

CAPSULE

INDIAN STUDENT ATTACKED By khalistanis in oz Melbourne: A 23-year-old Indian student was beaten up with iron rods by Khalistan supporters in Australia for opposing the activities of extremist elements, a media report said on Friday. The student was on his way to work when he was attacked by assailants chanting "Khalistan Zindabad" in Sydney's western suburb of Merrylands, The Australia Today news portal reported. "Today, morning at 5.30 am when I was going to work, some 4-5 Khalistan supporters attacked me," the student, who preferred anonymity, was quoted as saving.

BALASORE TRAIN MISHAP: 3 RLY STAFF SENT TO JC Bhubaneswar: A Special court here on Friday sent the three

accused railway officials in the Balasore triple train accident to judicial custody after the end of their CBI remand period.

YOGI SHOWERS FLOWER PETALS ON KANWARIYAS Meerut: Amid the auspicious month of Sawan, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath showered flowers on the Kanwariyas on Friday. Yogi reached the Delhi-Meerut highway from Saharanpur, where he showered flowers on thousands of Shiva devotees gathered there, according to an official release.

NO MISMANAGEMENT IN 8 Cheetahs death: Min

Bhopal: Male cheetah Suraj translocated from Africa, died at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on Friday, forest officials said. It took the number of cheetahs that have died at the park in Sheopur district since March this year to eight. Suraj was found lying still in Palpur East Forest Range's Masavani beat by a monitoring team on Friday morning.

India's Chandrayaan 3 heads to Moon

Soft-landing on moon planned on Aug 23, says ISRO PNS NEW DELHI

India achieved a significant milestone on Friday as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched Chandrayaan 3, the country's third lunar misthe country's third lunar mis-sion. With the primary goal of accomplishing a soft landing on the lunar surface, Chandrayaan 3 seeks to join the exclusive league of nations, including the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union, that have achieved this remarkable

feat in lunar exploration. "India's ambitious third lunar mission, Chandrayaan 3, was successfully launched on Friday by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with an eye on future inter-planetary missions," reported S planetary missions," reported S Vijay Karthik. "The technical-ly challenging soft landing on the lunar surface, which Chandrayaan 2 could not achieve, has been planned for 5.47 pm on August 23." The highly anticipated Chandrayaan 3, ISRO's third lunar expedition in 15 years, embarked on its month-long journey towards the moon

journey towards the moon from Sriharikota, piggybacking on ISRO's latest heavy lift launch vehicle, 'Fat boy' LVM3-M4.

'The mission cost was around an estimated Rs 600 crore," Union Minister of State



Sriharikota: ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) M4 rocket carrying 'Chandrayaan-3' lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, on Friday (PTI Photo)

for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh said. "Chandrayaan 3 has start-

ed its journey towards the moon. Our dear LVM 3 has already put Chandrayaan 3 craft into the precise orbit around earth... And let us wish all the best for Chandrayaan 3 craft for its further orbit raising maneuvers and travel towards

the moon in the coming days," expressed ISRO Chairman S Somanath from the Mission Control Centre (MCC).

Infusion of Chandrayaan 3 into the lunar orbit is planned from August 1 onwards,

according to S Somanath. "The soft landing on the lunar surface has been planned

for 5.47 pm on August 23," he added. Mission Director S added. Mission Director S Mohana Kumar emphasised the reliability of the LVM3 rocket, stating, "We are in the process of increasing the launch frequency of this vehicle considering the national require-ments as well as satellite demands."

"Today's event is a moment of glory for India and a moment of destiny for all those in Sriharikota. I think Chandrayaan has gone beyond the limit of the sky to explore the unexplored horizons of the universe beyond," thanked Singh, while acknowledging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support. Continued on Page 9

tion), Aditi Tatkare (Women

and child welfare), Anil Patil

(Relief and rehabilitation) and Sanjay Bansode: (Sports and youth welfare).

In the portfolio distribu-tion exercise, the BJP lost out

six of its Ministries to the

Ministers from the Pawar-led

NCP faction, while the Eknath Shinde- led Shiv Sena conced-

ed three of its portfolios to the newly inducted NCP Ministers.

Devendra Fadnavis as the

Finance Minister, Munde took

over the portfolio of Agriculture held earlier by

showers on Saturday.

braces, and boulders.

While Ajit has replaced

New chapter in India's space **Odyssey: PM**

New Delhi: Minutes after India's third lunar exploration mission Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched into the orbit from the Satish Dhawan orbit from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that it has "script-ed a new chapter in India's space odyssey." He said the mis-sion "soars high, elevating the drame and ambitions of every dreams and ambitions of every Indian.

the dais where Macron, he and other dignitaries were seated. Throughout the parade, Macron was seen animatedly explaining to Modi the nuances of the traditional parade. "India, inspired by its cen-turies-old ethos, is committed to doing everything possible to make our planet peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable. Cong likely to

Modi attends Bastille Day Parade in France Says Indians

will always be grateful to France for being trusted partner PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India will always be grateful to France for being a trusted partner and joined French President Emmanuel Macron for the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour in Paris.

An Indian tri-services marching contingent took part in the parade and Indian Rafale jets participated in the flypast on the occasion along with the French air force. Modi saluted the Indian contingent as it passed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron and

First Lady Brigitte Macron during Bastille Day Parade, in Paris, France, on Friday (PTI Photo

"1.4 billion Indians will always be grateful to France for being a strong and trusted partthose who fought with the French in the First World War. We shall never forget," the French

"May the bond deepen even further!" Modi tweeted. "A giant in world history, with a decisive President said in another tweet. role to play in the future, a strate-gic partner, a friend. We are proud to welcome India as our guest of honour at the 14 July parade," Macron tweeted.

"This 14 July, soldiers and Rafale aircraft from India are marching and flying alongside our troops," he wrote.

