June 10 meeting with the LG and said

water. Common sense says

that he had shown some photographs of private tankers filling water from the Delhi stretch of the CLC (carrier line channel) and DSB (Delhi sub-branch), subbranches of the Munak Canal "Since Delhi cannot afford any loss of water at a time of such acute heat wave and

water crisis, I would like to request the Hon ble LG to depute an ACP level police officer to patrol the Delhi stretch of the Munak Canal so that no private tankers can illegally fill water from there, she said.

monitor the water pipeline to prevent leakage and wastage. Additionally, instructed team Tehsildars and other officials to form a 'Quick Response Team' to arrange water

tankers and address water-

Further, Atishi has tasked ADM-SDM level officers to

related complaints promptly. In written communication, Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that 'Quick Response Teams' shall monitor and inspect the main water distribution network, from primary water sources to our water treatment plants and from WTPs to primary UGRs.

Atishi further Minister instructs, "These teams shall inspect the major pipelines to ensure that there is NO leakage in any pipeline and if there is any leakage, it must be repaired within 12 hours. At this time of water shortage, not a single drop of water can be wasted.

"A daily compiled report of all the inspections made in this regard by every Quick Response Team to be submitted to the office of the Minister (Ms. Atishi) by 5:00 PM every day," the letter

BJP demands SIT probe into water theft by tanker mafia in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP leaders met the Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora at police headquarters on Wednesday and demanded the formation of a special investigation team and registration of an FIR over the alleged theft of water from the Munak Canal and other sources by the tanker mafia.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva along with the party's North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia met Arora and handed over a complaint from the party. In the complaint, the party requested the Delhi Police to register an FIR over water theft.

"You are requested to register an FIR under sections 166, 378, 379, 409, 405, 420 read with Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other relevant sections & laws not controlling the water resources but also corruption by the public servants and initiate an immediate and thorough investigation into the theft of water from the Munak Canal and the involvement of any government officials and/or persons holding public offices," said the complaint addressed to the Delhi You are further requested to form a

special investigation team to



conduct a thorough probe to ensure action against the tanker mafia for theft of water from the Munak canal and any government official conniving with them," it stated. It also urged the police to thwart the operations of the tanker mafia as they were depriving Delhi's people of their water rights.
South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh

Bidhuri said, "The situation in Delhi, where people are suffering, is happening in collusion with the officials and elected representatives of Delhi Government controlling the affairs related to procurement and management of water resources as part of larger criminal conspiracy

with malafide intention of causing wrongful loss to both the general public as well as Delhi Jal Board." The ruling AAP and BJP are involved in a blame game as the city grapples with one of its worst water crises in recent years amid an unprecedented summer heat. Delhi Water Minister Atishi has accused the BIP-ruled Harvana

deliberately halting the supply of water to the national capital through the Yamuna river. The BJP leaders. however, have accused the AAF government and its MLAs of colluding with the tanker mafia even as people were struggling for



Respond to plea seeking contempt action against Haryana officials: High Court to Delhi, Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the governments of Delhi and Haryana to respond to a plea seeking contempt action against Haryana officials for not supplying adequate water to the national capital parts of which are reeling under acute water shortage in peak summer.

A vacation bench of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice and asked the governments of Delhi and Haryana and senior officers of the Department of Irrigation and Water Resources of Haryana to file their replies within three weeks.

The high court listed the matter for further hearing on July 24. The high court was hearing a plea by advocate SB Tripathi alleging that the state

of Haryana has reduced water supply to Delhi, that too during summer season, and that the short supply was "deliberate,

DU, other institutions mull implementing biannual admission system from next year

The Delhi University and tother educational institutes in the national Capital are mulling ways to implement the biannual admission system, which will allow students to apply for admission twice a year. However, since the academic session 2024-25 starts in less than a month, there are few takers for it now. Given the constrains, the DU has decided to implement the twice-a-vear admission system from the next academic session with a pilot project for selected courses, Chancellor Yogesh Singh said. "It is a good initiative by the UGC in the interest of students. However, it will take additional infrastructure to make space for increased intake of students," Singh said. "Our admissions for academic session 2024-2025 has already begun, so we would not be able to implement it from this year. We will adopt this as a pilot project for a few courses initially and later decide for other programmes," he added. The Jamia Millia Islamia, which is functioning in absence of a permanent Vice-Chancellor, said it will await approval from the statutory bodies to implement the

If necessary approvals are granted, the varsity may adopt the option for PhD admissions, biannual admission system at

some time to implement this Officiating VC Mohammad fully as it will require Shakeel said. "The matter will be placed before the ensuing Executive Council meeting and directions will be obtained by the esteemed members of the council on how to proceed with the announcement by the UGC in respect of admissions twice a year.

"There is a possibility that this option can be looked into for PhD programme but anything has to be first approved by the AC and then the EC. The VC on its own cannot implement the system and has take approval from the statutory bodies of the university," he said.

There was no clarity on the implementation of the



Jawaharlal Nehru University as officials could reached out. Meanwhile, state universities like Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha (IP) University and Ambedkar University also plan to adopt the new

admission system IP University Vice-Chancellor Mahesh Verma said he will try to roll out the new admission system for selected courses from 2024-25 academic session and table a proposal for it in the academic council

outstanding idea and a winwin situation for everyone. While on the one hand it will provide an opportunity to students wanting extra time to prepare for admissions to apply the second round of admissions, (on the other) varsities will also be able to generate revenue by utilising their resources round-theclock which otherwise go in sleep mode during the admission time. upbeat about

"I am upbeat about implementing this system. I will table an agenda to adopt this system in the academic council meeting next week. We will need a couple of months to start the admissions cycle," he

meeting of the university slated said. Ambedkar University plan to implement the for next week. "It's an Vice Chancellor Anu Singh biannual admission system. Lather said the varsity may implement the system for few courses from next year onwards on an "experimental" basis. "It's a welcomed move by the UGC. This system is already prevalent internationally. By and by we

will try to implement this system sooner or later.

"Currently, we are struggling with infrastructure issues and to implement this system we would need additional space, staff, as well as teaching faculty. By next year we may adopt this system on an experimental basis for few of our courses that are popular," she said.

Private universities like Lovely Professional University also Ashok Mittal, Chancellor LPU said the move stands to make education "accessible and flexible.'

This change not only helps students who may have missed the traditional admission cycle but also supports those looking to switch their educational path mid-year," he said.

UGC chief M Jagadesh Kumar on Tuesday told PTI that Indian universities and higher education institutions would now be allowed to offer admissions twice a year on the lines of foreign universities. The two admission cycles will be July-August and January-February from the 2024-25 academic session.

Capital to plant over 9 lakh tulips to transform it into 'City of Flowers'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

n an effort to further In an enon to beautify the landscape of the national Capital, more than nine lakh exotic Tulips are planned to be procured by Delhi's greening agencies. This comes after the Tulips, for the first time, bloomed NDMC outside the area/Lutyen's zone this spring. It is in line with Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's emphasis on turning Delhi into a 'City of Flowers. Giving this information here on Wednesday, officials said the nine lakh Tulips this year, will be almost double the number of Tulips planted in Delhi in the winters of 2023 (5 lakh Tulips) and almost six times the number of Tulips planted in 2022 (1.5 lakh Tulips).

In a meeting chaired by Saxena on Tuesday, a blueprint was prepared for sourcing and plantation of Tulips in the upcoming flowering season. meeting was attended by the



horticulture departments of various civic and government

In the meeting, LG was informed that NDMC would procure 3.25 lakh Tulips while the DDA will procure 04 lakh Tulips this year. Other civic and greening agencies will purchase Tulips from NDMC and DDA, as per their requirements.

Nearly 2.5 lakh Tulip bulbs would also be received from CSIR-Institute Himalayan Bio-resource Technology in Palampur and other Centres where NDMC had sent the harvested Tulip

bulbs from Delhi for further regeneration. In the meeting, the LG, by people.

considering enthusiasm of the people shown for the Tulips this year, also directed the DDA and NDMC to sell potted Tulips at reasonable prices, through its nurseries in different parts of the city like New Delhi, East, North and Outer Delhi areas. This year, the entire NDMC including its 52 prominent roundabouts, places like diplomatic area of Shanti Path, Talkatora Windsor Place, Garden, Park (Connaught Central Place), Mandi House, Akbar Road, Chanakyapuri, Lodhi Garden and Nehru Park, RML round about etc. would be adorned with multi-hued Tulips. Tulips will also be planted at the Parliament House well in advance so that they are in full bloom during the sessions DDA will plant the Tulips in various parks, recreational

spaces on Yamuna riverbed

like Asita, Baansera and

city forests that are frequented



while assuming the office at Transport Bhavan in New Delhi

Thieves steal six goats worth ₹ two lakh in Wazirabad, ahead of Bakrid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the dead of night, three men stole into a bylane in Wazirabad, broke a lock and fled with six goats they packed into a small car parked a distance away — leaving the owners facing losses of Rs 2 lakh and wondering how they will celebrate Bakrid next week. The heist in the north Delhi locality in the early hours of Monday was captured on CCTV cameras, officials said. The six goats, owned by two men, were kept in an empty plot next to their houses with a lock at the entrance. The getaway car, an i20, could not make it through the narrow lane, so the three, their faces wrapped up in mufflers, turned back only to return on foot, the Yamuna Vatiika, and other CCTV footage showed. They broke the lock at the entrance with a gas cutter, took out the goats one by one and shoved them into the car parked outside the lane.

Manuj Singhal appointed new director infra by Delhi Metro

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro has appointed Manuj Singhal, an Indian Engineering Service (IES) officer, as the Engineering New Director (infrastructure) on Wednesday.

Engineering

Service (IES) officer of the 1994 batch, Singhal has nearly decades Multidisciplinary experience in numerous key positions, Delhi Metro Rai Delhi Corporation's Prince Principal Executive Director of Corporate Communications

"An Indian

Anuj Dayal said. Dayal further stated that in his capacity as director (infrastructure), he will be in charge of maintenance of infrastructure, including civil, electrical, signal, AFC, telecom, rolling stock, solar power etc in DMRC.



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Shivraj discusses 100 days action

plan to boost agricultural sector



Parliament new session from June 24 to July 3: Kiren Rijiju

Darliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday appealed to all political parties for a constructive debate in the upcoming session of the Parliament and said the country wants to see good discussions in the House. The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 and will continue till July 3.

Rijiju, who took charge of his new responsibility on Tuesday, said the government wants to run Parliament through consensus as people have given a mandate and everyone should work as 'Team India' to serve the nation.

'We should have quality debate in Parliament. The country wants to meaningful debate Parliament. I appeal for cooperation from all political parties for smooth running of the house," he said. Rijiju said government participation and cooperation from all political parties in running the House. everyone plays a positive role, the Parliament will function properly," he said.

Asked about the higher number of opposition MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha and



whether it would be challenge, the minister said there are challenges but it also provides an opportunity to

serve the nation "The people of the nation have given us a mandate to serve the country and we will perform our duty," he said. Rijiju said according to the democratic process, those who get the people's mandate should run the government and the NDA got the people's mandate. And those who got the people's verdict to sit in opposition should the perform

constructive opposition, he said.

"The country is run by a government led by the honourable prime minister. But Parliament is run by both treasury and opposition debate through discussions. Even if we don't agree on certain issues, we should have discussions. That is why we believe in consensus," he said. Earlier, Rijiju said first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 and will continue till The first three days of the

session will see the newlyelected members taking oath or making affirmation of their membership of the Lok Sabha and electing the Speaker of the House. President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on June 27 and is likely outline the government's roadmap for the

next five years. Rijiju, a four-time MP from Arunachal West Lok Sabha constituency, got elected this time after he defeated his nearest Congress rival by a margin of over 1 lakh votes.



10 vacancies in Rajya Sabha now available after LS poll results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The just-concluded general election has created as many as 10 vacancies in the Rajya Sabha after its members were elected to the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha secretariat now notified the vacancies, which includes two each in Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra, and one each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura.

In its notification giving details of the vacation of seats, the Rajya Sabha secretariat said, "In pursuance of the provision of sub-section (2) of Section 69 Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with Section 67A and sub-section (4) of

Section 68 of that Act, the following have ceased to be Members of Rajya Sabha from the date of their being chosen as members of the 18th Lok Sabha, i.E., the 4th of June, 2024.

"Kamakhya Prasad Tasa Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal -Assam, Misha Bharti - Bihar, Vivek Thakur Bihar, Deepender Singh Hooda Haryana, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia - Madhya Pradesh, Udayanraje Bhonsle Maharashtra, Piyush Goyal -Maharashtra, K. C. Venugopal

Rajasthan and Biplab Kumar Deb - Tripura.' After this notification, the Election Commission will now announce the fresh dates for

election to fill these vacancies

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on

Wednesday discussed a 100day action plan with senior officials, which is aimed at strengthening the agriculture sector and mitigating distress among farmers.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

During the meeting, attended by Ministers of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur and Bhagirath Choudhary, Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja, and other top officers, Chouhan stressed the need to ensure quality inputs reach farmers to boost farm production and productivity across the country.

The action plan aims to not only achieve self-sufficiency in agricultural products but also

enhance the quality of exports from the sector, an official statement said.

The minister underlined the importance of providing farmers with access to highquality seeds, fertilizers, and other essential inputs to increase crop yields and improve their economic

condition, it said. With the agriculture sector reeling from the impact of erratic monsoons, pest attacks, and fluctuating market prices, the Centre's 100-day action plan is seen as a much-needed measure to revive the fortunes of the farming community.

The action plan is expected to be rolled out in the coming days, with specific targets and timelines for implementation across various states and crop



Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 2802(I)/ Nivida-01/2024-25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) **E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 15/06/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	CD PWD Almora Construction of 24mt. Span Steel girder Bridge and Part-II work of Dholadevi - Chill Motor Road to Sindhyamalla - Tarkot - Gunaditya Motor Road in Jageshwar constituency district Almora.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 6.10 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "A" & Higher in Road & Bridge work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking.



Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Dated: 11/06/2024

Letter No.: 2801(I)/ Nivida-01/2024-25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE RFP (Short Term E-Tendering) Request For Proposal (RFP)

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites RFP through E-Tendering on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 15/06/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

	wards on website <u>inttp://www.uktenders.go</u>					
SI. No.		Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Appointment of Engineering Consultancy Firm for carrying out Survey and preparation of land plan based on requirement of The Uttarakhand Roadside land control act 2014 of various state highways in District Almora.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 6.00 Lac	120 Days	04 Month	Experience of Similar detailed survey work in NH/NHAI/PSU/ State Govt.
2	Appointment of Engineering Consultancy Firm for carrying out Survey and preparation of land plan based on requirement of The Uttarakhand Roadside land control act 2014 of various state highways in District Bageshwar.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 1.30 Lac	120 Days	04 Month	Experience of Similar detailed survey work in NH/NHAI/PSU/ State Govt.





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B.O.: NIT NO. 5, 5B/32, FARIDABAD, HARYANA - 121001 PH.NO. 0129-2410965, E.MAIL.f1145@psb.co.in

APPENDIX IV [See Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

U/S 13(4) of SARFAESIACT, 2002, (For Immovable Property)

Notice is here by given under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Interest Act, 2002 (54of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 12(12) read with Rule No. 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/S 13(2) on the date mentioned below in the table and stated hereimafter calling upon to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower (Sy having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower (Sy guarantor(S) and the and public in general that the underigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ther under section (13(4) of the said Act read with Rule No.8 of the property described herein below in the table, the borrower (Syguarantor (S) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property be subject to the change of PUNJAB AND SIND BANK

Name of Account/ Borrower(S)/ Guarantor(S)	Description of the immovable Property	Amt O/S (as mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2)	Date of Notice	Date of Posse- ssion
Khan (Borrower), (2) Smt. Batool Begam W/o Sh. Chidda Khan &	All the part and parcel of the Mortgaged Immovable Property bearing Plot No 417 & 418 measuring total area 105 sq. yrds , half of which comes to 52½ sq. yrds, comprising in Khewat / Rect. No. 18/20/2 situated in Mauza Nangla Gujran, Tehsil & Distt. Faridabad, Haryana (Now known as House No.7165, Gali No.16, Near Hanuman Mandir, Nangla Enclave- 1, faridabad, Haryana belonging to Smt. Batool Begam w/o sh. Chidda Khan. Registered vide Sale Deed Vasika No.2562 dated 07.06.2017. Property is bounded as - East: Gali 15 ft wide, West: Other Property North: Other Property. South: Other Property.	Rs. 10,20,180.19 (Mort. Loan / LAP) (Rupees Ten Lakh Twenty Thousand One Hundred Eighty & Paisa Nineteen Only) as on 28.02.2023 together with future interest and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. thereon.	09.05.2023	11.06.2024
 M/s. Jagdamba Traders through its Proprietor Sh. Jawahar Singh (Borrower), Sh. Jawahar Singh S/o Sh. Ramji Lal (Borrower), Smt. Amarwati W/o Sh. Jawahar Singh (Guarantor) Sh. Jagdish S/o Sh. Kishan Lal (Guarantor) 	All the part and parcel of the Mortgaped Immovable Property: bearing Plot No.101 and 92, measuring 230 sq. yrds., comprised in Khewat/Khata No. 18/19, Rect No. 42, Killa No. 18/2 (2-11), 23 (7-19), Rect. 51, Killa No.3(8-0), 8(8-0), 13(8-0), 18(8-0), Mauza Gaunchi, Tehsil Ballabhgarh, District-Faridabad, Haryana. Now known as H. No. 1090, New Jivan Nagar, Ballabhgarh, District-Faridabad Haryana belonging to Smt. Amarwati w/o Sh. Jawahar Singh Registered vide Transfer Deed No. 9895 dated 28.11.2006. Property is bounded as - East: Gali, West: Property of	Rs. 25,28,802.01 (ODP) (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Two & Paisa One Only) as on 10.04,2023 together with future interest and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc thereon.	08.05.2023	11.06.2024

thers, North: Property of others. South: Property of others

PLACE : FARIDABAD, HARYANA

IAF took 1,750 sorties to ferry EVMs, poll officials to remote areas during LS polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

IAF transport planes and helicopters played a vital role in five of the seven phases of General Election-2024,



PUBLIC NOTICE THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS ISSUED FOR & ON BEHALI

OF TULIKA ARORA & GURPREET SINGH ARORA Be it known to public at large that I, Tulika Arora, wife of Shri Gurpreet Singh Arora declare on my behalf as well as on behalf of my husband Sh. Gurpreet Singh Arora S/o. Sh. Harbhajan Singh Arora that we came to know that Shri Vivek Chauhan, son of Shri Vinay Chauhan, who is my brother in Law, is volved in some illegal and fraudulent activities and ommitted certain offences and accordingly an FIR bearing No. 0204 was also registered against him on dated: 08-06-2024 at Police Station: Civil nes, Jind. I and my husband Gurpreet Singh Arora have nothing to do with any/ all his unlawful vith the financial transactions done either by him role and nothing to do with whatsoever with any o their criminal, anti social or financial wrongful acts as mentioned under the above referred FIR as well as under any other cases against Smt. Swati Sahni and her husband Sh. Vivek Chauhan. Hence, it is notified to all that who so ever has transacted with them pertaining to the said unlawful illegal and fraudulent acts committed by them, jointly or severally. For my family are not responsible in any manner for any of their actions. If anyone does any business or non-professional work, dealing o transaction with Swati Sahni & Vivek Chauhan,

for the same It is notified accordingly Tulika Arora W/o. Sh. Gurpreet Singh

Shri Rohtas S/o. Late Nathu Ram and his wife Aswati both R/o. A-84, Harijan Basti, Villag Kondli, P.O. Vasundhra Enclave, Delhi-11009 have served all their relations with their So Shri Manish and his wife Priya Saxena due t his bad habits. Both of my above named client have also disowned and debarred his said so from all their moveable and immovable properti Any body dealing with Shri Manish and his wif will do so at his/her/their own risk an esponsibilities and my clients will not b esponsible for any act, deed or dealing don

PUBLIC NOTICE

10025 have severed all kind of their relationshi 110025 have severed all kind of their relationship and disowned & disinherited their son namely Sh. Vakeel & their daughter in law namely Smt. Shaista W/o Sh. Vakeel Both R/o H.No. 27, Third Floor, Haji Colony, Jamia Nagar, Okha, New Delhi-110025 from their all movable and immovable properties including H.No. 27 Haji Colony, Jamia Nagar, Okha, Mew Delhi-110025 & Shop No. A-38, Saurabh Vihar. Jaitpur. Badarpur, New Delhi-110044. Anybody dealing with them in any manner, shall do the same on his/her own any manner, shall do the same on his/her own risk and my clients shall not be responsible fo any act, deed and omission of their aforesaid so & daughter in law. Hereinafter. karshan Bhardwaj (Advocate) Off:-Bhardwaj Estate, Buildin No.1 Near Kalkaji Temple Complex, New Delhi-110019

R/o. Sector- 109, Gurugram, Haryan

then he/ she himself/ herself shall be responsible

MAHESH KUMAR (Advocate)

(D-5103/2017) Sithya 113, Supreme Enclave Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-91, Mob- 9313765143

PUBLIC NOTICE

(a) pnb Housing



Ghar Ki Baat

Regd. Office: 9th Floor Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K. G. Marg, New Delhi-110001 Ph.: 011-23445200, Website: www.pnbhousing.com CIN NO.: L65922DL1988PLCO3385

NOTICE FOR SHIFTING OF PREMISES

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN This is the notice to the General Public that we are shifting Following Office Premises on or before dated 15th Sep 2024.