Marching to the tune of 'saare jahan se achcha', the 269member Indian tri-services contingent participated in the parade and joined the flypast. The con-tingent was led by Cdr Vrat Baghel. He was followed by his deputies, Lt Cdr Disha Amrith, Lt Cdr Rajat Tripathi and Lt Cdr littin Lalitha Dharmaraj.

Continued on Page 9

"We honour the memory of

RNI No. 2016/1957



to Mah Speaker

Takes cognisance on plea to adjudicate disgualification petitions against Shinde, others

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has taken cognisance of a plea seeking expedited adjudica-tion of disqualification peti-tions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other Shiv Sena MLAs who formed a new Government in Maharashtra in June 2022 by

aligning with the BJP. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued a notice to the office of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker, seeking their response on the matter. The plea was filed by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)



MLA Sunil Prabhu, who had previously filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other MLAs in his capacity as the chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena.

The bench, consisting of Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, stated, "We will issue notice returnable in two weeks." In the petition, Shiv Sena (UBT) has accused

Speaker Rahul Narwekar of intentionally delaying the adjudication process, despite the Supreme Court's May 11 verdict, which directed the speedy disposal of the petitions. Continued on Page 9

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI n the first-ever Cabinet re-jig carried out by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde twelve days after the rebel Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) joined his government, the breakaway NCP group leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday walked away with the plum Finance and

planning portfolios. In the portfolio allocation exercise undertaken by the Chief Minister after the hectic bargaining indulged by the breakaway NCP faction, Ajit Pawar's senior colleagues Dilip-Walse Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal,

Walse Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal, and Dhananjay Munde landed Co-operation, Food and Civil Supplies (& Consumer Protection) and Agriculture portfolios respectively. The portfolios allocated to five other NCP breakaway fac-tion Ministers who had joined

tion Ministers who had joined the Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government on July 2, are: Hasan Mushriff (Medical education), Dharmarao Atram: (Food and drugs administra-

Abdul Sattar of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Sattar has been given Minority Affairs and Waqf.

Walse Patil has been vested with Cooperation portfolio in place of Atul Save of the BJP, in place of Atul Save of the BJP, while Save has been given Housing, OBC and Bahujan Kalyan portfolios, while Bhujbal has occupied Food and Civil Supplies held earli-er by Ravindra Chavan of the BJP who has been allocated PWD (Other Public

Undertakings). Mushraf has taken over the Medical Education portfo-lio from Girish Mahajan who has been allocated Rural development Panchayat Raj and Tourism portfolios, while Aditi Tatkare has got the women and children portfolio held earlier

by Mangal Prasad Lodha. On July 2, Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP MLAs were inducted into the State Cabinet, after they rebelled against NCP chief Sharad Pawar, broke away from the parent party and joined the Shinde government, *Continued on Page 9*

to resolve the ongoing dis-agreement with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This comes ahead of the Opposition parties' meeting in Bengaluru on Monday, followed by the

PNS NEW DELHI

commencement of the Monsoon session on July 20. AICC sources said the Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi has called

for a meeting of the Parliamentary Strategy Group on Saturday to discuss various issues. This will be the first CPP meeting in 14 years that will not be attended by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul was disqualified as a Lok Sabha MP during the Budget Session in March, and although he is fighting to retain his Wayanad Parliamentary constituency through the courts, he will not be present at this meeting.

The upcoming meeting will be the second discussion on the issue, with the first meeting held on July 1. At that time, the Congress refrained from announcing its stance on the ordinance despite pressure from the AAP.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest award in France, by French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/PARIS

France has honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi by conferring him with its highest Continued on Page 9 | civilian and military award,

Grand Cross of the Legion. President Emmanuel Macron gave this award to Modi in a ceremony in Paris late Thursday. Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this honour. **Continued on Page 9**

3 children drown while bathing in floodwater

Three children between the ages of 10 and 13 lost their lives by drowning while taking bath in floodwater in a water-logged area near northwest Delhi's Mukundpur Chowk. The incident took place when they accidentally fell into a water-filled ditch at a metro under-construction site on Friday.

The young victims, identi-fied as Piyush (13), Nikhil (10), and Ashish (13), all resi-dents of H-block in Jahangirpuri, met their unfortunate fate in what marks the first reported drownings dur-ing the ongoing Delhi floods. According to the Director of Delhi Fire Service (DFS),



fire department team promptly responded and rushed to the location near Mukundpur Chowk in Jahangirpuri.



Atul Garg, the tragic event unfolded around 3 pm on Friday when a distress call was received reporting that children had drowned in a ditch. The

"Despite immediate res-

cue efforts, they could not be revived, and all three were declared deceased at BJRM hospital," shared Garg.

Yamuna inundates Delhi's key areas

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $F_{\rm Yamuna}^{\rm loodwaters from the overflowing} \\ {\rm Fyamuna \ River \ reached \ the} \\ {\rm entrance \ of \ the \ Supreme \ Court \ in} \\$ Central Delhi, as well as the areas of ITO, Rajghat, and surrounding areas on Friday. The situation was further exacerbated by damage to the Indraprastha water regulator, managed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department. To address the worsening waterlogging, the Indian Army was deployed to contain the damage.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level in the Yamuna River stood at 208.12 meters at 8 pm. Despite the receding water levels, several key areas in Delhi remained inundated. The weather office has issued a 'yellow' alert for moderate rain and thunder-

in restoring the regulator and the ITO in restoring the regulator and the ITO Barrage following the collapse of the regulator on Thursday evening. This collapse led to the flooding of various areas, including the Ring Road at WHO, ITO, IP Metro Station, and IP Estate. The breach in the regulator allowed river water to enter drain no.

men, approximately 80% of the restoration work on the Bund, which caused the breach, has been com-pleted. The work is expected to be finalized by midnight, following which the restoration of the regulator at the mouth of the drain will commence. Encouragingly, the water flowing into the drain has already started reversing its course. Once the Bund is sealed, pumps will be utilized to redirect the overflowing water from the drain back Corps has made significant progress

into the river," sources stated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, currently in France, contacted Union Home Minister Amit Shah to inquire about the flood-like situation in parts of Delhi. Shah briefed PM Modi about the situation and informed him that the water level in the Yamuna is expected to recede in the next 24 hours.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inspected the repair work at the Indraprastha water regulator. The LG has been present on-site throughout the day, overseeing progress and motivating the work-men. He even had lunch with them in the afternoon.