CURRENT ADDRESS PNB Housing Finance Limited, 8th Floor, DCM Building 16, Barakhamba Road Connaught Place New Delhi - 110001 **NEW ADDRESS (POST SHIFTING)** PNB Housing Finance Ltd, 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22

KG Marg, New Delhi-110001 Sd/-, Authorised Officer, PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

डियन बैंक 🚜 Indian Bank

H-1A/18, Sector 63, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar UP-201301, E-mail :- n615@indianbank.co.in

APPENDIX - IV (Rule - 8 (1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and n of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of ted under Section 13 (12) read with 05.10.2017 Calling upon the Borrower M/s. A.M. Enterprises, Proprietor - Shri Aas Mohd. Sio Shri Saiyed Khan at Braham Singh Market, Kha oad, Khera Chauganpur, Near B.S.F.Camp, K.P.-V. Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar - 201306, (U. P.), also a abibpur, Swami Market, D.S.C. Road, Kachi Sadak, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar – 20130 and Mortgagor Late Smt. Vakila Wio Shri Aas Mohd through its all the legal Heir's of 1.) Unish Kha Sto Shri Aas Mohd R/o H. No. 4, Kheda Chauganpur, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP (2.) Anish Khar Sto Shri Aas Mohd, R/o H. No. 4, Kheda Chauganpur, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP (3.) Shabnam Saifi Dio Shri Aas Mohd, Rio H. No. 4, Kheda Chauganpur, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP (4.) Muskan Dio Shri Aas Mohd, Rio H. No. 4, Kheda Chauganpur, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP 5.) Shri. Aas Mohd. Sio Saiyad Khan, H. NO. 4, Kheda Chauganpur, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP with our Indian Bank Noida Sector-63 Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,08,54,066,84/ Rupees One Crore Eight takh fifty- four thousand sixty- six and eighty four paisa only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public veral that the undersigned has taken possession of the properly described herein below in exercise over sonferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rule n this the 12th day of June of the year 2024. ower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and lings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount Rs.

1,08,54,066.84/- (Rupees One Crore Eight lakh fifty-four thousand sixty-six and eighty four paisa We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed then

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of Residential Property at Village Kheda Chaugai Pargana and Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Buddh Nagar, U.P., admeasuring 293.53 Sq Mtr (351.11 Sq Yards), situated at Khasra No.44 Min, in the name of Smt. Vakila W/o Shri Aas Mohd, Plot bounded as under; East: Plot of Champa, North: Plot of Gulab Nest: Khet Mahachand and 8 feet wide road, South: Plot of Rami

Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

flying over 1,000 hours in over sorties ferrying electronic voting machines and poll officials to remote areas, IAF officials said here on Wednesday.

Giving details, officials said this herculean task was achieved through coordination with Election Commission India(ECI)and Chief Election

Commissioners (CECs) of various states through nodal officers in order to optimize utilisation of assets factoring security, weather and road connectivity. Helicopter assets of Indian Army (IA) and BSF were also dovetailed into the overall plan toward conduct of General Elections-2024

IAF has been actively involved with the task of airlifting electronic voting machines and deploying Election Commission of India (ECI) personnel on election duties, as has been carried out during

2024, IAF played a pivotal role in extending the reach of ECI into remote corners of the country and to places where movement by road was a security concern. The task was time bound as polling officers had to be positioned at each

previous General/ Assembly

During General Elections

elections.

remote polling station within two days prior to the election date and de-inducted on the day of polling. The Transport and Helicopter fleets of Indian Air Force (IAF) undertake varied war and peacetime tasks. In addition to the peacetime role of sustaining our troops by air maintenance. airlift of combat troops during domestic and international exercises, etc, a number of tasks towards nation building are undertaken.

IAF has particularly been on the forefront in aid to civil nower During the Genera Elections-2024, substantial flying effort has taken place over the last few months by the medium lift helicopters (Mi-17 Variants), light utility helicopters (Chetaks) and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv.

President Murmu rejects mercy plea of Pak terrorist convicted in Red Fort attack case

PTI NEW DELHI

petition of ⊓he mercy Pakistani terrorist Mohammed Arif alias Ashfaq convicted in the nearly 24vear-old Red Fort attack case has been rejected by President Droupadi Murmu, officials said on Wednesday.

This is the second mercy plea rejected by the President after assuming office on July 25, 2022.

The Supreme Court had dismissed a review petition by Arif on November 3, 2022, affirming the death penalty awarded to him in the case. However, a death row convict

can still knock on the doors of the top court seeking commutation of his sentence on the ground of prolonged delay under Article 32 of the

Constitution, feel experts. The mercy petition from Arif, received on May 15, was turned down on May 27, the officials said, quoting the President's secretariat order of

May 29. The Supreme Court, while upholding the death sentence, noted that there were no mitigating circumstances in Arif's favour and emphasised that the attack on the Red Fort

posed a direct threat to

country's unity, integrity, and sovereignty.
The attack, which took place

intruders opening fire at the 7 Rajputana Rifles unit stationed within the Red Fort premises, resulting in the deaths of three Army personnel. Arif, a Pakistani national and a member of banned Lashkar-e-

on December 22, 2000, saw

Taiba (LeT), was arrested by Delhi Police four days after the attack "Appellant-accused Mohd. Arif alias Ashfaq was a Mohd. Pakistani national and had entered the Indian territory

illegally," the top court's order of 2022 had said. Arif was found guilty of conspiring with other militants to carry out the attack, with the trial court sentencing him to death in October 2005. The

Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court upheld the decision in subsequent appeals. The trial court had said that

the conspiracy to attack the Red Fort was hatched at the house of two conspirators in Srinagar, where Arif had illegally entered in 1999 along with three other LeT militants.

Modi attends swearing-in ceremony of BJP's Majhi, TDP's Chandrababu

 $P_{\text{Modi, several Union}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers attended the swearing in ceremony of first BJP chief minister of Osdiha Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday. Earlier in the day Modi led his Ministers and senior party leaders to grace the oath ceremony of TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu who was sworn as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term in alliance with the BIP.

Governor Rabghubar Das administered the oath of secrecy and office to three time MLA and triabl leader Mohan Charan Majhi and other members of his council of ministers at Janata Maidan. Senior BJP leader and Patnagarh MLA KV Singh Deo and debutant from Nimapara assembly segment Pravati Parida took oath as deputy chief ministers of Odisha. This is the first time that a BJP government has been formed in the eastern state.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with TDP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister-designate N Chandrababu Naidu at the latter's swearing-in ceremony, in Amaravati. on Wednesday

ministers

Apart from Modi, BJP chief IP Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah. Rajnath Singh, Bhupender Yadav. Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram, Ashwini Vaishnaw and others attended the ceremony. Suresh Pujari, Rabinarayan Naik, Nityananda Gond, Krushna Chandra Patra, Prithiviraj Harichandan, Mukesh Mahaling, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and Krushna Chandra Mohapatra took oath as Cabinet ministers. Ganesh

Khuntia. Ram Singh Survabanshi Suraj, Pradeep Balasananta, Gokula Nanda Mallick and Sampad Kumar Swain were sworn in as

state

(independent) Several Chief Ministers of BJPruled states including UP, Goa, Rajasthan, MP, Assam, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand were also present. Odisha's outgoing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also attended the ceremony.

mandate in Odisha, ending the 24-year stint of the BJD. The saffron party stormed to power in Odisha by securing 78 seats in the 147-member Assembly while Patnaik-led BJD got 51 seats, Congress (14), ČPI(M) won in one seat while Independents got three.

Chandrababu Naidu sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term on Wednesday at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister senior BJP leaders and Union Ministers. Janasena chief and actor Pawan Kalyan, Nara Lokesh, son of Naidu, among others, took oath as Ministers.

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer administered the oath to Naidu and others. Modi hugged and patted Naidu on him assuming office. Later, the PM held the hands of Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan and fondly spoke to them and also had a brief conversation with former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, Tami superstar Rajinikanth and his wife Latha on the dais.

Bihar CM appoints Cabinet colleagues as Ministers in charge of various districts

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday appointed all his cabinet colleagues as 'ministers incharge' of various districts. According to a government order, Deputy Chief Ministers
— Samrat Chaudhary and

Vijay Kumar Sinha — have been made ministers-incharge of Patna and districts Muzaffarpur respectively. Sinha will also be in-charge of Bhojpur district. Vijay Kumar Choudhary has been made in-charge of Purnea and Nalanda districts, Bijendra Prasad Yadav will be minister in-charge of Vaishali district.

The order further states that Prem Kumar will oversee Nawada, Shrawan Kumar (Samastipur and Madhepura), Santosh Kumar Suman (Aurangabad), Sumit Kumar Singh (Saran), and Renu Devi will oversee Siwan.

Additionally, Mangal Pandey will oversee Darbhanga and Begusarai, Niraj Kumar Singh manage Katihar, and Ashok Chowdhary will take care of Sitamarhi and



Iehanabad.

Leshi Singh will be in charge of Madhubani, Madan Sahni (Supaul), Nitish Mishra (Araria and Gaya), Nitin Nabin (Buxar and Kaimur), and Dilip Kumar Jaiswal of Saharsha.

Meanwhile Maheshwar Hazari will oversee Khagaria, Sheila Kumari (Sheikhpura and Lakhisarai), and Sunil Kumar will handle East Champaran, Janak Ram will oversee West Champaran, Hari Sahni (Arwal), and Krishnanandan Paswan will be responsible for Gopalganj. Javant Raj will oversee Rohtas, Jama Khan (Kishanganj and Sheohar), and Ratnesh Sada will be in charge of Jamui.

669 candidates file nominations for historic civic body polls in Nagaland

Atotal of 669 candidates filed their nominations for the elections to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Nagaland that will be held on June 26.

According to the State Election Commission, 669 candidates, including 238 women, filed nomination papers for the three municipal councils and 36 town councils. Tuesday was the last day for filing of nominations while scrutiny of documents would be taken up on Thursday with June 18 being the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

It is after 20 years that the elections to ULBs are going to take place in the state. It is also historic as this would be the first-ever municipal elections in the state to be held with 33 per cent reservation for women.

government The announced elections to ULBs several times in the past but objections from tribal bodies and civil society organisations against reservation for women, and tax on land and properties had held back the

The tribal bodies were asserting that these two provisions infringe on the special rights for Nagaland guaranteed by Article 371(A)

In 2017, the government had

of the Constitution.

withheld the decision to conduct the election after clashes left two persons dead and several others injured on the eve of the day of voting. The clashes also led to the setting ablaze of the Kohima Municipal Council office and government offices in the state capital and elsewhere. Meanwhile, defying the call of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization (ENPO) for

ruling NDPP and BJP have filed nominations, officials said ENPO, the apex body of seven Naga tribes living in six eastern districts of the state, has been demanding a 'Frontier Nagaland Territory'

claiming that the region has

been neglected for years.

abstention from the elections.

several candidates of the

Malviya to file criminal defamation case against lawyer Santanu over slanderous remark

PTI KOLKATA

Senior BJP leader Amit Malviya on Wednesday said he would file a criminal defamation case against Kolkata-based lawver Santanu Sinha for allegedly 'slanderous' comments against him in a

social media post. In a post on X, Malviya said, "Santanu Sinha's slanderous Facebook post on June 7, 2024, has created a spectre of a compromised political system, that thrives on objectifying women. It views working relationships, across genders, in public life, to which is particularly towards women".
"It is there is the control of the binaries,

"It is therefore not surprising that the Trinamool Congress and the Indian National Congress, who should have otherwise spoken for dignity of women, chose to disseminate and propagate the falsehood", the head of

BJP's IT cell posted. Malviya added, "On 8th June, my advocates served a legal notice on Santanu Sinha, demanding an unqualified conditional apology. Sinha's subsequent retraction of June 11, 2024, is qualified and not unequivocal. It also fails to meet the demand, as laid out in the legal notice. His purported apology is deeply problematic reductionist".

He said "The alleged post was defamatory, calculated and malicious. The dissemination by opposition parties has added to the defamation", adding "as such, I have decided to pursue criminal defamation against Santanu Sinha, under appropriate sections of the IPC. Other civil remedies

Kolkata-based lawver Santanu Sinha, who was served a legal notice for making "false and defamatory

may also follow, as would be

advised"

allegations" against Malviya, on Tuesday claimed that his statements

"misinterpreted" Sinha also said he will not withdraw the post but expressed "heartfelt sorrow" if it hurt Malviya.

"If my post hurts Mr Malviya and/or undermines my party for such misinterpretation and edited version, I do express my heartfelt sorrow for the same. Since I have not written anything untoward in my post, with the mission to malign, I am not withdrawing the post, the bone of contention," he said in a Facebook post.

Malviya ĥas already sent a legal notice to Sinha for making "false and defamatory statements" against him and

demanded an apology. In the legal notice, Malviya's lawyer said Sinha, in a post on Facebook, made "some false and defamatory allegations" with an intention to harm his client's reputation.

Six newly elected MLAs take oath in Himachal Pradesh

Cix newly elected legislators Son Wednesday took oath as members of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. Former minister and BJP MLA from Dharamshala, Sudhir Sharma was the first to take oath followed by Congress MLA Anuradha Rana from Lahaul and Spiti.

The others who took oath are Congress MLA from Sujanpur, Captain Ranjit Singh, BJP MLA from Barsar, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Congress MLA from Gagret, Rakesh Kalia and Congress MLA from Kutlehar,

Date: June 13, 2024

corriaendum etc

at 11.00 AM.

Noida. Cost Rs. 38.48 Lacs

House) Noida. Cost Rs. 75.94 Lacs

(AMC for Two Year) Cost Rs. 56.30 Lacs

Year) Cost Rs. 77.93 Lacs

Congratulating the new MLAs, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania expressed hope that Speaker they would raise issues related to the state and public welfare in the assembly The Congress had won four out

of six assembly bypolls, while the BJP won two seats. The bypolls were held on June 1. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said the Congress needed just one seat for a full majority in the House and the public has given a befitting reply to the

party rebels who sold their

soul and contested on BJP

Authorized Office

Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

CORRIGENDUM

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBDEL00001801026
Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower SANJAY KAPOOR/ ANAMIKA
KAPOOR Notice under SARFAESI ACT 2002, Symbolic Notice dated
September 17, 2021, Possession Notice dated May 20, 2024 published in

News Paper The Pioneer (Eng.) & Pioneer (Hindi) on September 22, 2021 & May 23, 2024 respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and Name of applicant/co-applicant/ Guarantor is mentioned as SANJAY KAPOOR, AIRVOICE AVIATIONS PVT LTD, ANAMIKA KAPOOR/instead of SANJAY KAPOOR/ANAMIKA KAPOOR.

We therefore, request you to please read the Name of applicant/coapplicant/ Guarantor as SANJAY KAPOOR/ANAMIKA KAPOOR only.

Also in Possession Notice dated September 23, 2022 published in News Paper The Pioneer (Eng.) & Pioneer (Hindi) on September 29, 2022. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographica

KAPOOR, AIRVOICE AVIATIONS PVT LTD, ANAMIKA KAPOOR/ LBDEL00002448345 instead of SANJAY KAPOOR/ ANAMIKA KAPOOR/LBDEL00001801026.

We therefore, request you to please read the Name of applicant/co-applicant/ Guarantor as SANJAY KAPOOR/ ANAMIKA KAPOOR/LBDEL00001801026 only.

All other details mentioned in the aforesaid Notices will remain the same

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with

UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be

uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as pe

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 websites for any changes/ amendments &

51/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, Equipment and Machinery (Two

Years Annual Repairing of Sewer Cleaning Machines in Jal Div.-I

Which can be uploaded by date: 26.06.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-

qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: 27.06.2024

1. 23/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24. Internal/External Water Supply i

Sector-164, Noida. (Development of UGR Compound & Raising of

Boundary wall for Water Works Compound and construction of Pump

2. 28/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (P/F Manhole cover

frame. Cleaning, M.S. Jaal & Sewer Line related work in Sector-22

3. 07/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Cleaning of OHT & UGR

Sector-82, 93, 93B, Gejha & Re-Development of T.W., S/L Pea

Gravel in Network Sector-82, 92, 93, 93B & Village-Gejha) Noida

4. 13/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Cleaning of OHT &

UGR/Booster in Sector-96, WWC-RW-5, 126 (124 & 125), 127 (126)

127), 43, 44 & 45 & Re- Development of T.W. & S/L Pea Gravel ir

Network Sector-42, 43, 44, 45 & Sadarpur) Noida. (AMC for Two

5. 24/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Rewinding of V.T. Motor

R/o Transformer & Panel at UGR/T.Ws in Network Sector-126 (125 &

Raypur) & Sector-127 (126 & 127) & Miscellaneous Electrical work

6. 27/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2023-24, P/L Sewer & Water line in Newl

allotted 5% plot in Village-Barola (Balance Work) 5% Sector-51 & 5%

7. 14/S.M.(Jal-O.A.)/2023-24, M/o UGR STP (Annual Cleaning and

removal of existing Desilting/Debris/Silt rubbish /Bio Mass/ Grit &

Sediment Material from covered UGR including cleaning of al wall/floor/ceiling by Super Sucker Machine/Mechanical Cleaning

machine/chemical cleaner in STP Compound 34 MLD UGR a

Which can be uploaded by date: 19.06.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: 20.06.2024

23, 24) Noida. (For Two Years) Cost Rs. 64.77 Lacs

Noida. (AMC for Two Years) Cost Rs. 39.53 Lacs

Sector-42, Noida. Cost Rs. 43.27 Lacs

Sector-50) Noida. Cost Rs. 31.00 Lacs

lew Okhla Industrial Development Authority

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

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.

error has occurred in the said notices and Name of appl

ticket. Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said the BJP won four Lok Sabha seats and two assembly bypolls and is reviewing the reasons for the defeat of four MLAs in the assembly bypolls. Three out of six new legislators Singh (Sujanpur), Sharma (Kutlehar) and Rana (Lahaul

and Spiti) — are first timers. Rana, who is the first woman to have contested elections from Lahaul and Spiti in 52 years and second woman ever to win from the assembly segment, said her focus would be on better connectivity, health facilities and promotion of

the by-election was crucial for the ruling party for stability of 65-member House

sustainable tourism. Winning the Congress which now has 38 MLAs in the

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

(Through e-tendering)

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/085/2024-25 ₹ 33,04,877.11/- only App. Cost of the work (₹)

Bid Security (₹) ₹ 66,100/- only Tender uploading 12.06.2024 / closing date & time 08.07.2024 up to 15.00 hrs. Vebsite particular & notice

See the Northern Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in** & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

GICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASS

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This 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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

	Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
١	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
		jasuja (Co-Borrower) Lan No.	opaze i diazo occioi co,	Rs. 1,02,96,895/- as on June 10, 2024	Rs. 40,00, 000/- Rs. 4,00, 000/-	June 24, 2024 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	July 10, 2024, From 12:00 Noon onwards

The online auction will be conducted on the website https://bankeauctions.com of our auction agency C1 India Pvt. Ltd The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

by July US, 20/24 before US:UU PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/ PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection. Terms and Conditions of the F-Auction or submission

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 8126013708/8584874809. Please note that the Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s Date : June 13, 2024 Authorized Officer

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Policici Bank Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This 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/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

	Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Price Price Earnest Money Deposit	Time of	Date & Time of E-Auction
1	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
	1.	GD traders (Borrower), Amit Kumar (Co- Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor), Asha Kumar (Guarantor) Sumit Kumar (Mortgagor) Lan No. 125755000015, & 125705000933	A-43, Khasra No. 805/5, Village Bisikhar Maruf Mohalla, Om Sai Santpura, Modinagar Uttar Pradesh- 201204 Area-75.25 sq mt Property type Residential House	Rs 60,41,320/- (as on June) 02, 2024		June 21, 2024, From 11:00 AM 01:00 PM	July 10, 2024, From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-https://www.bankeauctions.com) of our auction agency C1 india pvt ltd.The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at at ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh,New Delhi-110005 on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 on or before July 09, 2024 before 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 8928935040/8584874809

Please note that the Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons

For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visitwww.icicibank.com/n4p4s Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

General Manager (Jal) Date : June 13, 2024 Place: Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE Wy client Mrs. Roshni Devi the owner of residential property area measuring-20.9 sq. mrs., out of khasra no. 74/5, situatedin the area of Village Holambi Kalan Delhi abadi known as Vasu Vihacolony Holambi Kalan Delhi atolebi. 11082 through registered Conveyance Deed dated 06.03.2023 executed by POI through DDA in favour of Mrs. Roshni Devi vide reg. no. 2024/21/I/1904, at SR-North Narela 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, 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 on website www.ireps.gov.in

E-713, Karkardoo PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Manpreet Kaur have acquired Property no. 1412/BA/4- B. New no. B-66, measuring 200 Sq. yds, Khasra no. 697, situated at village Saboli, B Block, Gali No.5. Gurudwara wali at village Saboli, B Block, Gain No.5. Gurudwara waii Gali, East Nathu Colony, Shahdara, Delhi vide Gift Deed dt. 28.05.2024 executed by Mr. Gurmeet Singh. Sale deed dt. 03.06.1954 executed by Mr. Nathu Singh in favour of Mr. Prem Singh and Sale deed dt. 07.07.1971 executed by Mr. Prem Singh in favour of Mr. Gujar Singh in respect of said property are lost in Original.

110092 along with documentary evidence unde address through registered within 15 days from the late of publication of this notice failing which an

im, lien or objection shall be deemed to ha VISHAL MEHAN, ADVOCAT

Any person I firm I institution I company having an Any person I IIm I institution I company having any lotaim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at helpsy mentioned address. supporting documents at below mentioned address After expiration of notice period the claims if any, o such person shall be treated null and Void and also reated as waived and not binding on our client Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024



CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Tridha D/o Anil Kumar Bajaj R/o 1616-17 Chandrawal Road Subzi Mandi, Ghanta Ghar, Malka Ganj, North Delhi-110007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tridha Bajaj.

PD(522)C

cash / by Post

Date and Time for submission

of tender and opening of

Website particulars notice

I, Tarlochan Kaur W/o Shri Balvinder Singh R/o A-90, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have Changed my name to Trilochan Kaur for all future purposes.

PD(523)A

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 12/2024-2025 dated 10.05.2024 (i) Tender No. 09243043 was due on 07.06.2024.

In reference to above tender, Tender Opening Date has been revised now due on 02.07.2024 and the item Description has also been modified. All other term and conditions will remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Bimlesh Devi Wio. Mr. Bhudev Baghel is the owner of PROPERTY BERING NO. 19-A, AREA MEASURING 49 SQ. YARDS OUT OF KHASRA NO BIOL. STRUCK BY AND SOUT OF KHASRA NO BIOL. STRUCK BY AND SOUTH OF THE STATE DELHI WITLE OF NOTICE OF THE STATE O

ASSOCIATE SIGNALING

WORK AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-tender No. SNT-24-LMG-2024-25

Dated: 10-06-2024. E-tenders are invited

by the undersigned for the following

works: Name of work: Associate

Signaling work in connection with

replacement of existing 1 in 12 with 1

in 16 turnout at Mahur, Manderdisa,

Dibolong, Maibang, Daotuhaja & Langting

station in Hill section of Lumding division

Tender value: ₹2.00.07.976.21. Bid

Security: ₹2,50,000/-. Date and time

of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on

02-07-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs.

PUBLIC NOTICE To whom it May concern Tarak Hospital, C-7, Jai Bharat **Enclave, Dwarka More,** Opp. Metro Pillar No. 789, New Delhi-110059

Have decided as per rule to destroyed all medical records lie between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. Concern Person can contact at reception with in 15 days.

Tarak Hospital **Medical Director**

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that we (1) Pardeep Sachdeva and 2) Lalit Sachdeva both Sons of Late Sh. Vishan Dass Sachdeva, both resident of 24/94 West Patel Nagar, Nev Delhi-110008 are filing application in L&DO for substitution of property No. 24/94, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi- 110008 in our names on the Grounds of registered. Relinguishment Deed. If there are any objections claims from General public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting document through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice

on 02-07-2024. For details please visit PARDEEP SACHDEVA **LALIT SACHDEVA** ww.ireps.gov.in R/O 24/94, West Patel Nagar New Delhi-Assistant DSTE, Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile 110008 Ph. No 9311261193

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Upto 15:00 hrs. on 04/07/2024 Opening of

Above tender available on IREPS site i.e.

/

invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)				
NIT No.	242321			
Name of Work and its Location	Tender for "AMOC (Removing, cleaning, repairing and refitting) of Bio-Digester Tanks of LHB coaches with material."			
Approx. Cost of Work	Tender Cost: Rs. 30,06,011/- including GST (Rs. Thirty Lacs Six Thousand Eleven Only)			
Earnest Money Rs. 60,10		0.00/-		
Completion Period of Work		12 months of date of execution of work		
Cost of Tender document on				

Tender at 15:00 hrs.

details of tender can be seen NOIDA Sector - 05 Tender No.: 242321 Dated 12/06/2024 1766/24 **CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

at 11.00 AM.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Downward spiral

Manipur violence has seen a fresh burst of activity. Is the Govt doing enough to assuage feelings there?

anipur continues to experience violence and instability due to a complex interplay of historical grievances, political factors and ethnic conflicts. Over time, play of historical grievances, political ractions and colling the state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated, resulting in widespread demonstrative state of affairs there has deteriorated and the state of affairs the state of affairs the state of affairs there has deteriorated and the state of affairs the state of affairs the state of affairs the state of affairs and the state tions and ongoing bloodshed. Several ethnic communities, such as the Meitei, Naga and Kuki populations, each with its own unique identity, culture and territorial claims, inhabit Manipur. These groups have deep-rooted hostility and conflict over resources, land and political representation due to grievances which go back a long way. Historically, the Meiteis, who live in the Imphal valley and are primarily Hindus, have held political power. This has caused the hill tribes, especially the Nagas and Kukis who live in the neighbouring steep terrain and are primarily Christians, to feel marginalised. One of the main causes of conflict has been the hill tribes' quest for increased autonomy. The demand by Naga groups for the unification of Naga-inhabited areas under a single



administrative unit has been a divisive topic that frequently conflicts with Manipur's concerns about maintaining its territorial integrity. The complexity of the situation is increased by the existence of multiple insurgent organisations. These organisations, representing distinct ethnic populations, frequently resort to violence to make their demands known. Violence has increased as a result of the widespread availability of weapons and these groups' participation in illegal activities like drug trafficking.

The State and Union Governments' precarious relationship characterises Manipur's political environment. A major contributing factor to the ongoing

unrest is the policies and actions — or the lack thereof — of the Centre. The common belief among Manipur's population is that the Union Government has disregarded the problems facing the State. Inadequate economic development, poor infrastructure and a lack of focus on the region's particular ethnic and cultural sensitivities all contribute to this impression. Dialogue has shown to be an unproductive means of addressing the challenges. The public's disenchantment has been caused by the persistent stalling of peace negotiations with rebel groups. There are drawbacks to the extensive military presence mandated by AFSPA. Although meant to keep the peace, it has given rise to claims of violations of human rights, thus escalating anti-Government feelings. There is a long history of civil society activism in Manipur. Demanding justice, accountability and policy changes, organisations and activists — including women's groups like the Meira Paibis — have been at the vanguard of rallies. A complex strategy involving open communication, inclusive political processes, economic growth and respect for human rights is needed to address these issues. To promote peace, harmony and development in Manipur, the Union and State Governments must cooperate with each other and involve all stakeholders.



Tourists raft over the rapids of Beas river, in Manali

Modi left with lesser manoeuvring room



Though winning a third term is a significant achievement, the Prime Minister's future now majorly depends on the demands made by his coalition partners

he new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition Government led by Narendra Modi has just taken office, and it's too early to predict how it will perform. India is familiar with coalitions, as it has a messy hismulti-party Governments.

Former Prime Minister and BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee also faced an unprecedented alliance of 24 parties from 1998 to 2004. India has experience with coalition Governments, which are known for being somewhat tumultuous

Prime Minister Narendra Modi winning a third term is a significant achievement in his political career. His party got only 240 out of the 272 seats to govern independently. So, he now leads a coalition Government with the National Democratic Alliance allies. His future depends on his partners. Modi is too smart a politician not to understand what the situation requires of him.

The NDA is a political coalition of Centre-Right parties led by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The allies secured 43 seats in the recent elections, bringing the NDA's total to 283 seats, 11 more than the required number to form the Government. This is a new situation for

Modi. As a leader who believed in centralising power, forming a coalition Government challenges Modi's authority. This change could significantly alter the course of his political agenda, potentially resulting in a greater emphasis on policies that appeal to the varied coalition partners rather than the BJP's agenda. The formation of the NDA coalition's Government could lead to a shift in the Government's priorities. There might be a greater emphasis on the coalition's policies and a potential moderation of Modi's religious nationalist agenda. This could have farreaching implications for india s political and social fabric.

Modi, now in his third term, is expected to continue his policies on economic reform, national NDA together. Rumours sug-



SITUATION FOR MODI. AS A LEADER WHO BELIEVED IN **CENTRALISING** POWER, FORMING A COALITION **GOVERNMENT** CHALLENGES MODI'S **AUTHORITY. THIS CHANGE COULD SIGNIFICANTLY** ALTER THE COURSE OF HIS POLITICAL **AGENDA** gest the rival INDIA coalition wanted to lure the JD(U) and form Government. This move had failed now, but it could lead to a realignment of political forces, tilting the balance of power within the coalition. Whether Modi's NDA allies will remain loyal or undermine him is political speculation is a million-dollar question. This uncertainty, rooted in the allies' history of unreliability, needs to be watched. Some of the BJP's key allies,

such as the TDP, Shiv Sena, AIADMK and Akali Dal, have ended their partnerships in the past decade. In 2018, the TDP left the alliance because Andhra Pradesh didn't receive special category status. Now, the TDP and JD(U) are back in partnership with the BJP. However, in the future, Modi will need to consider the feelings of important allies like the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal (United). Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar, with 28 seats

between them, are labelled as

"kingmakers". They have long

advocated for special status

for their respective States

and are known for their slip-

pery character.

changes in stand, ended his partnership with the BJP in 2014 over the issue of the BJP declaring Modi the prime ministerial candidate. He later joined the NDA and again broke with the BJP in 2022 to form the Government with the RJD. This year, he again returned to the NDA fold.

Due to coalition politics and a weakened mandate, passing laws for the Government's ambitious reform plans may take time and effort. Despite not having a majority, the Opposition will have enough members in the parliamentary committees to prevent the passing of controversial Bills. This means that Modi's ability to push the BJP's agenda forward will be challenged. Important policies such as the Uniform Civil Code and 'One Nation, One Poll' could be delayed, potentially slowing down policy-making and leading to a rethinking of Government's reform plans. Changes in political alliances wouldn't be surprising. Modi may focus on changing his minority Government into a majority over the next two or three years. But initially, it will be walking a tightrope to balance power.

Nitish Kumar, known as (The writer is a popular

'Paltu Kumar' for his frequent columnist; views are personal) THE EDITOR

Global power dynamics undergoing sea change NISHAKANT OJHA



As technological prowess and energy resources become pivotal, the global landscape is rapidly evolving and new power centres emerging

⊣he global landscape is undergoing a significant transformation among the top 50 nations in the aftermath of Covid and the Ukraine-Russia conflict. In the past two years, traditional alliances are shifting, and there's growing interdependence among leading countries driven by economic synergies.

During the Covid pandemic, many strong nations found their healthcare systems overwhelmed, while some emerging nations managed the crisis effectively. India notably excelled in controlling the pandemic domestically and globally by providing vaccines, medical equipment, and technology to less developed nations, enhancing its reputation among historically Nonaligned countries.

The US is currently experiencing severe economic challenges, including high inflation. It is attempting to reassert its dominance in global politics, resisting the rise of new economic powers and non-US-centric power centers. Since the fall of the USSR, the US has been the predominant global power for over three decades.



Technological strength is now a key factor in global supremacy, with new forms of informational warfare becoming prominent. Other significant areas of competition include arms, oil, energy and pharmaceuticals, with China emerging as a leading challenger in the past decade.

Russia has made significant strides in the oil and gas sector, surpassing the US in cost efficiency and logistics. Russia is also poised to dominate the Arctic region in terms of oil and logistics, challenging the combined influence of the US and the EU. The US is working to regain influence over NATO allies, a struggle evident in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. While Ukraine is directly engaged with Russia, the broader context involves a Cold War-like standoff between the US-led NATO

and Russia, with the EU

Council and Ukraine playing

significant roles.

The South China Sea remains a potential conflict zone between ASEAN nations and China. The QSD-Quad, comprising India, the US, Japan, and Australia, was formed to address these issues. Observing India's actions during the global Covid pandemic, the Afghanistan crisis, and the Ukraine war, it's clear that India is increasingly nonaligned, assertive, and balanced in its approach. India's balanced diplomacy was also

evident during the Israel-Palestine crisis The US uses NATO to assert its influence over Russia and the EU while utilising the QUAD to counter China's growing influence in the Pacific. Despite high tensions in Ukraine and Taiwan, trade between the US and Russia, and the US and China, has not declined. India is pursuing a unique diplomatic strategy with each nation, based on mutual respect and the philosophy of equal nations. India no longer positions itself as a prominent member of any regional or global group. India does not seek support from any alliance or group for its open issues with

neighbours. It is a member or

an invitee to most regional alliances and is globally respected for its actions and

In the post-Ukraine conflict world, regardless of the war's outcome, a clear division into two technology groups is emerging. One group will undoubtedly be led by the USA, while China or Russia could lead the other.

In this context, it is crucial for India to avoid joining either group, maintaining good relations with both the USA and Russia based on issue-specific synergies. India must remain firm against external pressures and uncompromising on matters of national interest within the international framework. Selfreliance across all economic sectors has become vital for India. National programs aimed at self-sufficiency are on the right track. India should focus on its legacy issues and avoid unnecessary expenditure of energy and resources on matters where it is not a direct party.

(The writer is an eminent **Expert-Counter Terrorism** for Middle East & West Asian Countries; views are personal)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RUSSIA

the party's primary NDA

allies now playing pivotal

roles in the ruling coalition.

The shift can be attributed to

various factors, including

regional political dynamics.

The first major hurdle was

forming the Government,

which required him to nav-

igate the complexities of

coalition politics. Continuing

his assertive and independent

political style may take time

The next step is allocating

portfolios that are satisfacto-

ry to the allies. Both Nitish

Kumar and Chandrababu

Naidu are tough negotiators

and demanding significant

portfolios. Smaller allies also

assert their influence, shap-

ing the Government's poil

cies and decisions by oversee-

The main point is to keep the

ing key Ministries.

and effort.

Madam — Apropos the news story "CBI to seek Interpol Notice against trafficking network members pushing Indians in Russia War Zone' season three," published on June 11, this is my response. Reading about the recent CBI revelations on human trafficking, I'm deeply disturbed by the extent of deception and exploitation at play. It's appalling that vulnerable individuals were lured into the Russia-Ukraine war zone under false promises of lucrative jobs. The involvement of various agencies and individuals, including Ramesh Kumar Palanisamy and Faisal Abdul Mutalib Khan, who are now sought by Interpol, underscores a wellorganised and ruthless network.