Earlier, Kejriwal and Revenue Minister Atishi directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to seek assistance from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the

Army to prevent the entry of floodwaters into new areas of the national capital

Due to the flooding, areas such as Rajghat and ITO have imposed traf-fic restrictions, causing hardships for commuters. Waterlogged roads, including the key stretch connecting East Delhi to Lutyens's Delhi, have made navigation difficult.

Efforts have been made to ensure the safety of residents and animals affected by the floods. The Delhi Police evacuated over 60 students from the Blind School in Kingsway Camp, and the NDRF team rescued 60 dogs, 50 cows, and around 375 other cows from inundated areas.

The flood-like situation has also impacted crematoriums in the vicinity of the Yamuna River.

The authorities continue to work to address the situation and mitigate the impact of the floods in Delhi.

12 and cause damage. "With the dedicated efforts of the Indian Army, including three officers, six JCOs, 45 jawans, and other work-

Repair works are underway at the regulator near the Indraprastha bus stand and the WHO Building on Drain No. 12, utilising sandbags, The Indian Army's Engineering



city 02

Lightning claims 4 lives

PTI I UCKNOW

 $F^{\mathrm{our}}_{\mathrm{teenagers, were killed after}}$ being struck by lightning in different areas in Ballia district on Friday afternoon, Police said. According to the police, Nisha Kumari (17) died and Priyanka (18), Lalbuchi (45), and Asha Devi (52) were injured by lightning in Bankara village of Ubhaon police station area.

All have been admitted to Community Health Centre, Belthara Road for treatment. At the time of the incident, all were transplanting paddy in the field. Ravikant (28) died after being struck by lightning in Narni village of Rasda Kotwali area. At the time of the incident, Ravi was getting the labourers to transplant paddy

Rampur (PTI): The Uttar

Pradesh government has with-

drawn the 'Y-category' securi-

Samajwadi Party leader Azam

Khan saying it was not need-

ed, as his party decried the

Superintendent of Police

Sansar Singh said they had

received a letter from the

security headquarters in

Lucknow, which said there

was no need to provide the Y-

move as "unfortunate."

cover provided to

Rampur Additional

Basanti (30) were injured by lightning while working on the farm. Both women have been admitted to the Community Health Center, Rasra

Vikesh Kharwar (16) died after being struck by lightning on Friday afternoon in Khalispur Kakri village of Nagra police station area. Mamsi Devi died after being struck by lightning on Friday afternoon in Chak Bahauddin village of Pakdi police station area. The police have taken all the bodies in their possession and sent them for postmortem.

In the Kailipali village of Rasda Kotwali area, six monkeys sitting on a Peepal tree were seriously injured due to lightning. Five of the monkeys died later. Meanwhile in in the field. Usha (35) and Barabanki, a 22-year-old youth is on.

Azam Khan's 'Y-category' security withdrawn

category security to Khan, a

10-time MLA from Rampur.

In compliance with the order,

his security was withdrawn, he

ical activities, Khan's house on

the Jail Road bore little resem-

blance to its heyday, bereft as

it was of any uniformed men.

Under the Y-category securi-

ty, Khan was given three gun-

men who were posted at his

Once buzzing with polit-

added.

allocation research

and his 18-year-old partner were found hanging from a tree at a village on Friday, police said. According to police, Shalini and Mangal, who were

in a relationship for the last few months, went missing on Thursday, following which a search was launched but the duo could not be traced. On Friday morning, their

bodies were spotted hanging from a tree at Sadharanpur village in the Ramnagar area, the police added. Preliminary investigation revealed that as Mangal was already married to another woman, his relationship with Shalini had caused a dispute between their families.

SHO Suresh Pandey said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, Pandey said, adding that further probe

gered a political slugfest

between the ruling BJP and

the opposition Samajwadi

Party headed by Akhilesh Yadav. SP's UP unit chief

Naresh Uttam Patel slammed

the move claiming there was

still threat to his life. "There is a threat to his life. What can

be more unfortunate than

this? Today there are BJP lead-

ers, who do not need any

11 routes declared 'no parking' zones

PNS LUCKNOW

o ensure smooth traffic movement, 11 areas have been identified and declared as 'no-parking' zones. Traffic officials said that the publicity of the 'no parking' zones would be done by running a special one-week campaign by putting up signages, banners and posters.

After that, vehicles parked in the marked 'no parking' zones would be towed and the information will be conveyed to the owners. Penalties will also be imposed on the owners of these vehicles. "Cameras will be installed in the cranes towing the vehicles to rule out irregularities. Traffic personnel will be on duty and the cranes will be be pressed into service in their presence. The traffic personnel will record videos of the vehicles parked in 'no parking' zones," an official said.

The 'no parking' zones include the entire area around Vidhan Bhawan, from Gautampalli crossing to Hazratganj and from Atal crossing to Mayfair, from Alka trisection via St Francis' College to Saharaganj trisection, from Golf Club crossing to VVIP Guest House.

The road in front of Alambagh bus stand will also be a 'no parking' zone as will the route from Bapu Bhawan crossroads to Burlington and Ravindralaya to Nattha trisection, and from Ghantaghar to Bada Imambara

The main road from Kamta trisection to BBDU, the route from Husadiya to Hahnemann crossing, and the main road in front of Nishatganj bakery intersection will also be 'no parking' zones.