These unscrupulous recruiters preyed on people's desperation, exploiting social media channels and local agents to create a façade of legitimate employment opportunities. It's shocking to learn how they manipulated legal processes, turning tourist visas into a one-way ticket to a war zone. The reported 35 cases are likely just the tip of the iceberg, raising urgent questions about safeguarding job seekers and cracking down on such nefarious operations. The need for stringent oversight and international cooperation in tackling human trafficking has never been

Trisha Deshmukh | Kanpur

MIRZAPUR SAGA CONTINUES

Madam — Apropos the news story "Prime Video sets July 5 premiere for 'Mirzapur' season three," published on June 11, this is my response. As an avid newspaper reader, the announcement of "Mirzapur" Season 3 streaming on Prime Video from July 5 is thrilling news. The series, a brainchild of Excel Media and Entertainment, has captivated audiences with its gritty portrayal of power struggles in a fictional Indian town. Directed by Gurmeet Singh and Anand Iyer, this 10-episode season promises higher stakes and a broader canvas. Fans are eagerly waiting to see if the cov-

Apple's big Al leap



propos the news story "Apple poised to Alaunch its late start in the Al race with ambitions to overtake the early leaders," published on June 10, this is my response. Apple's upcoming World Wide Developers Conference is set to mark the company's entry into generative artificial intelligence, a move many believe is as significant as the launch of the iPhone. This late but

Despite Apple's traditional secrecy, CEO Tim Cook's recent hints suggest the company is ready to reveal substantial AI advancements. This shift is crucial as competitors like Google and Samsung have already integrated Al into their products, raising concerns that Apple might be lagging. Analysts, such as Dan Ives, are optimistic, predicting that infusing Al into Apple's ecosystem could significantly boost the company's market value. However, privacy concerns

linger, and Apple may address these by leverag-

ing its chip technology to process AI features on-

device, ensuring user data remains secure. This

event is poised to be Apple's most pivotal in years.

strategic entry is expected to enhance the func-

tionality of Apple devices, particularly by mak-

ing Siri smarter and improving various features

like photos, music, and texting

potentially igniting a new phase of growth. Riya Sen | Rajkot

eted throne of Mirzapur will be earned or snatched in this new battle of power and dominance. With trust being a luxury no one can afford, the tension is palpable. The ensemble cast, including Pankaj Tripathi and Ali Fazal, has become integral to popular culture, and their return is highly anticipated. Nikhil Madhok from Prime Video India and producer Ritesh Sidhwani of Excel Entertainment underscore the immense fan support driving this franchise. Their commitment to delivering compelling content ensures that Season 3 will be a thrilling continuation of the "Mirzapur'

Sanvi Khatri | Jabalpur

AUSTRALIA AIMS FOR SUPER EIGHT

Madam — Apropos the news story 'Australia face Namibia with an eye on Super Eight; SL in a must-win situation against Nepal," published on June 11, this is my response. Reading the latest updates on the T20 World Cup, it's evident that Australia is living up to the favourite's tag with back-to-back wins. They showcased

remarkable teamwork by scoring over 200 runs against England, a feat no other team has matched yet. Their upcoming match against Namibia seems like a formality to secure their Super Eight berth, especially considering their previous victories

against England and Oman. David Warner's form is a huge boost for Australia, as he continues to deliver explosive starts. Along with Travis Head, Warner has set a solid foundation for the team's batting lineup. Namibia, on the other hand, will rely heavily on David Wiese, whose experience and recent performances could be pivotal. Their leftarm spinner, Bernard Scholtz, has also been commendable, but whether that's enough to challenge Australia remains doubtful. Overall, it looks like Australia is set to advance confidently, with Scotland also in a strong position to move forward, leaving defending champions England in a precarious spot.

Reyansh Gupta | Bhopal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

THE IMPACT OF MOBILE **RADIATION ON CHILDREN**

Despite parental warnings, modern kids can't seem to keep away from cell phones



s we know smartphones are incredibly versatile devices with a wide range of uses that make them indispensable in modern life but the impact of mobile phone usage on children is a topic of increasing concern among parents, educators and several health professionals. Today, mobile devices allow instant communication through calls, text messages, emails and various messaging apps while keeping the people at large connected regardless of their location. This enables easy communication with friends, family, colleagues and businesses. Browsing websites, searching information, accessing news, watching videos and engaging with social media platforms, all from the palm of their hand. While mobile phones provide numerous benefits at the same time, they also pose several potential risks, the impacts of which can be broadly categorized into physical, mental and emotional health, well-being, social development and academic performance. Prolonged exposure to the radiofrequency radiation emitted by mobile phones is a concern, although research is ongoing regarding its long-term health effects. The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies this radiation as "possibly carcinogenic," but definitive conclusions about its effects on children are still not established

Children of today, can develop a dependency on mobile phones, leading to addiction-like behaviours where they spend excessive time on their devices to the detriment of other activities. What leads to the cause of concern is that children absorb more radiation because they are exposed to the same amount of radiation as adults as they have thinner skulls, smaller heads and smaller brains as compared to adults which can lead to digital eye strain, causing symptoms like dryness,



irritation and blurred vision. Moreover, the blue light emitted by the screen interferes with the production of melatonin (a hormone that regulates sleep) that can lead to difficulties in falling asleep and poorer sleep quality as these emissions fool the brain into not realising that it's nighttime.

Moreover, excessive use of mobile phones also contributes to a sedentary lifestyle, reducing the time children spend on physical activities, which is essential for their overall health and development. High usage of social media and mobile phones has been linked to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness in children. The constant stimulation from mobile phones has made it difficult for children to focus on tasks, potentially leading to attention deficits and decreased academic performance. Not only this, but use of such devices has also reduced opportunities for children to engage in face-to-face social interactions thereby impacting the lack of development of social skills and emotional intelligence.

Every technique and technology have an inherent ideology. With each technological tool that an individual or child adopts, the worldview shifts a little to accommodate it and such tools give credence to one view or value over another.

The only way to mitigate this is parents and guardians encouraging moderate and supervised use of mobile devices, using hands free options for calls and limiting screen time before bedtime. Also, choosing devices with lower Specific absorption rate (SAR) values can help reduce exposure to radiation.

(The writer is an educator, views are personal.)

BJP must enlarge its imprint in TN, Kerala KS RADHAKRISHNAN

Though the time is ripe, the politics of north cannot be replicated in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The BJP will do well to have its ear close to the ground

ince the defeat of the Congress in 1967, Tamil Nadu has been sort of a bi-party State. Only the two Dravidian parties — the DMK and ADMK — have been the occupants of Fort St George. The poor voters, fed on a diet of the dogma called Dravidam, have unknowingly created an illusion of entitlement and privilege for these two parties. What DMK grandiosely peddled as its paradigm-shifting political philosophy and the platform of social justice, has been quietly dismantled to build personal edifices for its first

It won't be long before the citizens of Tamil Nadu would unmask the façade of Dravidianism, and truly embrace the spirit of nationalism. But this can be better served by the BJP which has, within a decade, transformed the world image of India into one of assertiveness, boldness and competence. Assertiveness of what is truly good for India at the global forum. Boldness in pursuing policies that unite and strengthen the nation into *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*. Competence in chartering into areas driven by science and technology for Viksit Bharat — Digital India, Startup India and Covid vaccines are a few of the many key initiatives by the BJP to drive the Indian growth story.

Tamil Nadu has only much to gain from these. However, in the specific context of electoral wins in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, BJP should have its ear close to the ground. Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiyar, the first Premier of the Madras Presidency, was the original proponent of social justice - Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act 1947 and the Devadasi Dedication Abolition Act of 1947 were passed during his period. He rendered yeoman's service for Tamil language, promotion of literacy through compulsory primary education and agriculture. In 1947, with the help of P Thooran, a Tamil poet-scholar, and Minister of Tamil Nadu, Avinashilingam Chettiar, Reddiyar published Tamil's first encyclopedia, Kalaik Kalanjiyam. He said that Tamil Nadu and Kerala were unique regions that require unique approaches for governance.

As a keen observer of Tamil Nadu politics for more than five decades, I have noted with interest and intrigue issues that have been part of the ethos and economy of these two States. However, confining the discussion here to Tamil Nadu, I would wager that its uniqueness spans the spectrum of language, culture, religious practices, including deep cultural relationship it shares not only with the contiguous States but also with countries across the ocean. It is unfortunate that a State which could have scaled much greater peaks - culturally and economically --- has been left to be overtaken by the two alternating Dravidian parties for over five decades, all in the name of one family! Politics in Tamil Nadu has been reduced to false promises, street corner harangues and hollow talks.

The Tamils of Sri Lanka, even long after the civil war has ended, continue to be denied their rightful share of opportunities and dignity - politically and economically. Their religious beliefs have also been breached. There has been large-scale encroachment of Hindu places of worship by non-Hindus in Sri Lanka, a country which Tamils made their home centuries back. It is estimated that Sri Lanka has demolished over 2,000 Hindu temples in



THE CHALLENGE FOR THE BJP TO BREAK INTO THE CITADELS OF TAMIL NADU AND KERALA IS HARD. **APPROACHING** THESE TWO UNIQUE STATES AS HEAD OF THE UNION **GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUFFICIENT**

ARMOUR FOR

POLL WINS

be made through diplomatic nego-tiations to preserve the religion in a place which has only been enriched by the heritage of Tamils. At this juncture, I recollect the DMK's complicity in handing over on a platter one of the family jewels of Tamil Nadu — Katchatheevu — by the Congress. The BJP should review this to heal the emotional wound of Tamilians, especially of those along the coast in south Tamil Nadu. We should recognise that Indian Tamils are like our buffer State - it is our vicarious liability to resolve the Tamil issue in Sri Lanka. In addition to this, the issue of ambiguity in fishing areas should be settled as this has caused frequent skirmishes between them with their counterparts in Sri Lanka.

Trincomalee. Every effort should

The growing Chinese presence in Sri Lanka may not only de-prioritise the Tamil issue for the Sri Lankan Government, it will also be a threat to India's security. The reins of Colombo Port Eastern Terminal and Hambantota Harbour are already in China's hands. Even the controversial Katchatheevu is not free from Chinese domination - China has put up windmills near this island and it won't be long before it sets foot there, too. China is set to expand its presence in the Indian Ocean region further. There are more in the form of army training camps in the Indian Ocean region by Pakistan, South Africa and China. Add to these spy ships crisscrossing the Ocean. Need I say about Mauritius, which is turning

hostile to India, thanks to China? The once-peaceful zone, with the crowding of other countries, will only destabilise the region and be an imminent threat to the future of India.

There are threats to India from other sides too — Pakistan in the west, Maldives and pro-China Sri Lanka in the south, Nepal and Bangladesh in the east.

With close to four lakh temples, by far the most in India, Tamil Nadu is unequivocally a cradle of Sanatan Dharma. It is also home to some of the world's largest temples. More proof of Tamil Nadu's rich Hindu heritage and its practise in Tamil Nadu can be found in almost continual excavations of panchaloka idols, stone sculptures dating back to the Sangam era by the ASI and even by farmers. With a history that dates back to

over 6,000 years with evidence of 3,200-year-old civilisation discovered recently, it is important for the BJP to recognise that this really tugs at the heart strings of Tamilians. Modi has admirably and rightly platformed Tamil language across the country and the world abroad through Sengol and Kashi Tamil Sangam. The whole country has got a glimpse of the richness of Tamil language, culture and heritage. BJP should build on the platform it has assiduously built, and take it to the next level during its third term.

The incumbent ruling party in Tamil Nadu is a party of turncoats. The loyal foot soldiers of DMK who walked the extra mile for the party's growth and duly recognised

by Kalaignar have been sidelined by his heir, MK Stalin. Vaiko, who walked out of DMK opposing the importance given to the then heir apparent, now shares stage with the heir. The MLAs who call the shots in DMK are from the ADMK! It would be too naive to believe that a party full of opportunists would work for the people.

But the politics of north cannot be replicated in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. These two States are unique, as observed by Ramaswamy Reddiyar decades back. Their rich Hindu heritage, enterprising nature of its people with maritime trade traces back to hundreds or even thousands of years. Further, they are high on lit eracy, health and other social indices. 'One size fits all' should be shunned; strategies and action plans specific to these two States should be drawn up.

The challenge for the BJP to break into the citadels of Tamil Nadu and Kerala is hard. Approaching these two unique States as head of the Union Government is not sufficient armour for poll wins. It should have its ear to the ground and work towards being accepted by their people as one among them. They should emit what I loosely translate here as 'fragrance of the soil' — manvaasanai. The ripe banana is peeled and kept ready. There is also sugar beside that to dip into and turn it into a relish. Will the BJP seize the moment?

 $(The \ writer \ is \ a \ political \ activist$ and an advocate; views

Spotlight on reality: MIFF's role in documentary cinema

The film festival's 18th edition comes with a first-of-its-kind 'Documentary Film Bazaar' aimed at supporting the documentary, film and animation content

ocumentary film festivals play a crucial role in the world of cinema by offering a unique platform for non-fiction films that explore real life events, individuals, important societal issues and diverse cultures. These festivals serve as a stage for filmmakers dedicated to telling factual stories - a genre often overlooked in the commercially driven landscape. By spotlighting documentaries, these festivals promote creativity, facilitate learning opportunities and encourage meaningful social discussions. This not only enhances the audience's awareness of complex global and local topics but also elevates the value of documentary filmmaking as a powerful tool for sparking change and providing



The Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), established in 1990, holds a position in this field, especially within Asia where it ranks among the oldest and most esteemed gatherings for documentaries, short films and animation. Taking place biennially, MIFF has emerged as a meeting point for documentary filmmakers from India and across the globe. Over time, the festival has evolved significantly. Initially focused on nurturing filmmaking talent, it has expanded its scope to include international filmmakers - a testament to its growing influence and importance, on the global stage. MIFF has skilfully adapted to the changing technology and

trends in the film industry like

screenings, especially high-lighted during the adjustments made due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In today's world, marked by the rise of OTT platforms and a wide range of digital content, MIFF continues to demonstrate its relevance and significance. It is recognised as an event that actively supports and advocates for documentary filmmaking. Apart from showcasing films, MIFF contributes to the community by hosting various educational activities such as workshops, interactive discussions and masterclasses. These efforts aim to promote learning and professional growth for filmmakers while offering audiences deeper insights into the artistry and impact of docu-

filmmaking and virtual



mentary cinema. This comprehensive approach ensures that MIFF remains an influen-

tial presence in the ever changing global film landscape. The Mumbai International Film Festival, known for its presence in the documentary film industry, is gearing up for its 18th edition from

June 15 to 21, 2024, with an

exciting ' new venture - the (CPM) stands out as a plat-

first-of-its-kind 'Documentary Film Bazaar' starting on June 16. This fresh initiative aims to support the documentary, film and animation content by facilitating important connections and boosting visibility. The Documentary Film Bazaar strives to highlight stories and facilitate partnerships between filmmakers and potential global producers reshaping the landscape of documentary content creation, distribution and consumption.

In its 2024 edition, the Documentary Film Bazaar introduces three sections focused on nurturing and promoting film projects at different production stages. The 'Doc Co Production Market'

form featuring 15 films from six countries connecting filmmakers with potential collaborators, producers, co-producers and financiers worldwide. Moreover, the 'Doc Viewing Room' (VR) offers an exclusive space for only the registered delegates to screen a curated selection of films, a pivotal opportunity to secure distribution deals, attract coproducers and obtain essential finishing funds, for festival screenings.

The Mumbai International Film Festival is an example of the enduring significance of such events, serving as a platform for documentary filmmakers from India and abroad. MIFF has continuously evolved to meet modern challenges by embracing technological advancements and

expanding its offerings to align with the transient landscape of media consumption. This flexibility ensures that MIFF remains a forum for showcasing documentaries fostering professional growth and promoting cultural exchange.
Through these efforts MIFF is

not just broadening its range of offerings but also establishing itself as a unique and ground breaking platform in the global documentary film community. This strategy not only reaffirms MIFFs position in the changing media land-scape but also ensures its leadership in driving innovation in

documentary filmmaking. (The writer was Addl DG, DFF & director IFFI. Views are personal. Inputs by Zoya Ahmed & Vaishnavie Srinivasan)

Hezbollah fires scores of rockets at Israel

Cease-fire talks hang in balance

AP ■ BEIRUT

ebanon's Hezbollah fired a Lmassive barrage of rockets into northern Israel on Wednesday to avenge the killing of a top commander, further escalating regional tensions as the fate of an internationally-backed plan for a cease-fire in Gaza hung in the balance.

The retaliatory attack came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in the region to push a cease-fire proposal with global support that has not been fully embraced by Israel or Hamas. The militant group submitted its first official response late Tuesday, requesting "amendments" to the deal Hezbollah, an Iran-backed ally of Hamas, has traded fire with Israel nearly every day since the 8-month-long Israel-

Hamas war began and says it

in Gaza. That has raised fears of an even more devastating regional conflagration.

Air raid sirens sounded across northern Israel, and the military said that about 160 projectiles were fired from southern Lebanon, making it one of the largest attacks since the fighting began. There were no immediate reports of casualties as some were intercepted while others ignited brush fires. Hezbollah said it fired missiles

and rockets at two military bases in retaliation for the killing of Taleb Sami Abdullah, 55. Known within Hezbollah as Hajj Abu Taleb, he is the most senior commander killed since the fighting began eight months ago. The Israeli strike destroyed a house where Abdullah and three other officials were meeting, about 10 km (6 miles) from the border, late Tuesday

A Hezbollah official told The Associated Press that Abdullah was in charge of a large part of

will only stop if there is a truce the Lebanon-Israel front, including the area facing the Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona, which Hezbollah has repeatedly attacked in recent days, causing fires in the area.

The official, who was not authorized to speak to media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Abdullah had joined Hezbollah decades ago and took part in attacks against Israeli forces during their 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon that ended in May

Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon have killed over 400 people, most of them Hezbollah members, but the dead also include more than 70 civilians and non-combatants. On the Israeli side, 15 soldiers and 10 civilians have been killed since the war in Gaza began. Other groups allied with Iran, including powerful militias in Iraq and Syria, and the Houthi rebels in Yemen, have also attacked Israeli, US and other targets since the start of the

war, often drawing Western retaliation. In April, Israel and Iran traded fire directly for the first time. US President Ioe Biden's administration has said the best way to calm regional tensions is for Hamas to accept a proposal for a phased ceasefire that it says would end of the war in Gaza and bring about the release of the remaining hostages abducted in Hamas' Oct 7 attack that

ignited the war. The UN

Security Council voted over-

whelmingly in favour of the

plan on Monday.

Biden says it is an Israeli proposal, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sent conflicting signals, saying Israel remains committed to destroying Hamas. It's unclear how it would do that if the USbacked proposal, which includes an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, is fully implement-

Hamas has expressed support for the broad outline of the deal but wariness over whether Israel would implement its

Hamas spokesman Jihad Taha told the Lebanese news outlet ElNashra that the "amend-ments" requested by the group include guarantees of a permanent cease-fire and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. Hamas's official reply to the

proposal, which it conveyed to mediators on Tuesday, appeared to be short of outright acceptance but kept negotiations alive. Qatar and Egypt, which have been key mediators alongside the United States, said they were studying it.

Blinken, who is on his eighth visit to the region since the start of the war, headed to Qatar on Wednesday to follow up on the negotiations. The proposal has raised hopes of ending a conflict in which Israel's bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza have killed over 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health officials, and driven some 80%

of the population of 2.3 million from their homes. Israeli restrictions and ongoing fight-ing have hindered efforts to bring humanitarian aid to the isolated coastal enclave, fuelling widespread hunger. Israel launched its campaign after Hamas and other militants stormed into Israel on Oct 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Over 100 hostages were released during a weeklong cease-fire last year in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Hamas is still holding around 120 hostages, a third of whom are believed to be dead The proposal announced by Biden calls for a three-phase plan that would begin with a six-week cease-fire and the release of some hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Israeli forces would withdraw from populated areas

and Palestinian civilians would

be allowed to return to their

'Violence against children in Gaza conflict reached extreme levels in 2023'

United Nations (AP): Violence against children caught in multiplying and escalating conflicts reached "extreme levels" in 2023, with an unprecedented number of killings and injuries in crises, from Israel and the Palestinian territories to Sudan Myanmar and Ukraine, according to a new UN report.