There will be a penalty of Rs 1,100 security, but they are moving for four-wheelers, Rs 800 for threewheelers and Rs 700 for two-wheelers.

Plantation campaign: Nandan forests being developed in different districts

PNS LUCKNOW

Under the Tree Plantation Campaign 2023, Nandan forests are being developed in different districts of the state. Giving this information, a senior forest official said that the meaning of 'Nandan' is one who gives joy

He said it has been proposed to develop a dense forest by intensive planting of shrubs and small plants.

"Nandan Van' will prove to be helpful in creating awareness about green promotion among the visiting people to face the growing challenges of climate change. Nagar Van, Nagar Vatika and Nandan Van are being developed in urban areas to restore greenery, create green environment and reduce air pollution. Under the campaign, Forest Nagar Vatika and Nandan Van being are being developed for practical education of nature, yoga, trekking, bird-watching and photography in the middle of the natural environment of city dwellers, entertainment and forest," the forest official said.

He said that the main objective of promoting greenery in urban areas is creating awareness about trees and biodiversity, conservation of area-specific important botanical species, providing clean and healthy environment to the residents.

He said that under municipality and urban local bodies, 351 city forests/city gardens have been devel-oped by the Forest department withThe minimum area of the city

forest developed under the 100 per cent funded scheme by the Government of India is 10 hectares and the maximum area is 50 hectares. Similarly, city gardens have been developed in minimum one hectare and maximum 10 hectare area in densely populated areas of the city. In 14 districts of the state (Agra, Firozabad, Jhansi, Kanpur Dehat, Auraiya, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Hathras, Kanpur Nagar, Etawah, Rae Bareli, Moradabad, Amroha and Varanasi), 351 city forests/city gardens have

been developed in an area of 722 hectares," he added. Due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, increase in the number of vehicles, livelihood, physical comfort and ardent desire to improve economic status, due to expansion of cities and increasing biotic pressure, there is a decrease in greenery and the number of dependent people per tree increases.

"The combined effect of all these activities is visible in the form of increasing pollution in the cities. Due to the polluted environment in the cities, everyone is experiencing the side effects of environmental pollution. The easiest and easiest way to keep the cities pollution free is to increase the greenery in the cities by planting more and more trees. The green areas located in the cities capture carbon dioxide generated due to human activities, store carbon and

emit oxygen in the process of making food," the official said.

He said that in order to provide a pollution-free environment to city dwellers and to relax for a few moments in the green environment, Nagar Van and Nandan Van are being established along with planting more and more saplings on the vacant land available in the cities for increasing greenery.

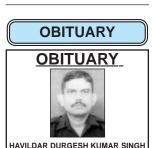
"The importance of gardens continued and the medieval rulers also encouraged the development of gardens from the point of view of greenery and use. Lucknow is also known as the city of gardens. The localities of Lucknow are named Charbagh, Alambagh, Telibagh, Moosabagh, Sikander Bagh, Kaiserbagh, Bandariya Bagh, Dilkusha Bagh, etc. Due to the expansion of Lucknow city and increasing biotic pressure, the number and area of gardens decreased and the existence of gardens/trees was mainly confined to the banks of Gomti, common strips, green belts and residential complexes," he explained.

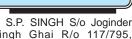
The gardens located in the cities are helpful in reducing the pollution in the cities by acting as green lungs for the cities. Decreased greenery in cities and increased awareness about the importance of yoga and walking to maintain mental and physical health after the outbreak of Covid-19 has resulted in increased awareness of green areas/urban forests/gardens, he added.

around with Y-category securesidence round-the-clock, the ASP said. The move has trigrity," Patel told reporters. New Jail Road Land to be transferred to project to be KGMU for expansion launched in Nov

NOTICE

My Husband Vinod Kumar No. 14416783X Rank AMCP Nb/Sub in Army Record my son name SOURABH SINGH is wrong. Correct name is SAURABH SINGH. Rupa Singh w/o Vinod Kumar R/o Village Ranjeetpur Post Kandhi Distt. Fatehpur (UP) Pin code 212601





NOTICE

Singh Ghai R/o 117/795, Q-Block, Sharda Nagar Kanpur -208025, have changed my name to Surendra Pal Singh Ghai for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Chand Khan to Abdul Salam Khan for future purpose. Abdul Salam Khan S/o Abdul Kalam Khan, R/o: Village & Post-Sawain, District- Unnao.



I have changed my name from NARESH KESARWANI to NARESH expansion plans, the land future und the

Friday.

available. Discussion was held regarding the transfer of the land of the present campus of Uttar Pradesh Secondary Sanskrit Education Council and Government Girls' Inter

ing land for the construction of Government Girls' Inter College on the remaining plot.

concerned that th

be held with the DG of

around 4,500 individuals across the state. ns should be issued to th To address

Another murder case accused arrested

Road project of the UP Housing PNS LUCKNOW Development Board is set to be

launched in November later The third accused in connecthis year, according to secretary L tion with the killing of Neeraj Shukla. Speaking at a Nafis Fatima (60), who was board meeting, he mentioned strangulated to death inside her that registration of names would flat at the FM Apartment under begin in October. Shukla stated Ghazipur police station on July that 70 per cent of the total land 5 last, was arrested on Friday. He was identified as Irshad Ali (26). Earlier on July 6, two accused — Jitendra Singh and Santosh Kumar - were arrested. Police claimed that the motive was loot, and not murder. However, as Nafis offered stiff resistance, she was elimi-

nated by the accused. Irshad was rounded up near Kalyan Apartment on Kukrail Bandha road. Valuables stolen from the house were also recovered from his possession. Meanwhile, two persons,

including a woman, jumped into the Gomti river v

identity was ascertained on the basis of some documents and an Aadhaar card recovered from his pockets.