The annual report on Children in Armed Conflict, obtained on Tuesday by The Associated Press, reported "a shocking 21 per cent increase in grave violations" against children under the age of 18 in an array of conflicts, also citing Congo, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Syria. For the first time, the UN report put Israeli forces on its blacklist of countries that violate children's rights for the killing and maiming of children and attacking schools and hospitals. It also listed Hamas and Palestinian

Islamic Jihad militants for the first time as well for killing, injuring and abducting children. Hamas' October 7 surprise attack in southern Israel and Israel's massive military retaliation in Gaza have led to a 155 per cent increase in grave violations against children, especially from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in Gaza, the report said. The United Nations kept the

Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups on its blacklist for a second year over their killing and maiming of children and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine.

Sudan, where a war between rival generals vying for power has been raging since 2023, witnessed "a staggering 480 per cent increase in grave violations against children, the report

Macron urges politicians to defeat far right

French President Emmanuel
Macron urged Wednesday
moderate politicians from the left and the right to regroup to defeat the far right in the upcoming national legislative elections he had called for after his party's crushing defeat in the European parliamentary vote. A somber-looking Macron addressed French voters for the first time since his stunning decision on Sunday to dissolve the National Assembly, France's lower house of parlia-

His move triggered an early legislative election that will take place in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, three weeks after the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen triumphed at the election for European Union Parliament.

During a press conference on Wednesday, Macron said he decided on the risky move because he could not ignore the new political reality after his pro-European party was handed a chastening defeat and



garnered less than half the support of the National Rally with its star leader, Jordan

Unlike in his recent national addresses in which Macron focused on Russia's war in Ukraine and ways Europe should forge a common defense policy, independent of the United States, and shore up trade protections against China, the French president stuck to his country's internal issues favored by the surging right, including curbing immigration, fighting crime and Islamic separatism in France.

Macron, who has three years left of his second presidential term, hopes voters will band together to contain the far right in national elections in a way they didn't in European ones. He called on "men and women of goodwill who were able to say 'no' to extremes to join together to be able to build a joint project" for the

"Things are simple today: we have unnatural alliances at both extremes, who quite agree on nothing except the jobs to be shared, and who will not be able to implement any program," Macron said during his opening address at a press conference in Paris.

As for his own centrist alliance, Macron said: "We're not perfect, we haven't done everything right, but we have results... and above all, we know how to act."

The decision to send to the polls voters who just expressed their discontent with Macron's politics was a risky move that could result in the French farright leading a government for the first time since World War

France's two-round voting system in national elections make the outcome of the vote highly uncertain. Macron was adamant in his faith in the French voters' intent to refuse to choose the extremes of both sides of the political spectrum. He assured that he is not failing into defeatism and said he will serve out his second pres-

II.Potential alliances and

idential term regardless of the outcome of the legislative vote. "I think the French are intelligent, they see what's being done, what's coherent and what's not, and they know what to do," Macron said. He added: "I don't believe at all that the worst can happen. You see, I'm an indefatigable optimist." He rebuffed accusations that his move to call snap elections

power in France. It's about allowing_political forces chosen by the French to be able to govern," he said and added that it's "awkward to think it has to be the extreme right or political extremes. Or maybe you've got the spirit of defeat spread everywhere.

would help the far-right take

"If that's what people are afraid of, it's time now to take action,"

Opposition parties on the left and right have been scrambling to form alliances and field candidates in the early legislative balloting. While sharp differences between parties remain on either side of the political spectrum, prominent figures calling for a united front appear to have one thing in common: They don't want to cooperate with Macron. Despite their divisions, leftwing parties agreed late Monday to form an alliance that includes the Greens, the Socialists, the Communists and the far-left France Unbowed of Jean-Luc Melenchon. National Rally leader Marine Le Pen is working to consolidate power on the right in efforts to translate the European triumph into a national win and come closer to claiming power. The farright party, with a history of racism and xenophobia, is expected to win the most French seats in the European Parliament, potentially as many as 30 of France's 81.

Republicans echo Trump in response to Hunter Biden conviction

Republicans responded to Hunter Biden's conviction on federal gun charges on Tuesday with some version of, That's it?" Republicans loyal to Donald Trump largely echoed the former president's claim that the Justice Department has treated President Joe Biden's son with kid gloves while zealously prosecuting Trump. Using the attention given to Hunter Biden's conviction for charges related to buying a gun while addicted to drugs, they pressed unsubstantiated or debunked allegations that Joe Biden while vice president — acted to advance his family members' foreign business interests.

"Remember this was Joe Biden's corrupt DOJ that tried to negotiate outside immunity unrelated to this case," said Rep. Elise Stefanik, a New York Republican and a contender to be Trump's vice presidential running mate. "Today is the first step in delivering accountability for the Biden Crime

In a deal with prosecutors last year, Hunter Biden was supposed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offenses and avoid prosecution in the gun case if he stayed out of trouble for two years. But the deal fell apart after the judge, who was nominated by Trump, questioned unusual aspects of the proposed agreement, and the lawyers could not resolve the matter.

J.D. Vance, an Ohio Republican and another vice presidential contender, shared a post by Ohio Republican Senate candidate Bernie Moreno saying the gun charges were meant to "insulate and protect" the president.

Trump's campaign issued a statement calling the verdict 'nothing more than a distraction from the real crimes of the Biden Crime Family".

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said the guilty verdict was "appropriate" and doesn't undercut his own criticism of a two-tiered system of justice for Trump and the Bidens. "Every case is different," Johnson said. "And clearly the evidence was overwhelming here. I don't think that's the case in the Trump trial, and all the charges that have been brought against him have been obviously brought for political purposes. Hunter Biden is a separate

The charges against Hunter Biden stem from a dark period in his life, during which he acknowledges a spiralling descent following the death of his brother, Beau Biden, to cancer in 2015. Jurors found him guilty of lying to a federally licensed gun dealer when he bought a revolver in 2018, making a false claim on the application by saying he was not a drug user and illegally having the gun for 11 days. He still faces a trial in September in California on charges of failing to pay USD 1.4 million in taxes, and congressional Republicans have signalled they will keep going after him in their stalled impeachment effort into the president.

Fresh off France trip, Biden heads back to Europe for G7 summit

AP WASHINGTON

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden heads to}}_{\text{Italy on Wednesday for a}}$ democracies with an urgency to get big things done, including turning frozen Russian assets into billions of dollars to help Ukraine as it fights off Russian President Vladimir Putin's war machine.

This year's Group of Seven summit comes three years after Biden declared at his first such gathering that America was back as a global leader following the disruptions to Western alliances that occurred under President Donald Trump. Now, there's a chance this gathering could be the final G7 for Biden and other G7 leaders, depending on the results of elections this year.

Biden and his counterparts from Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan will use the summit to discuss challenges related to the spread of artificial intelligence, migra-



resurgence and China's economic might, among other

Pope Francis, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are joining the gathering at the Borgo Egnazia resort in the Puglia, a region of southern Italy.

The summit, which opens on Thursday, will play out after farright parties across the conti-

nent racked up gains of surprising scale in just-concluded European Union elections. Those victories — coupled with upcoming elections in the United Kingdom, France and the United States — have rattled the global political establishment and added weightiness to this year's summit.

You hear this a lot when you talk to US and European officials: If we can't get this done now, whether it's on China,

may not have another chance." said Josh Lipsky, senior director of the Atlantic Council's international affairs think tank. 'We don't know what the world will look like three months, six months, nine months from The G7 is an informal bloc of industrialised democracies that

meets annually to discuss shared issues and concerns. Biden is set to arrive in Italy on Wednesday night, his second trip outside the US in as many weeks. The Democratic president was in France last week for a state visit in Paris and ceremonies in Normandy marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in World War II. While last week's visit had a celebratory feel, this one will be dominated by pressing global issues, including how to keep financial support flowing to Ukraine as it fights Russia's invasion. Biden's trip also comes one day after his son Hunter

whether it's on the assets, we was convicted on federal gun Kirby said. "That includes supcharges, a blow sure to weigh heavily on the president's mind. Despite pressing global chales White security spokesman John Kirby said there is still a sense of relief among world leaders in 2024 that "America was back," referencing Biden's 2021 speech at the G7 in Cornwall, England. "Biden's message then was that democracies need to step up and show they can deliver for their people," Kirby said. "That's true now more than ever."Kirby said the US was prepared to work with democratically elected officials in the EU no matter who they are, though some of those being elevated have expressed far less support for Ukraine than current leaders."We have every confidence that regardless of who fills the seats in the European Parliament, we're going to continue to work closely with our EU partners on all the issues

porting Ukraine." Biden and Zelenskyy, who met last week in Paris, will meet again on Thursday on the sidelines of the summit to discuss continued support for the Eastern European nation, which is trying to fend off an intense Russian offensive in eastern areas of the country. They are expected to hold a joint news conference.

Biden is also expected to meet one-on-one with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the pope and other leaders.

Biden, who has been adamant that "we will not walk away from Ukraine, last week publicly apologised to Zelenskyy for months-long delay by Congress in authorising additional American military assistance. The delay allowed Russia to make gains on the battlefield. Biden's back-to-back trips to France and Italy amount to a rare doubleheader of international diplomacy in the midst of the presidential election.

Aus anticipates, China to lift final obstacle for exports

Canberra (AP): Australian COVID-19 pandemic. Trade Minister Don Farrell China, Beijing's ban on live lobster imports, will be lifted soon after Chinese Premier Li Qiang visits the country. The return of lobsters to the Chinese market would be a milestone in the Australian government's ambition to stabilize bilateral relations since

China banned minister-tominister communications with Australia and imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers in 2020 on Australian products including beef, barley, coal, wood and wine costing exporters 20 billion Australian dollars (USD 13 billion) a year.

Bilateral relations plumbed new lows after a previous Australian government demanded an independent investigation into the causes of and China's responses to the

'Pak's donkey population rose

Farrell said Li becoming the on Wednesday predicted the first Chinese premier to visit Saturday would remove the final trade barrier on lobsters 'I think there's both the willingness on our part and the part of the Chinese government to remove all of the impediments in our relationship," Farrell told reporters. Lobster is the one remaining banned product, said Farrell, coming to power in 2022. China lifted tariffs on Australian wine in March and

> in December 2023. "I'd be very confident that the visit this week will result in a very successful outcome for lobster producers," Farrell added

restrictions on Australian beef

Li will be accompanied by Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao when he visits the Australian cities of Adelaide, Canberra and Perth from Saturday until Tuesday

Baltimore port reopens

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Baltimore port, one of America's largest shipping hubs, formally reopened on Wednesday, 11 weeks after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed when it was struck by a massive cargo ship mostly manned by Indians. The 2.6-km-long, four-lane Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Patapsco River collapsed on March 26 after the 984-foot ship 'Dali' crashed into it. The crew onboard the crippled ship included 20 Indians and one Sri Lankan. "I made clear that my Administration would move heaven and earth to reopen the Port of Baltimore - one of our nation's largest shipping hubs. Today, thanks to the tireless work by the men and women in the Unified Command, the full navigation channel is now open to all vessel traffic, allowing a full return of commerce to the Port of Baltimore," US

President Joe Biden said in a

statement. Disruptions from the March 26 bridge collapse have cost the Baltimore region's economy about USD 1.2 billion, said Anirban Basu, an economist with Sage Policy Group, a Baltimore-based consulting firm, told The Washington Post.

In 2023, the Baltimore Port ranked first in the US in handling automobiles, light trucks, farm and construction machinery, as well as imported sugar and gypsum, according to the Maryland government's website.

Working at a war footing, federal and State authorities restored the federal channel to its original 700-foot width and 50-foot depth. The collapse of the bridge resulted in the death of six construction workers. Crews have had to remove 50,000 tonnes of wreckage, the US Army Corps of Engineers said. Some 2,000 salvage responders, including hundreds of specialists from around the world, worked to arrived on the scene

remove the heap of steel and concrete with the help of a fleet of tugboats and more than a dozen floating cranes. Crews removed roughly 50,000 tonnes of wreckage from the Patapsco River, according to a press release from Unified Command, a group of agencies that led the response to the bridge col-The crash left the vessel

trapped under the wreckage in the Patapsco River. Last month, the Dali was moved by tugboats, marking one of the last steps needed to clear up shipping routes before Monday's reopening. The FBI and US Coast Guard are investigating the incident. Last month the National Transportation Safety Board said the Dali lost power several times before it rammed into the bridge. Biden said within minutes of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the US Coast Guard

EU threatens to hike tariffs on Chinese electric car imports

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union threatened Wednesday to hike tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, escalating a trade dispute over Beijing's subsidies for the exports that Brussels worries is hurting domestic automakers.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said it would impose provisional tariffs that would result in Chinese automakers facing additional duties of as much as 38%, up from the current level of 10%

The commission said it reached out to Chinese authorities to discuss the findings of its investigation into the subsidies and "explore possible ways to resolve the issues.

"Should discussions with Chinese authorities not lead to an effective solution," the new rates would take effect on a provisional basis by July 4, the commission said in a press release.

relative to our shared interests

across the European continent,"

Electric cars are the latest flash point in a broader trade dispute over what Brussels says is China's unfair state support for green tech exports that also include solar panels, batteries and wind turbines.

Imports of Chinese-made EVs to the European Union have skyrocketed in recent

years. They include vehicles from Western brands that have auto plants in China, including Tesla and BMW. But EU officials complain that Chinese automakers like BYD and SAIC are increasing market share and undercut-

ting European car brands on

price thanks to Beijing's mas-

sive subsidies.

to 5.9 million in FY 2023-24' PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/ LAHORE

Pakistan's population of don-keys has increased by 1.72

per cent to reach 5.9 million during the fiscal year 2023-24, according to the latest official data on the livestock in the agrarian country. The Pakistan Economic Survey (PES) 2023-24, which highlights the key economic achievements in the outgoing fiscal year, was launched on Tuesday. It showed the donkey population has been increasing. The data shows that the population of the "beasts of burden" was 5.5 million in 2019-2020, 5.6 million in 2020-21. 5.7 million in 2021-22, and 5.8 million in 2022-23, while it jumped to 5.9 million in 2023-24. However, horses and mules, the close cousins of donkeys, were less fortunate, and there has been no change in their numbers for the last five years, which remained at 0.4 million and 0.2 million, respectively.

Donkeys may be the last hope for many Pakistanis, especially those living in the countryside, where the rural economy is closely associated with the animals.

The survey unveiled by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb also provided details of other livestock, showing that the cattle population increased to 57.5 million, buffalo to 46.3 million, sheep to 32.7 million, and goats to 87 million.

However, the number of camels in Pakistan, which remained stagnant for four years, has increased to 1.2 million from 1.1 million during the past fiscal year.Rearing of animals is the backbone of Pakistan's rural economy, with more than 8 million rural families deeply engaged in livestock production. As per the PES 2023-24, livestock, which accounts for 60.84 per cent of the agricultur-

al sector and 14.63 per cent of GDP, grew by 3.89 per cent in 2023-24, up from 3.70 per cent last year. The gross value addition of the livestock sector has shown an increase, rising to Rs 5,804 billion in 2023-24 from Rs 5,587 billion in 2022-23 marking a growth rate of 3.9 per cent. POPULAR PAKISTANI

YOUTUBER DETAINED Pakistan's popular YouTuber

and television anchor Imran Riaz Khan, regarded as a staunch critic of the powerful army, was detained allegedly by officials of the intelligence agencies at the Lahore airport here on Wednesday, his lawyer claimed.

Khan, also a supporter of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, arrived at the Lahore airport in the morning to depart for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

Russia fires more missiles, drones

 $R^{ussian\ forces\ fired\ missiles}_{and\ drones\ at\ the\ Kyiv}$ region and five other areas of Ukraine in a nighttime attack officials said Wednesday, ahead of several days of intense diplomatic activity around the war that is now in its third year.

Ukraine's air force said it shot down 29 out of 30 air targets, including four cruise missiles, one Kinzhal ballistic missile, and 24 Shahed drones. Several people were injured, authorities said.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised the air force's response, saying it could be a "daily achievement" if the country had the tools to successfully repel Russian attacks. He has repeatedly appealed to Ukraine's Western partners to provide more air defense systems, and the United States has agreed to send another Patriot missile system, two US officials said late Tuesday.

How best to support Ukraine's efforts to stop Russia's invasion will be a central issue in international meetings in coming days. Kyiv's outgunned and outnumbered forces are battling to hold back the bigger Russian army, which is trying to exploit Ukrainian vulnerabilities. Ukraine has been short of troops, ammunition and air defenses in recent months

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO STOP THE WAR

US will send Ukraine another Patriot missile system after Kyiv's calls for air defences

Washington (AP): The tem. Other allies, including Russia launches into the United States will send Germany, also have provid-Ukraine another Patriot ed air defense systems as missile system, two US officials said Tuesday, answering Kyiv's desperate calls for more air defences as it battles an intense Russian not been publicly assault on the northeastern announced. The decision Kharkiv region. The officials said President Joe Biden has approved the move. It would be the second Patriot system that the US has given to Ukraine, although the Pentagon has routinely provided an undisclosed number of missiles for the sys-

as the Kremlin's forces try to cripple the national power supply and punch through the front line in eastern parts of the country. Ukraine will need to weather the Russian onslaught through the summer, military analysts say, and in the meantime train more soldiers, build fortifications and hope that the provision of Western military aid picks up speed so that in 2025 Kyiv may be able to mount its own offensive.

well as munitions for them. The two US officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has was first reported by The New York Times. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late last month pleaded for additional USmade Patriot systems, arguing that they will help his forces fight the close to 3,000 bombs that he said

Leaders of the Group of Seven rich democracies, including US President Joe Biden, are due to gather Thursday in Italy for their annual summit to discuss how to squeeze more money for Ukraine from Russian assets frozen in their countries.

Also Thursday, defense chiefs from the US, Europe and other nations hold their monthly meeting on Ukraine's security needs. US Defense Secretary

country every month. Speaking in Madrid, Zelenskyy said Ukraine still urgently needs another seven of the systems to fend off Russian strikes against the power grid and civilian areas, as well as military targets, with devastating glide bombs that wreak wide destruction. He said Ukraine needs two of the systems to protect Kharkiv, where Russia launched a crossborder offensive on May 10 that still has Ukrainian troops reeling.

Lloyd Austin is to host the event in Brussels.

Next weekend, representatives of nearly 90 countries and organizations, half from Europe, are to attend a Swisshosted Ukraine peace summit, which will take place without

Both sides in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II have been reaching out to friendly nations to help keep their armed forces supplied.

The war has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including more than 11,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations. While Ukraine has looked to

Western countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin has turned to nations such as Iran and North Korea for help. Unconfirmed reports suggested Putin may soon make a third visit to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Fighting along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line has in recent months focused on the partly occupied Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, where Russian forces are trying to reach the key hill-top city of Chasiv Yar and other strategic hubs. Last month the Kremlin's

forces also launched an offensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region, which borders Russia. Putin said he wanted to establish a buffer zone there to prevent Ukrainian cross-border attacks. The offensive drew some Ukrainian fighters away from Donetsk. However, Russia's gains have been incre-

mental and costly. In the Kharkiv region, Russian units have become bogged down in Vovchansk, Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi said Wednesday on the Telegram messaging app.

Russian warships and aircraft enter the Caribbean for military exercises

AP HAVANA

Afleet of Russian warships and aircraft on Aand aircraft on Wednesday entered the Caribbean in what some see as a projection of strength as tensions grow over Western support for Ukraine. The US military expects the exercises will involve a handful of Russian ships and support vessels, which may also stop in Venezuela.

Russia is a longtime ally of Venezuela and Cuba, and its warships and aircraft have periodically made forays into the Caribbean.

But this mission comes less than two weeks after President Joe Biden authorized Ukraine to use US-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to protect Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, prompting President Vladimir Putin to suggest his military could respond with "asymmetrical steps" elsewhere in the world. The Biden administration has described Russia's Caribbean excursion as a routine naval activity, downplaying characterizations of it as a provocation.

Presidential election crucial for SL future, says Wickremesinghe

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said that the presidential elections scheduled to be held later this vear will determine the island nation's success and failure rather than the individual triumphs or losses, according to a media report on Wednesday.

Last month, Sri Lanka's Elections Commission said the presidential election would be conducted between September 17 and October 16. Addressing a policy reform discussion on Tuesday, Wickremesinghe, 75, said, "The outcome of the upcoming election is not solely about my personal victory or defeat; it will determine whether the country succeeds or fails." Wickremesinghe, who has been serving the balance term of the ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa since mid-July 2022, hasn't made any public statement on his bid for re-election.

"This election isn't merely about selecting individuals but about choosing the most effective system for our country's progress. If you believe in the merits of the current approach, let us proceed accordingly," the President's Media Division quoted him as saying. Wickremesinghe also underscored the importance of implementing robust economic reforms to ensure long-term prosperity in the cash-strapped country, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

The government under Wickremesinghe has set in place hard economic reforms as dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. Wickremesinghe, also the finance minister, is intent on incorporating the reforms in the fiscal laws of the island by introducing the economic transformation bill, which is to be introduced in Parliament after the current review process by the Supreme Court on its constitutionality. During the discussion, Wickremesinghe said that people can support the government's economic programme if they are satisfied with it, cautioning that otherwise, they will face the consequences of living in a country with a collapsed economy, struggling to supply essential items like medicines and fertiliser, and experience long queues for fuel and gas

Hong Kong invokes a new law to cancel passports of six activists

AP ■ HONG KONG

The Hong Kong govern-ment on Wednesday cancelled the passports of six overseas-based activists under the new national security law, stepping up its crackdown on dissidents who moved abroad. Among them were former pro-democracy lawmaker Nathan Law, unionist Mung Siu-tat and activists Simon Cheng, Finn Lau, Johnny Fok and Tony Choi - all accused of endangering national security by authorities in the southern Chinese city. The government said they have "absconded" to the UK.

Last year, police offered rewards of 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$128,000) each for information leading to their arrests and drew sharp criticism from Western governments. According to the also banned anyone from providing funds or economic resources to the six, leasing properties to them or forming any joint venture with them, among other restrictions. Doing so without authorisation would carry a penalty of up to seven years in prison.

The government said it acted because the six were continuing to engage in activities that endanger national security, smearing the city and colluding with external forces.

Secretary for Security Chris Tang said in a news briefing that some officials, politicians and media outlets in the UK have attempted to damage the rule of law in the financial hub and tried to influence judicial decisions in some national security cases. The six activists have been sheltered in the UK, Tang said.

"We have to combat, deter and to prevent those people who have committed the offences relating to endangering national security through absconds," he said.

Tang, when asked whether subscribing to the activists accounts on Patreon and YouTube is illegal, said anyone who provides funds to them would be seen as violating the rules, regardless of the platform. The measures were taken under the new powers grant-ed by Hong Kong's homegrown national security law enacted in March. Beijing imposed a similar national security law on the territory in 2020 that has effectively wiped out most public dissent following huge anti-government protests in 2019. Many activists were arrested, silenced or forced into self-exile. Both the Chinese and Hong Kong governments insisted the law restored stability after the protests.

Over 144,400 people from Hong Kong have moved to the UK using a special visa that allows them to live and work in the country and apply for British citizenship after six

Imran gives green signal for talks with govt PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in an apparent U-turn has given a green signal for talks with the government to ease the ongo-ing political tension, days after refusing to have a dialogue with the toothless ruling coalition. The change of heart came after the Sup-reme Court during a hearing of a case on changes to the country's graft laws observed that Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party should initiate talks with the government and resolve its issues in parliament through dialogue.

Speaking to journalists outside the Adiala Jail where Khan is incarcerated, PTI leader Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday said that Khan has given the go-ahead for the talks with the government. He said the party would initially take its allies into confidence but could also take a solo flight on the issue. "We told the Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) founder that dialogue is necessary, as the distance is widening. He agreed with us (on this)," Gohar told the media outside the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi.

According to Gohar, Khan, 71, wanted the avenues of dialogue to be opened. The PTI founder has said

many times that 'I am ready to forgive what happened to me," Gohar was quoted as saying by Geo TV. The cricketer-turnedpolitician has been lodged at the high-security Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since his arrest 10 months ago for his involvement in multiple cases, some of which have resulted in conviction. When asked if the negotiations will take place at the behest of the Supreme Court's advice, Gohar said: "The option given by the apex court is also under consideration."

However, he emphasised that it is PTI's "own decision" to negotiate. "The PTI founder did not write any letter to the SC for negotiation. PTI will also respond to its negotiation option." Gohar said that the party

would begin its negotiations after talking to Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief



Mahmood Khan Achakzai. He said there is an alliance with Achakzai and other parties, and that his party will take them into confidence

"Negotiations can also be held at the alliance level. PTI can also initiate itself," said the party's chief, reiterating that there is no option but negotiation. "We have never refused to negotiate. The ice is breaking. We want things to improve," said Gohar, insisting that his party's negotiation offer should not be interpret-

ed as a deal. However, he made it clear that the negotiations should not be considered as a deal or weakness of the party. His comment comes days after Khan decided to step back from his rigid stance, ordering his party leaders to establish contacts both inside and outside the Parliament to ease the ongoing political tension, sources told Geo News. The sources said that the party's

leadership was directed to hold talks with various political parties outside the Parliament, while its lawmakers were also asked to enhance its relations with parties in the ruling coalition government. Gohar told journalists that the

party's founder met with lawyers today and informed them about not being allowed to talk to his sons. Khan's decision came after his interaction with Chief Justice of

Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa when he appeared for a hearing before the Supreme Court. During the hearing pertaining

to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments, CJP Isa suggested that Khan go to the Parliament to on time.

help resolve Pakistan's prob-lems "as the country needs to move forward". The former prime minister

has given his party's threemember committee the authority to establish contact with the establishment, said the sources. Last week, Khan said that dialogue would be held only with those who wield real power in the country. "We will talk with those who have power. They (parties in the government) do not have power," he said. When pointed out by a journalist that the Supreme Court has also now asked him to talk to other political parties. When other political parties, Khan said he did not even negotiate with (Prime Minister) Shaukat Aziz during the Musharraf era. "I only spoke to Musharraf's representative," he said.

Khan said that at the request of former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, his party negotiated with other political parties on the issue of elections. He said the elections were to be held in 90 days, and alleged that Bandial came under pressure and could not enforce the polls

Quake cracks walls in southwestern South Korea

Seoul (AP): A magnitude 4.8 earthquake cracked walls, spilled items from store shelves and and caused other minor damage in a fishing community in southwestern South Korea on Wednesday, but no injuries have been reported. The earthquake in Buan, which had an estimated depth of 8 kilometres, was the strongest detected in South Korea this year. The National Fire Agency said

it so far confirmed eight minor cases of property damage in Buan and the nearby city of Iksan, including cracked walls at homes and a warehouse, at least two broken wall tiles and at least one broken window. It was also strong enough to knock items off store shelves.

Jo Yoo-jin, an official at the North Joella province fire department, said officials received nearly 80 calls from area residents who felt the shaking. More than 200 other sim-

ilar calls were placed by residents in other regions, including 38 in the central North Chungcheong provide and seven in the country's capital, Seoul, according to the National Fire Agency.

There were no reports of injuries as of Wednesday morning. South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-Soo, the country's No. 2 official behind President Yoon Suk Yeol, instructed officials to guard against the possibility of aftershocks and prepare for safely evacuating residents and protecting key infrastructure such as power plants and transportation networks.

South Korea's Nuclear Safety and Security Commission said it assessed that the earthquake did not affect the safety at any of the country's nuclear power plants and that it didn't find any abnormalities after conducting emergency inspections.

Rift surfaces in ruling coalition as PPP accuses PML-N of budget exclusion

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The fissures within Pakistan's ruling coalition government have surfaced with the PPP, a key ally, accusing the ruling PML-N of sidelining its inputs in the preparation of the annual budget and questioning if the Shehbaz Sharif-led government still values its support. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) expressed its reservations its parliamentary comm-i-ttee meeting presided over by the party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday, ahead of the presentation of the budget for the financial year 2024-25 in Parliament, the Dawn newspa-

per reported on Wednesday.

The PPP blamed the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-

N) government for not taking

any inputs from the party while

preparing the annual budget and wondered if it still wanted the ally's support, the report

Member of the National and Assem-bly Information Secret-a--ry Shazia Marri, briefing journalists after the parliamentary body meeting, said the law-makers apprised the leadership of problems in their constituencies and expressed reservations over development schemes

The attitude adopted by the federal government towards our lawmakers is causing problems to our members as they are accountable to the people, she said, expressing PPP's annoyance over the PML-Nled government's behaviour. "No input from our party was taken in preparing the budget. Even in the federal PSDP

(Public Sector Development Programme), our op--inion was not taken. We had tried to prevent such a situation and senior party members approached the government, but it did not yield any result. We did not expect that our voices would not be heard," she

National Economic Council (NEC) meeting on Monday approved a more than 47 per cent increase in the federal PSDP to Rs 1.4 trillion compared to the current year's Rs 950 billion.

Presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a

After the controversial February 8 general elections marred with massive rigging allegations, the PML-N and PPP formed a coalition government after intense negotiations following a fractured poll verdict. This is not the first time the PPP has expressed its displeasure over being ignored by the PML-N-led government while making important decisions. Last week, PPP leader Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah rued that the PML-N government "neither told us anything related to the budget nor took us into confidence... We don't know what the PML-N is doing about privatisation policy, taxes, developmental programme" Shah further said PPP does not

know anything about relief and that it is unaware of whether the government is making the budget or if the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) budget is being imposed. He also said that PPP will have to scrutinise politically the decisions to be made about the

Bangladeshi Nobel laureate, 13 others indicted on charges of embezzlement

PTI ■ DHAKA

Dhaka court A Wednesday indicted Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus and 13 others for embezzling more than USD two million from the dividends of the employees of a telecom company. Judge Sved Arafat Hossain of Dhaka Special Judge Court 4 rejected a plea for the dis-missal of charges by the accused and ordered the indictment. "Judge Hossain read out the charges as Dr Yunus and the co-accused were on the dock and fixed the date for starting the trial hearing on July 15," a prosecution lawver said.

Counsels for Yunus, 83, and the 13 others accused - all currently on bail - pleaded not guilty and demanded exemption of the clients but the court rejected the plea saying the charges brought against the accused were primarily proved and thus, charges were framed against them. Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering microcredit to help impoverished people, especially women, while the Grameen Bank, which he had founded, also secured the prize on the same occasion. The prosecution has accused Yunus and the others of embezzling Taka 250 million (more than USD 2 million) from the workers welfare fund of Grameen Telecom.

Grameen Telecom owns a 34.2 per cent stake in Bangladesh's largest mobile phone Grameenphone, a subsidiary of Norway's telecom giant Telenor.

Meanwhile, speaking with

reporters outside the court, Yunus said: "We were in the cage (dock) today for a long time . . . why in a civilised country a citizen will stand like a beast during the hearing when he is yet to be proved guilty." He said as far as his understanding goes until an accused is proved guilty he should be considered innocent but yet "all through (the hearing) we were inside the iron cage.

Earlier in January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in prison on a separate charge of violating labour laws but was granted bail while the sentence was challenged before the Supreme Court's High Court Division. Yunus faces over 150 other cases, including major corruption charges that could see him jailed for years if found guilty while the economist denies all wrongdoing.

More than 1.5 mn foreign Muslims arrive in Mecca for Haj

uslim pilgrims have been streaming into Saudi Marabias holy city of Mecca ahead of the start of the Haj later this week, as the annual pilgrimage returns to its monumental scale.

Saudi officials say more than 1.5 million foreign pilgrims have arrived in the country by Tuesday, the vast majority by air, from across the world. More are expected, and hundreds of thousands of Saudis and others living in Saudi Arabia will also join them when the pilgrimage officially begins on Friday. Saudi officials have said they expect the number of

pilgrims this year to exceed 2023, when more than 1.8 million people performed Haj, approaching prepandemic levels. In 2019, more than 2.4 million Muslims made the pilgrimage. The pilgrims included 4,200 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank who arrived in Mecca earlier this month, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf

and Religious Affairs. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were not able to travel to Saudi Arabia for Haj this year, because of the 8month war between Israel and Hamas.



On Tuesday, pilgrims thronged the Grand Mosque in Mecca, performing a ritual circuit walking seven times around the Kaaba, the cube-shaped structure inside the mosque that is considered Islam's holiest site. They wore ihrams, two unstitched sheets of white cloth that resemble a shroud. Many were seen carrying umbrellas against the sun, in temperatures reaching 42 degrees Celsius (107 Fahrenheit) during the day on Tuesday. "I was relieved when I arrived at the Al-Masjid Al-Haram and saw the Kaaba," said Rabeia al-Raghi, a Moroccan woman who came to Mecca for Hajj along with her husband and their daughter. "I am very happy."

At night, the vast marble court around the Kaaba was packed with the faithful, walking nearly shoulder to shoulder and often jostling with barricades set up by security forces to direct the giant flows of people in

and around the Grand Mosque.
Pilgrims do the circumambulation, known as "Tawaf" in Arabic, upon arriving in Mecca. The large crowds circling the Kaaba will last into the Hajj's first day. On Friday, pilgrims will move to the Mountain of Arafat for a daylong vigil, then to Muzdalifah, a rocky plain area a few miles away. In Muzdalifa, pilgrims collect pebbles to be used in the symbolic stoning of

pillars representing the devil back in Mina. One of the world's largest religious gatherings, the Haj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. All Muslims are required to undertake it at least once in their lives if they are physically and financially able to do so. Those in the Haj view the pilgrimage as an opportunity to strengthen their faith, wipe out old sins and start new.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR Tender Notice The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following

Quantity Closing date 03-07-2024 at GNDU/Gen/30/2024 Printing of 32 Pages Answer Book, 16 Pages Answer Book and 5:00 p.m. 08 Pages Practica Answer Book GNDU/Gen/31/2024 Supply of Toner 27-06-2024 at Drum for various 5:00 p.m printer and photocopier machine GNDU/Gen/32/2024 22-06-2024 at Hiring of fully Server GNDU/Gen/33/2024 27-06-2024 at Photocopier Pape 5:00 p.m. GNDU/Gen/34 -51/2024 Allotment of 27-06-2024 at For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.ir

lote: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above well Assistant Registrar (General Guru Nanak Dev University

NA/12/23330/2023/34440 Dated CHD :- 6/12/2024

site only

Benchmark equity indices ended higher on Wednesday, with the Nifty hitting its fresh record closing level, mainly due to buying in power, capital goods and industrial stocks amid a largely positive trend in global equities. equities.

Besides, a heavy rush on select index-heavyweight counters like HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries boosted investors' sentiment, traders In a highly volatile trade, the

30-share BSE Sensex climbed 149.98 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 76,606.57. During the day, it jumped 593.94 points or 0.77 per cent to 77,050.53. The BSE benchmark is just 28.51 points away from breaching its previous lifetime peak of 77,079.04.

The NSE Nifty went up by 177.1 points or 0.76 per cent to hit its new all-time intraday high of 23,441.95. It ended at a new closing peak of 23,322.95, up 58.10 points or 0.25 per cent.

Power Grid was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.54 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj



Technologies.

In contrast, Mahindra & Hindustan Mahindra, Unilever, Infosys and Titan were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai settled in the positive territory, while Tokyo and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading mostly with gains during the mid-session deals. US markets ended mostly

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.16 per cent to USD 82.87 a barrel.

Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 111.04 crore on Tuesday, according to

exchange data.
The BSE benchmark Sensex declined 33.49 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 76,456.59 on Tuesday. In a volatile trade, the Nifty ended marginally up by 5.65 points or 0.02 per cent

Nifty hits fresh all time high; Rupee rises 3 paise to close India to lead world at 83.56 against US dollar in fuel demand

Rupee appreciated 3 paise to close at 83.56 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, on positive domestic market, wherein benchmark sensitive index Nifty touched a fresh all-time high.

Forex traders said rupee is trading in a narrow range as all eyes are on the US May CPI print and the US Federal Reserve's rate decision on the global front and India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the domestic front.

Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and elevated crude oil prices weighed on the local unit and restricted the upmove.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.56. During the trading session, the rupee touched an intraday high of 83.51 and a low of 83.56. It finally settled for the day at 83.56 (provisional) against the greenback, registering an increase of 3 paise from its previous closing level.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled for the day lower by 9 paise at 83.59 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee appreciated on positive domestic markets. Nifty touched a fresh all-time



high. However, a positive US dollar and surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains, said Anuj Choudhary — Research Analyst Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias as US dollar is expected to strengthen amid expectations of a no change in Federal Open Market Committee

(FOMC) meeting. "However, investors would watch out for Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech for cues on rate cut. Traders may take cues from India's CPI and IIP data. Traders may also take cues from CPI data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 84," Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.20, lower by 0.03 per cent. The US dollar gained on expectations of further delay in first interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

points, or 0.20 per cent, to close at 76,606.57 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 58.10 points, or 0.25 per cent, higher to settle at an all-time high of 23,322.95 points.

Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, selling shares worth Rs 111.04 crore,

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.11 per cent to USD 82.83 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 149.98

according to exchange data.

growth, says IEA

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, will in the second half of the decade become the driver of global oil demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Wednesday, forecasting rise in consumption by a massive 1.3 million barrels between 2023 and 2030.

In its Oil 2024 Report, the Paris-based watchdog said India's oil demand is forecast to grow more than any country's other than China between 2023 and 2030.

India's oil demand projected to rise from 5.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2023 to 6.7 million bpd by 2030, a growth of 3.2 per cent or 1.3 million bpd.

"Unusually, in a global context, an increase of more than 1.3 million bpd will be dominated by rising demand for road transport fuels, with a comparatively small role for petrochemical feedstocks and underlying growth comfortably outpacing outpacing deployment of clean energy

technologies.
"In the second half of this decade, India will become by far the most important contributor to

contributor to overall growth," it said.
India's oil demand rising by 900,000 bpd between 2025 and 2030 will be well ahead of China's 570,000 bpd and three-quarters of net global gains, it said.

For the world, IEA forecast oil demand peaking by 2029 and beginning to contract the next year.

The oil demand growth in India is primarily driven by its fast expanding economy. India is set to be the world's fastest growing major economy for the third year running in 2024.

Manufacturing industrial activity has been especially strong and a massive domestic consumer market, labour force and supportive demographics should see this continue.