In the meantime, Arushi Srivastava jumped into the river around 5 pm. However, she was rescued and rushed to a hospital. She said she is a resident of Gomti Nagar Extension and a native of Sitapur district. She said she wanted to end her life, but did not explain the reason.

Meanwhile, with the arrest of six accused, police on Friday claimed to have busted a gang of autolifters. They were identified as Amit Kumar alias Raja (20), Amarjeet (26), Shivam Rajput (25), Haroon (25), Sharif Mirza (36), and Shabaan. Nineteen motorcycles were recovered from their possession. Meanwhile, ersons were arrested fo three the alleged conspiracy to murder a 20-year-old girl, Pratibha. She was killed in Itaunja police Chandra and Chhotu.

PNS LUCKNOW Under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner

Roshan Jacob, a meeting regarding the expansion of King George's Medical University and related prob-College to KGMU. lems as well as issues concerning Veerangana Jhalkaribai Women's Hospital was held on

KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri, District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar, Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh, Chief Development Officer Riya Kejriwal and officials of related departments were present in the meeting. The divisional commissioner said that for the implementation of KGMU

called to make those lands

It is established on the land of Basic Education and Secondary Education department (about 9 acres). It was said that the BSA and DIOS offices and hostel should be allowed to remain as they are, and talks were also held on transferring the rest of the land to the Medical Education department free of cost, leav-

The divisional commissioner directed the officers

Secondary Education. Instructions were given to

the officials concerned to complete the ongoing road and drainage works in the premises of KGMU in a quality manner and in a fixed time-frame. She directed the municipal

commissioner to remove the temporary encroachment in front of the KGMU Trauma Centre by running a cam-paign. The divisional commissioner was informed by the incharge of Veerangana Jhalkaribai Women's Hospital that due to high footfall and lack of parking arrangements, the staff members leave the vehicles in front of the hospital, creating a bottleneck for ambulances. The divisional commissioner said that chal-

required for the project had already been acquired. The project, spanning 265 acres of land, will offer residential plots priced at Rs 2,000 per square foot. Shukla said that the mixed land use proposed for the

Lucknow (PNS): The New Jail

the board has established an

anti-encroachment squad

throughout the state, similar to

the one in the state capital.

Action would be taken against

owners and businesses operat-

ing from residential accommo-

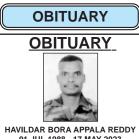
dations, said Shukla.

project would benefit both entrepreneurs and homebuyers. Additionally, a 4 per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) was announced for employees, pensioners, and beneficiaries of family pension, benefiting

10 JUL 1985 - 27 MAY 2023

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAI CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED AMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS O HAVILDAR DURGESH KUMAR SINGH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 41 FIELD HOSPITAL

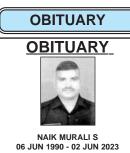
FROM: MAJ GEN SAMAR CHATTERJEE AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



01 JUL 1988 - 17 MAY 2023 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA

CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR BORA APPALA REDDY WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITAR HOSPITAL DEVLALI.

FROM: MAJ GEN SAMAR CHATTERJEE AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORP



ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA ORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED AMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK MURALI S WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 331 FIELD HOSPITAL FROM: MAJ GEN SAMAR CHATTERJEE AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Shall be known as NARESH KUMAR KESARWANI. NARESH KUMAR KESARWANI S/o Gopal Das Gupta, 868A/28B/98A, Neta Chauraha, Allapur, Allahabad.

NOTICE

from the Embassy of Thailand paid a visit to the University Be it known to all that my of Lucknow to discuss potenoriginal sale deed of Plot No.tial avenues for cultural and 28, Khasra No. 115, Villageeducational exchange, as well Amrai, District-Lucknow has as strengthening bilateral rela-tionships. The delegation, led been lost. Use of lost document will be illegal. Sunita Singh, by Thirapath Mongkolnavin W/o Vinod Kumar Singh, R/o (Minister and Deputy Chief of Village and Post Shivpur Mission), District-Basti. Charoenporn Raksapolmuang

NOTICE

In my Passport by mistake my name is written as Brai Rai Chaudhry, but my real name is Brii Rai Chaudhari and I will be known

as Brij Raj Chaudhari. It is for all purposes. Brij Raj Chaudhari S/o Sri Shavam Lal Chaudhari 16/105 Indira Nagar, Lucknow,

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my original sale deed of Plot No. 24, Khasra No. 471, Village-Amrai, District-Lucknow has been lost. Use of lost document will be illegal. Rama Singh, W/o Amarjeet Singh, R/o House No. - 20, Raghuraj Nagar, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE

I have broken all relation with my son Praveen Kumar. I have disowned him from my moveable and immoveable properties. Me or my family are not responsble for any act done by him. Chandra Kumar, son of Late Ram Lal, R/o- Katauli, Kakori, Lucknow.

is under the control of other government departments. She said that a meeting has been

ment of the said land should be done by the revenue team. She said that talks should also

owners of vehicles parked in 'no parking' zones in the hospital premises.

Thailand Embassy delegation visits LU

Lucknow (PNS): A delegation Rai expressed the university's commitment to providing quality education to students from Thailand. The dean of academics, director of international collaboration and international students advisor and head of the department of business administration engaged in discussions regarding student exchange proincluded grammes and the possibility of (Counsellor) and Phanuwit joint degree programmes.