The nation's population, which recently overtook China's to become the world's largest, is projected to increase by 6 per cent between 2023 and 2030, and further support mobility demand

"Road diesel, the most used product in India and closely linked to industry and commerce, will account for 520,000 barrels per day of 2023-2030 growth (38 per cent of the total). Similarly, gasoline (petrol) will register a rise of 270,000 barrels per day (20 per cent of the total) as car ownership becomes

more widespread," IEA said. This demand is far more than in any other country. Compared with 2000, there was an eightfold increase in the number of cars on the road by 2023. Nevertheless, the fact that last year China had almost seven times as

further growth. IEA said its projections assume a roughly 40 per cent increase in the size of the car fleet by 2030.

many cars as India highlights the potential for

Two and three-wheelers, which make up about threequarters of the total vehicle count in India today, will remain very important, especially in urban transportation and last-mile delivery of goods over the forecast period.

With lower growth potential compared with passenger cars and a comparatively high potential for electrification, this segment will act as a slight drag on

gasoline growth, it said. Owing to relatively limited construction of new facilities, Indians will see a lower share of growth come from petrochemicals. from petrochemicals. Feedstock requirements are set to climb by around 140,000 barrels per day between 2023 and 2030, with

an emphasis on naphtha use (over 100,000 barrels per day). LPG and ethane use in petrochemical production will rise by a more limited 40,000 bpd.

IEA saw India's refining capacity rising from 5.8 million bpd in 2023 to 6.8 million bpd in 2030.

Crude oil pumped out from below ground and seabed are and diesel in refineries. And India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its crude oil needs.

IEA said India's import needs will grow by nearly 1 million bpd, from 4.6 million bpd to 5.6 million bpd, driven by aggressive refinery programmes that add 1 million bpd in crude processing capacity.

Government steps help boost toy exports, manufacturing; more work needed: DPIIT Secy

measures Usuch as mandatory quality control orders and increasing customs duty have helped boost exports of toys from India, but there is a need to do much more for the sector, a top official said on Wednesday. Secretary in the Department

for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajesh Kumar Singh also indicated that they are diligently pursuing the proposal of extending fiscal incentives under production-linked incentive scheme for the sector.

He said that the industry is wondering about one proposed major assure you that we are still pursuing that".

İn the interim Budget in February, the Commerce and Industry Ministry has recommended an outlay of Rs 3,489 crore for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for toys to boost domestic manufacturing of the sector.

As the scheme is yet to be cleared by the Union Cabinet,



the interim Budget has made a token provision of Rs 1 lakh towards the scheme for 2024-

The scheme aims to attract investments in key sectors and cutting-edge technology; bring ensure efficiency, the manufacturing sector and make Indian companies and manufacturers

competitive. Singh said that the country's toy exports have jumped to USD 325.72 million in 2022-23 from USD 96.17 million in 2014-15 as the government is providing all-around support for creating a conducive manufacturing ecosystem for the toy industry.

Imports of toys dipped by 52 per cent from USD 332.55 million in 2014-15 to USD 158.7 million in 2022-23.

> "The national action plan for toys and other initiatives has had a good impact, but we need to do much more," Singh exports and job potential.

> In order to make India a global hub for manufacturing, government has undertaken a series of initiatives including the formulation of a National comprehensive Action Plan for Toys (NAPT) to promote the designing of toys, using toys as a learning resource, monitoring quality

indigenous toy clusters. The secretary was speaking at a toy workshop here.

In order to enable further growth, increased market access and development of new-age marketing skills, DPIIT conducted a workshop with Flipkart and the Indian Tov Industry. Flipkart, Walmart and the Toy Association of India participated in the event. Joint Secretary in the DPIIT Sanjiv said that the workshop was aimed at enhancing position India's capabilities in the global toy

supply chain. will help the toy manufacturers understand the nuances of online selling which shall in turn help in the access, Sanjiv said.

The issues figured out in the workshop included ways to increase sourcing by online platforms, onboarding of manufacturers on the Flipkart platform and upskilling. It was also aimed

supporting online selling, scaling consumption upskilling/reskilling

workforce.

FIU imposes over ₹ 1.66 crore fine on Axis Bank for failing to detect fraud NSG account

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Financial Intelligence Unit has slapped a fine of more than Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for "failing" to put in place a mechanism to detect and report suspicious transactions carried out at one of its branches by creating a "fraud" account in the name of counter-terrorist commando force NSG.

The federal agency has issued an order on June 3 under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Director to impose a Bank) if the agency finds that failed to comply with the obligations mandated under the said law. A query sent to Axis Bank did not elicit an immediate response.

According to the summary order accessed by PTI, the case pertains to an instance where "an employee of Axis Bank was alleged to have been complicit in a largescale fraud and corruption scandal, in collusion with

he said. Capacity utilisation in various industries is

hovering around 75 per cent for quite some time and

demand push would be key to go to the next level of

investments in the private

Ravichandran said that the

government is unlikely to change the Rs 11.11 lakh

capex front.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) order said this "alleged misconduct pertained to the creation of a fraudulent bank account in the name of the National Security Guard (NSG), a government agency."
"Reports indicated that a

manager at Axis Bank played a role in establishing the account, purportedly for the purpose of aggregating illicit funds," the order said. A total fine of Rs 1,66,25,000 was issued by the FIU against

(PMLA) that empowers its the bank on alleged charges of violation of the anti-money monetary penalty on a laundering law, the order reporting entity (like Axis said. The FIU, under the Union its designated director on the Finance Ministry, is an

implementing certain sections of the anti-money laundering law like the Enforcement Directorate (ED). It (FIU) conducts examination of steps taken to check money laundering and other financial frauds, by banks and other financial institutions designated as 'reporting entities' under the PMLA, in the financial channels of the country.

Gold climbs ₹250; silver

Gold prices climbed Rs 250 to Rs 72,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid strong global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous session, the precious metal had closed at Rs 71,950 per 10 grams. Silver prices also bounced by Rs 800 to Rs 91,500 per kg. It had settled at Rs 90,700 per kg

in the previous session. "In the Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 72,200 per 10 grams, up by Rs 250 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,315 per ounce, up USD 12 from the previous close.

Securities, said.

Gold extended its gains on Wednesday, helped by a soft US Treasury yield and a steady US dollar, Gandhi said. Silver also quoted marginally higher at USD 29.35 per ounce. It had ended at USD 29.20 per ounce in the previous session.



"Commodities are broadly stuck in a range and trading flat, as traders look ahead to the US CPI numbers and the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting outcome later on Wednesday. "Although the US Fed is

expected to keep rates unchanged on Wednesday, but their forward guidance on the inflation will be closely watched and any surprises would lead to increased volatility in the financial market," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

Workshop on pumped storage projects held



PNS NEW DELHI

NTPC, Ir integrated India's company in collaboration with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), successfully organized a two day National Level Workshop on the "Standardization of Technical Specification for Property Specification for Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)" at the Power Management Institute (PMI) in Noiďa.

The aim of the workshop was to foster collaboration and synergy among developers, civil execution agencies, electro-mechanical equipment manufacturers, consultants, and government authorities.

MAKP Singh, Member (Hydro), CEA and Shri KS Sundaram, Director (Projects), NTPC, graced the inaugural session in the presence of SN Tripathi and others.

Life insurers to mandatorily provide loan facility against policies: Irdai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R_{\text{Wednesday}}^{\text{egulator}} \ \, \stackrel{\text{Irdai}}{\text{said}} \quad \, \text{on} \\ \text{the}$ facility of policy loan is now mandatory in all life insurance savings products, enabling policyholders to meet liquidity requirements. Issuing a master circular which consolidates all regulations with regards to life insurance policies, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) also said the free look period, which provides time to review the policy terms and conditions, is 30 days as against 15 days earlier.

The latest master circular follows a similar exercise by the regulator for general insurance policies.

"This is an important step in the series of reforms taken up by the insurance regulator with interests of the policyholders at the core. A conducive environment is now facilitated to spur enhance innovation, customer experience and satisfaction," Irdai said.

PLI scheme to attract ₹3-4 lakh crore investments over 4 yrs: Icra incentives or other means...,"

The PLI scheme is expected to attract Lexpected to attract investments of Rs 3-4 lakh crore in the next four years and generate 2 lakh jobs as large projects in sectors, including semiconductor, solar module and pharmaceutical intermediaries, are expected to take off, a top Icra executive said on executive Wednesday.

Icra Executive Vice President and Chief Ratings Officer K Ravichandran said that going ahead private sector capex is expected to pick up in oil and gas, metals and mining, hospitals, healthcare and cement sectors

However, taking the private sector capex to record high levels would require the government to give some tax breaks so that people have more disposable income in their hands.

"Under the PLI scheme, we are expecting Rs 3-4 lakh additional investments in the next 3-4 Going ahead, semiconductor, solar module, and pharmaceutical intermediaries are some areas where large projects are investment till November the demand front, we need expected to happen which can 2023, and employment to do more through tax



be capital and employmentintensive. They would be generating 2 lakh jobs in different sectors, Ravichandran told PTI in an interview.

The PLI scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 including sectors, telecommunication, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, steel, food speciality products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell batteries, drones, and pharma, with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

PLI schemes have witnessed

over Rs 1.03 lakh crore of investment till November

capex, Ravichandran said private capex pickup is expected in oil and gas, energy

metals and mining hospitals, healthcare, and cement. These are the sectors that are expecting large outlay over the medium term. However, unlike earlier years, this time the capex is more towards the green energy side, renewable electric vehicles. "For us to reach a high level of capex we need to do something on the demand front. Consumption at the

lower end of the market, in

rural areas, is subdued. On

crore public sector capex spending budgeted for the current fiscal. "I don't think infra spending will go up from the current level. The government will adhere to the fiscal consolidation path. Going up on the budgetary outlay generation of over 6.78 lakh. With regard to private sector for infrastructure is going to be difficult given the need to reduce the debt level...So the private sector will have to pick up the tab," he said. The government's capex

allocation has more than doubled from Rs 4.39 lakh crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, to Rs 11 lakh crore in 2024-25. Although in monetary terms, the capex allocation in the budget has increased in percentage terms, the increase in allocation has decelerated in 2024-25 to 11 per cent, from around 35 per cent in the previous three financial years.

jumps ₹800 amid strong cues in global markets

PTI NEW DELHI

Address injustice, says AIFF seeking probe into Qatar's controversial goal in WC qualifier



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

⊣he All India Football Federation has sought an investigation into the controversial goal awarded to Qatar in their crucial World Cup qualifying match in Doha, AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey said on Wednesday while urging the concerned authorities to "address the

injustice" The AIFF chief said India have asked for a thorough investigation into the goal that was allowed by South Korean referee Kim Woo-Sung despite the ball clearly going out of play during the must-win match that the visitors lost 1-2 at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Tuesday.

"Victory and defeat are part and parcel of the game, we

learned accept gracefully, although one of the two goals scored against India yesterday night left a few questions unanswered,

Chaubey said in a statement. The goal sparked widespread outrage as it deprived the Indians of what would have been their maiden entry into the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the 2026 edition.

"We have written to FIFA Head of Qualifiers, AFC Head of Referees, and the match commissioner, regarding the grave supervision error that practically cost us a place in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Round 3.

"Given it's severity, We call upon concerned officials for a thorough investigation. We Since the ball had visibly rolled have urged them to explore the out of play, the game should

possibilities compensation to address the injustice and we trust that FIFA and AFC will take necessary steps," he added.

Iran's Hamed Momeni was the match commissioner for the game. The role requires him to supervise the organisation of the match and ensure that FIFA regulations are adhered to during the game.

In the 73rd minute, Abdullah Alahrak's free-kick saw Yousef Ayem attempt a header, which was saved by India skipper and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

But as the custodian lay on the ground seeing the ball roll over the line, Hashmi Hussein kicked it into play with Aymen slotting it into the net.

Since the ball had visibly rolled

have stopped and then resumed with a corner-kick in this case as Sandhu was the last player to come in contact with the ball before it went out.

But, to the frustration of the Indian players, the referee awarded the goal to Qatar and despite the visiting team protesting vehemently, the on-field official upheld his decision. According to FIFA rules, "the ball is out of play if it is wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air.

India coach Igor Stimac later expressed his dismay by stating that the "irregular" goal killed his team's dream. called Sandhu

"unfortunate demonstrated that "no one will hand us anything, we have to

Tamberi puts on a show in Rome to win another European high jump title

Gianmarco Tamberi bowed to Italy's Gpresident before and during the competition. Then came an embrace in the stands with his country's leader when the charismatic Olympic high jump champion clinched another European title and sealed his status as a favorite to defend

and sealed his status as a favorite to defend gold at the Paris Games.

Tamberi, styled in his preferred half-shaved beard, had already won the competition before he cleared a championship-record 2.37 meters on his first attempt to add more luster to his third title at the European athletics championships on Tuesday.

"I knew I was in a superb shape and I

championships on Tuesday.
"I knew I was in a superb shape and I proved it," Tamberi said. "I pretended to be injured and hid springs in my shoes. I think some people fell for it. I did great things. Now it's time for the Olympics."
Two Ukrainians, Vladyslav Lavskyy (2.29) and Oleh Doroshchuk (2.26), took silver and bronze respectively.

and bronze, respectively. Up next for Tamberi, who shared gold with his good friend Mutaz Barshim at the Tokyo Games, is another meeting on Thursday with Italy President Sergio Mattarella to officially be handed the country's flag that he and fencer Arianna Errigo will carry at the Paris opening ceremony on July 26.

Tamberi is also the captain of Italy's rapidly improving athletics team, which is leading the medals table at the Euros with a national record 10 golds and 20 medals overall. Karsten Warholm of Norway and Femke Bol of the Netherlands won the men's and women's 400 hurdles, respectively, by large margins - with both

setting championship records. Warholm clocked 46.98 - more than a second off his world record of 45.94 set at the Tokyo Olympics.

Bol won in 52.49 to shave 0.18 off her championship record from two years ago and reclaim the season lead from American standout Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who ran 52.70 on May 31.

Bol finished nearly two seconds ahead of silver medalist Louise Maraval of France, while her Dutch teammate Cathelijn Peeters took bronze.

So how does Bol keep going when she's so far ahead of the rest of the field?

"I visualize I'm running toward someone. It always helps me a lot," she said. "But when you have an atmosphere like this, it also helps a lot. You hear the crowd and you just want to do well for them. ... They were already applauding for Gianmarco. It was something crazy."

Warholm established a big lead but then

silver medalist Alessandro Sibilio made up some ground during the final meters.

"I was testing the pace a little bit in the beginning, going out super hard and then coming up on the home stretch, testing a little bit the same stride pattern as yesterday," Warholm said. "It was a little bit of a stutter step there. But I felt strong coming off hurdle 10 and I was in control. "For Paris there will be some more (speed).

... This is a good step on the road. But this is more to build confidence, and of course to get the gold medal. But in Paris

everything will be as sharp as possible." There was also a championship record in the triple jump, when Jordan Diaz of Spain leaped 18.18 to improve on Jonathan Edwards' mark of 17.99 from more than a

quarter century ago.
Silver medalist Pedro Pichardo of Portugal, the Cuban-born Olympic champion, also beat Edwards' mark with 18.04, while Thomas Gogois of France took bronze with 17.38.

Along with the long jump, the triple jump was held on a raised platform right next to the Stadio Olimpico stands that competitors said provided more "bounce." The championships end Wednesday when Armand Duplantis could make another attempt at extending his pole vault world record. Also, Marcell Jacobs and Olympic champion Italy will have the home crowd behind them in the 4x100 relay.

Turkey can expect strong support from Turkish-German community at Euro 2024; so can Germany

Six years ago, Ilkay Gündogan's place on the German national team was in question over a photograph with Turkey's president. Now, he's the team captain.

When Gündogan leads the German national team out against Scotland in the Championship European opener on Friday, he will be its first captain of Turkish heritage at a major tournament. To some in the large Turkish-

German community, the midfielder Barcelona embodies a "hybrid identity" that is gaining ground even in the face of political gains for the anti-migration far right, the Center for Turkish Studies Championship in our own and Integration Research in the German city of Essen.

While Gündogan had to choose which country to represent on the field, fans can support both. As the tournament nears, Aver bought a German and a

Turkish national team shirt for his six-year-old son, cut them in half, and stitched the halves together to make his hybrid kit. "I think there will be a lot of people who support both national teams and who would probably be pleased if they were to meet at some point in the semi-finals or final," Aver told The Associated Press.

One of those supporting both Germany and Turkey is Osman Eroglu, who is a goalkeeper and board member Türkgücü Ratingen, a Turkish community soccer club on the outskirts of Euro 2024 host city Düsseldorf.

third or the fourth generation the German soccer federation's country too, after all," Eroglu told The AP.

"It's double the joy because Turkey is represented this year too, so there are two teams straight away that you can support and cross your fingers

Others question players from minority groups might be scapegoats for German fans or the media if the team falls short. Some even see choosing Germany over Turkey as an act of betraval. Gündogan was particularly targeted with booing by some

Germany in Berlin last year that Turkey won 3-2. When Gündogan and teammate Mesut Özil, another star German player of Turkish heritage, posed for photos with president Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the run-up "For us, for people with a migration background in the faced pointed criticism from to the 2018 World Cup, they

> didn't sufficiently share the organization's "values." After the World Cup, Özil quit the national team, citing a "feeling of racism and disrespect" following anti-Turkish comments from farright politicians and fans. Özil

Grindel, who said Erdogan



last year.

Younis Kamil is an academic and soccer coach of Sudanese and German heritage who is working with a major Turkish community organization in Germany and the national Olympic committee on a project around Euro 2024 and

never played for Germany sports participation for people with the German national migration.

Even with Gündogan as captain, there are few people of Turkish heritage, and from other minority groups in coaching and authority roles in German soccer, Kamil said.

"There's still a gap between the possibility of identification

main reasons is the lack of representation in the decisionmaking structures, and also experiences of discrimination young people make in their daily lives," Kamil told the AP.

The Turkish national team has five Germany-born players in its squad and is counting on

"In Germany, we're going to be like a host country," Turkey defender Ozan Kabak, who was born in Turkey but plays his club soccer in Germany, said in a recent interview.

"A lot of Turkish people live here, and I think whole stadiums (are) going to be full of Turkish people."

Fans of the Turkish team even

Germany's outnumbered supporters at the friendly in Berlin last year. Unfortunately for Kabak, he won't be playing when Turkey starts its Euro 2024 campaign on June 18 after a pre-tournament knee

Turkey plays its first two Euro 2024 games against Georgia before facing the Czech Republic in Hamburg. Both cities have many residents of Turkish heritage

Many people of Turkish origin in Germany are descended from "guest workers" who arrived during the Cold War. An economic boom after

Germany had an acute shortage of labour.

A history of migration from places like Italy, Greece and Croatia - and more recently the arrival of refugees from Ukraine - means those teams are also likely to get substantial local support. This year also brings a

significant legal change as long-standing restrictions on dual nationality are abolished, making it much easier for naturalized German citizens to keep Turkish passports too. "It's not either-or, it's both-

and," said Aver, the researcher who made his son a half-andhalf shirt for Euro 2024. He's hoping the tournament can bring German so together.

"It's important, now in a time of rising right-wing populism ... To put diversity in the foreground," he said. "So, I hope, and I wish that the fans celebrate together, commiserate together and experience joy together.

Titmus sets a women 200-metre freestyle world record at Australia Olympic swimming trials

AP ■ BRISBANE (AUSTRALIA)

riarne Titmus set a world Arecord in the women's 200-metre freestyle Wednesday at Áustralia's Olympic swimming trials.