(Second impressed by the extensive library and state-of-the-art Secretary and Consul). During the meeting, Viceteaching and learning facilities Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar

CITYBRIEFS

Vejsamphan



LITTLE STAR FINALE

The finale of 'LuLu Funtura Little Star', powered by Maruti Nexa, on Thursday captivated audiences with a dazzling display of talent, charisma, and entertainment. Sankalp Misra won first prize (Rs 1 lakh) and Arham Muazziz stood second (Rs 25,000) while Janhavi Pandey (third) won Rs 10,000.

at Lucknow University. LU has also pledged to offer specially designed cours-

es focusing on culture and tourism, among other subjects. The discussions aimed to explore potential joint academic ventures in areas such as business administration, pharmaceutical sciences, culture, and literature.

said.

Furthermore, the board has decided to change the title of residential properties by depositing Rs 1,000 and submitting the necessary documents. This change, however, only applies to residential properties and not commercial ones. Shukla mentioned that over 500,000 homebuyers have applied for transfers. The board authorities have planned to design and develop the housing-cum-commercial project at Avodhya on a land measuring

180 hectares.

structures and misuse of land, span of half an hour.

In the first incident, Ashutosh Yadav, a roadways driver, jumped into the river station area on July 10. They around 4:30 pm. Divers tried to were identified as Suraj, Ram rescue him, but in vain. His

DM seeks reports of polling stns

Lucknow (PNS): District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar, who is also the district election officer, had a meeting in two shifts with all the zonal and sector officers in view of the instructions given by the Election Commission of India to conduct a survey in relation to all the polling stations in the district. In the first shift, 171 Lucknow West, 172 Lucknow North, 173 Lucknow East, 174 Lucknow Central and 175 Lucknow Cantt officers were present. In the second shift, 168 Malihabad, 169 BKT, 170 Sarojininagar and 176 Mohanlalganj officers were present. Gangwar said that from July 14 to 21, all the sector officers have to provide their reports regarding the polling stations. For that, a check list has also been issued by the Election Commission of India, on the basis of which all the officers have to provide their reports while inspecting their respective polling stations.

(Internet Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK)

Da Pla

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.

Ground Floor, Potdar Tower, Mall Road, Kanpur (UP) • Mob. : 7625079219 E-mail : Kanpur@canfinhomes.com CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)] For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security nterest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security nterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 02.05.2023 calling upon the borrowers Mr. Anuj Trivedi & Mrs. Prasunlata Trivedi to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 22,59,635/- with Further interest at contractual rates till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 12th July, 2023

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of Section 13 of The Act, in respect of time available, to Redeem the secured Assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is here by cautioned not to dea with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CFHL for an amount of Rs. 22,59,635/- and interest there on.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Area 67 Sq. Yards, Private Plot No-14, House No-14/1559, Arazi No-1559, Boodhpur Machariya, Kanpur Nagar, UP-208001 • North by :- Part of Arazi, East by :- Plot No- 13, West by :- Plot No-15, South by :- 6.09 Mtr Road

ace : Kanpur	Can Fin Homes Ltd.
ate : 14-07-2023	Authorised Officer
	Sul-

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"Our policies such as dual degree programmes and The Thai delegation was twinning degree initiatives have attracted partners from various countries," Prof Rai

JOB-ORIENTED SKILLING PROGRAMMES

Lamrin Tech Skills University (LTSU), Punjab, is first-of-its-kind skill university in India incubated by IBM as an anchor partner, TATA Technologies & Ansys as industry partners. The university is established by the Government of Punjab under State Act No. 22 of 2021 and is recognised by UGC, New Delhi. LTSU is located in foothills of Shiwalik Range on the bank of Satluj River near Ropar and has a sprawling campus of 100 acres. The university has launched job-oriented skilling programmes. Chancellor Sandeep Singh Kaura told mediapersons in Lucknow that the aim is to build a learning ecosystem.





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city 03

Yogi conducts aerial survey of Saharanpur flood-affected areas

'PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE HELP TO THE VICTIMS'

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of Saharanpur district. The chief minister also

held a meeting with public representatives and officials in Saharanpur to review the flood relief measures.

Assuring the flood victims that the government stood

with everyone, the chief minshower flowers on kanwariyas ister visited ground zero on in Saharanpur by helicopter on Friday to review the flood situation in western Uttar Pradesh

Saturday. The chief minister pointed out that flowers had been showered on kanwariyas Chief Minister Yogi first in Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and reached the Mandi complex of Shamli on Friday. Sultanpur-Chilkana town and

"Along with helping the flood victims, the government distributed relief material and is also committed to respecting assistance to the flood victims present there. He also issued faith," the chief minister said instructions to the officers to and directed the officers to take provide all possible help to the care of the safety and convenience of kanwarivas. flood victims.

The chief minister also Assuring the flood-affectvisited the flood relief camp at ed people of assistance from the GV Jain Degree College and government, the chief minister interacted with the flood vicsaid that the government would not let them face any kind of He directed the officials to shortage during the calamity.

He said the government tims. would conduct a survey to assess the damage to crops and provide financial assistance to the farmers immediately.

Relief camps have been set up for the flood-affected people and the government is arranging food, healthcare and clean drinking water for the flood victims,

"I hope that you will receive prompt relief and I assure you that the government is with you at all times. Our public representatives and government officials will always be present here to assist you," Yogi assured the flood vicbeen lost.

During interaction with the media, the chief minister said that some districts in western Uttar Pradesh had been hit by floods and waterlogging. He said aerial and ground inspections had been conducted to assess waterlogging and floods in the Yamuna, Hindon,

Dhanola, and Paondhoi rivers. Nearly three lakh people in 28 localities of Saharanpur city and 118 villages have been affected by the floods. Besides, 13,000 acres of agricultural land has also been affected by floods and seven human lives and three animal lives have

A detailed discussion has been held with the administration and public representatives. Compensation and arrangements for tents have been made for the affected people, and all departments concerned have also been put on er accommodation and food to alert.

Paondhoi and Dhamola provide regular supplies of bread, milk, biscuits and necrivers flowing through Saharanpur city are in spate. essary medical treatment to Following this, a control room children. has been set up by the district administration, and National directed the officials to ensure Disaster Response Force and that mobile medical teams remained fully active. He State Disaster Response Force teams have been deployed to emphasised the need for aderescue the people and shift them to relief camps. One such quate availability of anti-snake venom injection, rabies vaccine

PNS LUCKNOW

camp has been set up in Avas Vikas Colony at JV Jain Degree College. It was visited by the chief minister who interacted with the flood-affected people.

The chief minister direct-

ed the officials to ensure prop-

the flood-affected people and

The chief minister also

and other injections for emergency medical aid.

The chief minister pointed out the importance of cooperation from local leaders in the administration's work and instructed police officers to intensify patrolling in the flood-affected areas and relief camps

While giving instructions to the officials, the chief minister stated that after the flood waters receded, a campaign should be started on a war footing to clean the affected areas. He also issued directives for immediate repair of roads and lanes damaged due to the floods

Chief Minister showers flowers on kanwariyas

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath showered flowers on kanwariyas in the auspicious month of Shravan on Friday. The chief minister reached

the Delhi-Meerut highway from Saharanpur, and showered flowers on thousands of Shiva devotees gathered there. The kanwariyas were excit-

ed to see their chief minister and they chanted "Yogi-Yogi," "Har Har Mahadev", and "Jai Bhole".

Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh and Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad were also present during this time.

Earlier on Friday afternoon, flowers were showered on the devotees of Lord Shiva from a helicopter by the administration and senior police officers. From Meerut to Barnawa, the kanwariyas received a floral shower.



It is worth mentioning that on kanwariyas since the Yogi Uttar Pradesh. A few days ago, every year flowers are showered government assumed office in officers had showered flowers

on the Lord Shiva devotees in Varanasi too.

The divisional commissioner, district magistrate and other senior officials took off in a helicopter from the Meerut police lines. An aerial survey of the Kanwar yatra was conducted in the entire district and its boundaries. The district magistrate and senior superintendent of police welcomed the kanwariyas in the Meerut district by showering flowers from a helicopter.

Flowers were showered on the kanwariyas at Augharnath temple, Police Lines, Begumpul, Sivaya toll, Mataur, Sakoti, Dadri, Khatauli, Salawa, Nanu Pul, Poothkhas bridge, Jani bridge, Niwari, Mohidinpur, Partapur inter-change, Subharti, Kankarkheda flyover. Flowers were also showered on kanwariyas from police lines in Baghpat to the

railway crossing, at Barnawa police post, Galhaita village and Pura Mahadev temple.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that if the skill and scale of India and the United States combine, the world would witness exceptional results. The chief minister was speaking during the partnership programme in the medical

field between Stanford University of the US and two prestigious institutions in the Sanjay Gandhi state, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences and JIMS of Gautam Buddha Nagar, under the Uttar Pradesh Health

Technology Summit 2023. "India's population is four times that of the United States. When it comes to COVID-19 mortality rates, India's rate was half that of the US. India showcased exceptional performance during the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide," the chief minister said, adding, "Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a leading contributor by providing

nSBI

excellent healthcare facilities in ations for their establishment the state." Highlighting that numerous new startups have been established in the country in the past nine years, the chief minister said that India had significantly emerged as a

new hub for unicorns. Notably, Uttar Pradesh has made significant progress during these years in this area.

CM for combining skill, scale of India, US

Yogi Ádityanath said that the government would enthusiastically support this partnership with the Indo-US Global Foundation. He asserted that Uttar Pradesh now had a favorable environment for US innovation and startups 'The IT and Electronics

department, along with prestigious institutions associated with the partnership programme, will also support it so that positive results can be seen as soon as possible," he said. The chief minister further said that the Uttar Pradesh government had established several startups under its startup policy and the government had provided various relax-

and also made arrangements for their procurement.

He said that SGPGIMS initiated the facility of virtual ICUs during the COVID-19 pandemic by taking advantage of these policies. "If any problem occurred in any city in the state, the team from SGPGIMS reached there and provided relief, which serves as an excellent example of innovation," he added.

Detailing about the measures taken by the UP government to control the pandemic and how the state managed to control diseases like encephalitis, the chief minister stated, "Between 1977 and 2017, approximately 50,000 children died due to encephalitis in the state. However, we have achieved success in completely eliminating encephalitis in the last six years. The Health department, along with other supportive departments, worked as a team to achieve this success and delivered outstanding performance," he said.

Two kanwariyas killed in separate road accidents

PNS LUCKNOW

Two kanwariyas were killed and 16 injured in separate road accidents. Two kanwariyas were killed and

four injured in two separate accidents in Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Friday. A Lord Shiva devotee was killed while another was injured when a car rammed into their motorcycle on the Haridwar-Delhi national highway on Thursday night, Station House Officer Amarpal Sharma said.

The deceased was identified as Rajkumar. Injured Deepak was shifted to a hospital.

The second incident took place in Bhopa police station area when two e carrying kanwariyas collid

ed head-on near Nirgajni village. The deceased kanwariya was iden-

tified as Brahmadas (45). Three other pilgrims - Babi, Arun and Suraj were injured and they were hospitalised. As many as 12 kanwariyas were

injured in the Teetro area of Saharanpur on Friday when the pickup van they were travelling in swerved to save a biker. SP (Dehat) Sagar Jain said the accident took place when the kanwariyas were headed for Haridwar from Dubhar Kishanpura village in Saharanpur. When the pickup van carrying the Lord Shiva devotees reached near Chandpura village, the driver suddenly applied brakes to save a motorcyclist following which the passengers fell on the road and

injured. The passersby rushed the injured to the primary health centre from where those with serious injuries were referred to the Saharanpur district hospital. In Bijnor, three members of a family drowned after a vehicle carrying them fell into the Pavnadhi river, police said on Friday.