Titmus finished in 1 minute,

52.23 seconds in the final, taking almost two-thirds of a second off Mollie O'Callaghan's world mark of 1:52.85 set at last year's world championships

championships.
O'Callaghan placed second at the Australian titles in 1:52.48.

the Olympic

1.400 champion in the 200- and 400meter freestyle events, now holds the world records in both

"Honestly, the world record is a bonus," she said. "I'm happy to finally put together a swim that I know I'm capable of, and it's exciting to do it in my home town, in front of a home-town crowd.'

Titmus and O'Callaghan both work with the same coach, Dean Boxall.

"We really don't see what each other is doing in training. We are very separate - she trains for the sprint events, I train for middle distance," Titmus said. "Looking at a world record, I don't look at who has it. I look at the time.

Titmus said a record wasn't "on my radar" so close to the Paris Olympics, which start July 26. "I just wanted to put together a



great swim, and I have the chance to do it again in Paris,

The 20-year-old O'Callaghan said she experienced pre-race anxiety, entering as the record

"I couldn't really sleep last night," she said. "I'm still learning. I am only young, and I am not as experienced as the other girls. So, I will take

anything at this point."

Titmus and O'Callaghan finished more than three seconds ahead of the rest of the field in a strong final. Lani Pallister placed third, Brianna Throssell was fourth, and Shayna Jack tied for fifth with Jamie Perkins.

The top six swimmers are likely to form Australia's 4x200 freestyle relay squad in Paris. The Australians hold the world record in the event.

Australia's team for the Olympics will be confirmed on the weekend, after the six-day trials at Brisbane's Chandler Aquatic Center.



AP MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

 $E^{
m rik}$ ten Hag will stay on as Manchester United manager and is in negotiations to extend his contract, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision had not been publicly announced. The decision ends months of uncertainty

over Ten Hag's future after he oversaw United's worst league campaign in 34 years, but ended the season by winning the FA Cup with a victory over Manchester

United carried out an end-of-year review after last month's cup final and decided to stick with Ten Hag, who has won two trophies in as many seasons since joining the club from Ajax in 2022.

The FA Cup followed the English League Cup, which the Dutchman won in his first year at Old Trafford. But his second season in charge saw the 20-time champion suffer its lowest Premier League finish $\hat{\ }$ - eighth losing 19 times in all competitions.

Ten Hag keeps his job in the face of a major overhaul of United's soccer operations by new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe. British billionaire Ratcliffe bought a 27.7% stake in the club in February and has hired a new CEO and technical director, with a

sporting director on the way.
Ten Hag, who won three Dutch titles with Ajax, was Ratcliffe's last major call. He survived despite failing to meet Ratcliffe's challenge of securing Champions League qualification for next season.

Ten Hag is United's fifth permanent manager since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 during a period of decline on the field. It has gone 11 years without winning



David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer all failed to return the club to its past glories. Ten Hag went into the cup final under intense pressure and it was not known if a win would be enough to save his job. His team produced an outstanding

performance to beat four-time defending eague champion City 2-1 at Wembley

Afterward, an emboldened Ten Hag issued a defiant message, saying if United

somewhere else to win trophies because that is what I did my whole career.' Ratcliffe assumed control of United's failing soccer operations after investing \$1.3 billion in shares and injecting a further \$300 million cash into the club.

He has quickly begun his overhaul with the appointment of former Manchester City executive Omar Berrada as CEO. City's former academy head Jason Wilcox has been hired as technical director.



Valpuia to remain at Mumbai City FC until 2027

Hmingthanmawia Ralte, also known as Valpuia, has extended his contract with Mumbai City FC and will remain at the club until the summer of 2027.

The club made the announcement in a release on Wednesday that Valpuia, who hails from Mizoram, has been a 'reliable player' at the club being a part of the team's 2020-21 historic season in which they won the ISL League's Shield as well as the ISL Cup.

He started playing football at the age of eight and made impressive progress at the Aizawl FC, where Valpuia caught the attention of Mumbai City FC who brought him on board in June

Valpuia was loaned to Roundglass Punjab FC for the 2022-23 season where he remained a regular starter and helped the club to secure promotion in ISL. Valpuia also scored his maiden

goal for MCFC upon his return against Chennaiyin FC which against Chennary FC which helped the club to secure a position in the Kalinga Super Cup semifinal. He has played an overall 23 matches for MCFC including 17 in the ISL.

"The club has played an instrumental role in my growth both

mental role in my growth, both as a person and a player. The staff, teammates, and coaches have consistently helped me improve my game and shown unwavering trust in my abilities,

"Valpuia is one of the best talents at our club. He dedicates a significant amount of time to training and developing his skills, and I am consistently impressed with his performance on the field. His commitment to improvement and his work ethic are commendable," said MCFC head coach Petr Kratky.

NZ face WI in virtual knockout, rain threatens to derail England again

Staring at early elimination, New Zealand will look to dish out a much-improved show in a do-or-die clash against tournament co-hosts West Indies in the T20 World Cup here

New Zealand suffered a batting collapse to be bowled out for 75 in 15.2 overs in a stunning 84-run loss to Afghanistan in their tournament-opener at the Providence Stadium.

This loss dropped their run rate to -4.2, the lowest among the four teams in Group D, placing them at the bottom of the standings.

Now, they find themselves on the brink of a rare group stage -- an unexpected predicament for a team known for its remarkable consistency in World Cups, having reached the semi-finals in all six recent editions: the ODI World Cups of 2015, 2019, and 2023, and the T20 World Cups of 2016, 2021, and 2022.

Only two of their batters

managed to score double digits and the Kane Williamson-led side will have to buck up as a batting unit to pose any challenge to the local favourites.

It's not just the batting, their fielding also put them down as they dropped easy chances, missed stumping and run-out as the Afghanistan opening duo of Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran set it up with a solid 103-run opening

West Indies on the other hand face no such issues as a Super Eight berth will be up for grabs if they manage to secure a third win on the trot.

Having started off with a scrappy win over Papua New Guinea, WI have started to come on their own and coasted to a 134-run victory after bowling out Uganda for 39 in their previous match. **TEAMS (FROM)**

West Indies Squad: Rovman

Powell (c), Brandon King, Johnson Charles, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd, Roston Chase, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Obed McCoy, Shamar Joseph, Shimron Hetmyer and Shai

Hope.

New Zealand Squad: Kane
Williamson (c), Finn Allen,
Devon Conway (wk), Daryl
Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mark
Chapman, Michael Bracewell,
Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry,
Ladric Fraguer Trent Boult Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult, Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi, James Neesham and Rachin Ravindra.

Match starts: 6am IST.

B A N G L A D E S H , NETHERLANDS HOPE TO STAY ALIVE: Bangladesh and the Netherlands will look to keep their Super Eight hopes alive when they lock horn in a crucial Group D fixture at Kingstown.

In the group of death, South Africa have already made the cut and the fight is among the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka -- in that

World Cup.
Defending champions England find themselves in a precarious spot after a washed out game and a heavy defeat against Australia, who have qualified for the Super Eights.
"Absolutely they should (manipulate the result) and I'm not even joking. I've spoken to people about this in the

I've spoken to people about this in the last few days. I'm dead serious," Paine

As things stand in Group B, England

are fourth with just a point and -1.800 Net Run Rate. They have two more

games left. Even if they win both their

games they can't overtake Scotland,

who are second with five points and a

In order to progress to the Super

Eights, Jos Buttler and Co. Not only

have to win both their remaining

games by heavy margins but also

hope familiar foes and table leaders

Australia hand Scotland a huge defeat

World Cup.

said on Sen Radio.

healthy +2.164 NRR.

order -- to book the second

Having started off with a twowicket win over Sri Lanka, a nervy Bangladesh let it slip against South Africa to go

down by four runs in their last match.

Netherlands too are coming on the back of a reversal against South Africa and will hope to TEAMS (FROM)

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam and Tanzim

Netherlands: Scott Edwards (c), Aryan Dutt, Bas de Leede, Kyle Klein, Logan van Beek, Max O'Dowd, Michael Levitt, Paul van Meekeren, Ryan Klein, Saqib Zulfiqar, Sybrand

Engelbrecht, Teja Nidamanuru, ??Tim Pringle, Vikram Singh, Viv Kingma and Wesley Barresi. Match starts: 8pm IST

RAIN THREAT FOR ENGLAND VS OMAN: Rain

forecast has once again threatened to derail defending champions England who also are on the verge of an early exit and will face Oman in first of their two must wins matches at North Sound.

England, who have just one point from two matches after a washout against Scotland, will face Namibia in their final group league clash at the same

forecast and Jos Buttler's men will have a watch on the sky. Wins in both the matches may not be enough for England as Scotland (5 points from three matches) are ahead of the race. Scotland may get to seven points by virtue of a win over Australia and England's Super Eight hopes may eventually rest on the hands of their archrivals. TEAMS (FROM)

England: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and Mark

Oman: Aqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad and Khalid Kail.

Knock out England for best interest:

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood also

acknowledged the potential benefit in

hindering England's progress and said

it would serve "best interest" for all

"Yeah, I think so. In this tournament

you potentially come up against

England at some stage again," Hazlewood said in the media

interaction after their big nine-wicket

some real struggles against them in T20 cricket so if we can get them out

of the tournament that's in our best

interest as well as probably everyone

win over Namibia in North Sound. "They're probably one of the top few teams on their day and we've had



Australia annihilate Namibia by nine wickets to secure Super 8 spot

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

eg-spinner Adam Zampa Leg-spinner Auam Zaman starred again in the middle overs as Australia annihilated Namibia by nine wickets to qualify for the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup here. Australia put up a complete

bowling performance to dismiss Namibia for a meagre 72 before gunning down the target in just 34 balls with Travis Head and skipper Mitchell Marsh remaining not out on 34 and 18 respectively. With three wins in a row, Australia thus stormed into the Super Eight from Group with a match in hand. They take on Scotland at Gros Islet in their Saturday.

For Namibia, it was their second loss in three games, eliminating them from the Super 8 race. Scotland and England are fighting for the second Super spot from Group

(2/18)Hazlewood Josh removed the Namibian openers Michael Van Lingen and Niko Davin before Zampa (4/12) got into the act to run through Namibia, who ended with their lowest total in T20 Internationals.

Zampa reached a major landmark in the game as he became the first Australian bowler to take 100 wickets in T20 Internationals.

bowling Opening the bowling alongside Hazlewood, Marcus Stoinis (2/9) also took a couple of wickets while skipper Pat Cummins and Nathan Ellis

chipped in with a wicket each. "I tĥought it was a great performance from the bowling team. Swing was around and all-round a professional performance. important and great to qualify for the super eights," said Marsh after the thumping win on Tuesday night.

He reserved special praise for Zampa, who has tallied eight wickets in three games.

"If you look at his career over the last 4-5 years, he is probably our most important player. He loves the pressure and he is bowling well at the moment and we are lucky to have him," he added.

Australian opening duo of Head (34 off 17) were in a hurry to get the job done, giving the team a flying start. Both collected boundaries on either side of the wicket before Warner was caught at mid-off in the second over.

Marsh joined Head and unleased a few punchy drivers on the off-side as Australia cantered to a comprehensive

Earlier, skipper Gerhard Erasmus top-scored for Namibia with 36 off 43 balls. Reeling at 43 for eight, Namibia managed to cross the 50-run mark courtesy a lone hand from Erasmus.

"You can't sit back against the best in the world. The skill gap is there, we tried to close that by fighting fire with fire but we did not do that in this tournament so far," said

to dent the Scots' NRR. Paine clarified that he doesn't want $F^{ormer} \ {\it Australia} \ {\it Test} \ {\it captain} \ {\it Tim} \\ F^{ormer} \ {\it wants} \ {\it Mitchell} \ {\it Marsh} \ {\it and} \\ {\it Co. To "manipulate" their final group}$ Australia to lose the match but rather make it close enough for England to be eliminated. game against Scotland to ensure that England are knocked out of the T20 "I'm not sure what the net run rate

looks like, you don't have to lose the game, I think they can just let Scotland get close enough."

'Again, let's not get too far ahead of ourselves, Scotland could have a day out. But say Scotland batted first and got to 140 and we chased it off 19.5 overs to make sure they don't suffer a big net run rate loss.

"I think England have to win both of their games by about 50 runs to even get up towards Scotland's net run rate. So, it's certainly plausible that you can win the game (but still ensure England don't progress)," he added. The former wicketkeeper batter sees this as a "smart, calculated" move that may help Australia later in the tournament.

"That's not just because it's England. You got to go into these tournaments trying to win a World Cup. Who could certainly pose a threat in the latter rounds? That is England." Despite the bad start, Paine feels



England have the capability to turn things around and defend their title. 'There's no doubt they are still one of the best teams in the world, they got off to a horrible start and now it's in our hands.

"If you could knock out one of the most highly fancied teams in the tournament and do it in a way that's you're not deliberately losing a game,

"You're manipulating the net run rates

a little bit... You can say whatever you want to say, but to me, it is smart, calculated, tournament play.
"We're there to win a World Cup. I wouldn't want to play England in the

semifinal. They've got six or seven guys that could take a game away from you, much like Australia do. "If you can have a side like that not go through to the next phase, it makes the World Cup easier for you to win."

Hazlewood however suggested that the team's approach will remain unchanged, leaving decisions about game 'manipulation' to others.
"But yeah, it'll be interesting to see.

We've never really been in this position before as a team I don't think, so whether we have discussions or not, we'll just try and play it again the way we did tonight. Yeah, that'll be up to people, not me.'

Hazlewood questions T20 WC format, says strange that net-run rate will count for nothing in Super 8

AHazlewood finds it a bit strange that their superior net after run-rate comprehensive wins will count for nothing in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup.

Considering it is the biggest-ever T20 showpiece with the involvement of 20 teams, the ICC created four groups of five teams, out of which two from each pool make the Super 8 stage of the tournament. Thereafter, two groups of four

will be formed to determine the semifinalists of the competition. The format is different from

the previous edition, when all the top teams began their competition in the Super 12 stage where two groups of six teams were created and top two from each pool made the semifinals. Australia qualified for the



a nine wicket hammering of Namibia, taking their run rate to +3.580.

'Yeah, it's a little bit strange that it doesn't really, it doesn't go through the tournament. This is probably the first T20 World Cup I've played that's set up this way, or first World Cup in general that's set up this way,

so it's a little bit different," said Hazlewood in the post match media interaction. "Yeah, the work that you do in the round games and if you go through undefeated and have a good net run rate, doesn't really account for much once you're in the Super Eights. So, yeah, it's a strange run, but that's how it is," added the premier pacer.

took four wickets to take his tournament tally to eight.

Asked if Zampa is one of the more underrated Australian cricketers around, Hazlewood showered due praise on the leg-spinner. 'Yeah, we certainly do within

the team, for sure. We know his importance. We've seen it time and time again in whether it be one day cricket or T20 cricket. often in big tournaments and

in big games as well.
"100 T20 wickets, first one there, played the most T20 for Australia as a bowler. So, he's ticking a lot of boxes and continues to. I think the big thing is he continues to improve all the time. He's always working on something and nailing down his lengths or whatever it is so yeah - he's a key part of our team," Hazlewood added.



Pitches likes the ones in New York even the field: Canada opener Aaron Johnson

PTI NEW YORK

The Nassau County ground's pitch has been subjected to severe criticism in the ongoing T20 World Cup but Canada opener Aaron Johnson is not complaining as he believes such surfaces bring smaller

teams into the game. Johnson played the best innings of his T20 career, a 44ball 52, against Pakistan on Tuesday but his team could not cross the line against an underpressure opponent.

The 107-target that Pakistan overcame was the highest chase at the makeshift venue. "I wouldn't say it's the best surface. It's a tricky surface but when T20 cricket started 120-130 was good total on wickets. (Now) because you have flat belters, people are getting 200. I think if you have a surface like this, it evens the playing field and we fancy our chance against any opponent, not only Pakistan," said Johnson in the post-match media interaction. Johnson gave a brisk start to Canada with his belligerent strokeplay on the off-side against one of the best pace

attacks in the world. "I think it's my best innings so that Pakistan, one thing they

have is quality fast bowling attack, right?
"And to be able to get a decent total on the board for my team, that's up there with the top, probably top two best innings for me," said Johnson, who was born in Jamaica.

Canada play their final league game against India on June 15 and Johnson could not be more excited for the match in Florida though his team's qualification to the next stage

seems unlikely. 'Again, as I say, it's a ball. The ball is very round. The moment you walk on the field, anyone can win. Yes, you have to have respect for these guys. They have been doing it for

There are some of them, like someone like Babar (Azam) today, he's a legend. I'm pretty sure he will be a legend of the game, right? Hopefully we will get to play against Kohli, Rohit, all of these guys, the list goes on and on.

"And you have to respect them, And if they did it, you can do it

Injustice was done, our dream killed by irregular goal: Stimac

PTI DOHA

 $I^{\text{ndia football coach Igor}}_{\text{Stimac said "injustice" was}}$ done and his team's "dream was killed" by the blatantly "irregular" goal that allowed Qatar to claw back and clinch the must-win World Cup qualifying match here.

India suffered a 1-2 defeat at the home of the two-time Asian champions to bow out of contention from the third round of qualification for the 2026 World Cup. The visitors were leading 1-0 before Qatar scored the contentious equaliser by dragging the ball back after it had crossed the

line to go out of play. "Qatar were lucky tonight, especially because they came

back from 0-1 with an irregular goal. I can confirm that now because I have seen the replay. The whole ball was out of play and the goal was given," Stimac didn't mince words as he spoke about what went wrong in the

"It shouldn't be happening in today's football because that goal changed everything in this game. It could've happened to Qatar today and I would say the same. I'm not looking for an excuse.

"I feel sad that when you have 23 boys working really hard and living the dream, to achieve something, and that dream is killed because we didn't stop such things from happening," the Croat added. The loss, however, cannot hide



the fact that India have been consistently poor in their campaign, the lowest point being a home loss to Afghanistan. But on Tuesday, which was India's first game after the talismanic Sunil Chhetri's retirement, Stimac

said his players gave their everything and he had no complaints.

"They were fantastic. All Indian fans can be proud of team today. their controlled the game for a major part, with a high press

against a good Qatari team. You could say that the chances India had were better than Qatar's," he said. Apart from the baffling Qatari A victory would have given

Stimac

highlighted a few Indian shortcomings.
"We should have scored thrice in the first half to kill the game

definitely," he said. "But there is something which is missing in Indian football, and that's clinical reactions inside the box," he pointed out. Qatar's equaliser by Yousef Aymen in the 73rd minute took the wind out of India's sails, totally turning the momentum in the hosts'

favour, who completed the

comeback in the 85th minute

with a brilliant Ahmed Al-

long-ranger that t Singh Sandhu Rawi Gurpreet couldn't have done much about.

India a place in the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the first time, alongside direct qualification for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. Now, India's bid to make the continental tournament for the third successive time will take them to the Asian Cup Qualifiers Third Round, which is scheduled to begin in March 2025. "It's kind of an injustice to my boys tonight because we were very close to winning this game and qualifying for the third round, but it didn't happen. Congratulations to the Qatari team," Stimac said.

far in international cricket. And growing up, you know

but at the end of the day, you have to know that you're a professional cricketer also. also. So, it's about respecting them, but also respecting yourself," Johnson concluded.

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