Anwar, his wife Ruby (27), sister Sanvi (15) and two minor daughters were returning to their Kotra village when they were caught in the swirling waters of the river. Anwar managed to swim to safety and informed the police. SHO of Nagina, Ravindra Vashishth, said the bodies of Ruby and Sanvi were found on Thursday night while the body of Ayesha was found on Friday morning Efforts were on to

trace another missing child.

Meanwhile, a woman was killed while her husband was injured after their motorcycle was hit by a pickup truck in Pilibhit, police said on Friday Sandhya Devi of Nooranpur was

going to offer prayers at a temple in Bilsanda with her husband Sanjay Kumar when the accident occurred, Bilsanda SHO Surendra Kumar.

"Their bike was hit by a speeding pickup near Gauhania village," the SHO said. While Sandhya died on the spot, her husband was injured and has been admitted to a community health centre for treatment.

According to police, the truck overturned while trying to flee the spot and the driver manage to escape



Sarojini Nagar MLA Rajeshwar Singh giving away medical equipments worth Rs 5 lakh via CSR fund to the CHC and all the 7

Aditvanath's effort resulted in

a successful Aamras pro-

gramme in Russia's capital,

the Dussehri, Langda, Chausa,

and other varieties of mangoes

of Uttar Pradesh. The mangoes

of UP are now reaching Russia,

Dubai, and Bahrain as a result

of Chief Minister Yogi's strong

determination to promote

from Bahrain said that this fes-

tival was very important for the

mangoes of Uttar Pradesh.

of mangoes every week," he

Yogi is constantly trying to give

a new identity to the mangoes.

This will greatly benefit the

mango farmers as well as those

doing business with mango

Chief Minister Yogi visited the

exhibition showcasing various

products made from mangoes

and released the souvenir of the

Mango Festival 2023. The chief

minister also honoured farm-

Before the programme,

pointed out.

products,"

'We export two to three tonnes

He said, "Chief Minister

Mango seller Latish Bhatia

mangoes around the world.

The people there tasted

Moscow, last week.

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday asked mango farmers to focus on quality and avoid shortcuts for taking the fruit from the state to every corner of the world.

Inaugurating the three-day Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2023 at Avadh Shilpgram in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the markets of Europe were waiting for the mangoes of Uttar Pradesh, adding that "we must take the mangoes from here to every corner of the world".

He said the mango festival gave a platform to the one thousand varieties produced by UP between June and August that would successfully fulfil the demand of the 25 crore population of the state, 140 crore population of the country and different parts of the world.

Yogi expressed happiness at the fact that the efforts made recently had yielded results.

'Two tonnes of mango was flagged off from Lucknow to Moscow where recently an Amras Mahotsav was held and was attended by the agriculture minister and agriculture production commissioner. In Russia, mangoes are being sold at Rs 800 per kg, but it costs Rs 190 to send mangoes through cargo from here. That means, if a farmer exports mangoes to Russia, he will get a net profit of more than Rs. 600," he pointed out.

Yogi Adityanath asked the farmers to avoid shortcuts, prioritise quality, and prepare their products in accordance with market demands. "Our government is working on 'Beej Se Bazar Tak' approach to increase the income of farmers.

"We have to explore the global market for horticulture crops and through Indian missions abroad, we should organ- Chief



ise exhibitions showcasing agricultural products related to Uttar Pradesh," he said. Asserting that the mango

festival was a platform to increase the income of farmers, the chief minister said, "As per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intention, the Uttar Pradesh government is taking all necessary steps in the interest of the farmers.

"Our government has built four pack houses in the state. Recently, we got the opportunity to send two tonnes of mangoes to Dubai from the pack house in Varanasi, and we will have to organise similar programmes from the Saharanpur, Amroha, and Lucknow pack houses," Yogi said.

He said that in order to export the horticulture crops to the international market, agricultural scientists and officers of the Horticulture department need to work together.

"Only then we will be able to explore new avenues and give the agricultural and horticultural products of Uttar Pradesh a different identity." Producers, buyers, sellers,

and exporters participated in districts of the state who have the mango festival. Aligarh's mango buyer Dr

excelled in the field of mango Mobinuddin Khan said that production. Jal Shakti Minister Minister Yogi Swatantra Dev Singh, Climate change-resistant varieties of Dussehri displayed by CISH

Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) has displayed two varieties of climate change-resistant Dussehri varieties at the 3-day Mango Fest, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Friday.

CISH director Damodaran said that they have displayed a total of 250 mango species at the fest, with 50 of them being hybrid varieties.

He said that two varieties of Dussehri hybrid which they have displayed will be released for the public by next year.

"People are attracted towards Dussehri mangoes but it is prone to all the climatic parameters and has a very low shelf life. To increase that and also have an export market, we have come up with a coloured blend Dussehri. These two hybrids include one which is coloured while another has a long shelf life," Damodaran said. He pointed out that these two varieties are highly adaptive to climatic factors and the weather conditions which prevailed in the recent past did not have any negative impact on these varieties.

The CISH director said that these varieties are tolerant of the insect thrips which is the biggest problem these days.

"Anything which is tolerant to thrips is advantageous because we need to diversify, and the farmers' mentality has to change. There are so many issues with Dussehri and if we can have the same taste in an alternative, we need to diversi-

ers and traders from various Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh, Horticulture Minister Dinesh Pratap Singh, Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra,

Lucknow (PNS): The Central fy and come up with that particular variety. In the next three years, this variety will be much appreciated by the farmers," he said.

Damodaran said that all the five-year data pertaining to these hybrid Dussehris will be analysed by next year and will then be presented before the CISH variety release committee. It will also be submitted to the protection of plant variety authority.

"After approval, we will be releasing the hybrid Dussehri for multiplication and it will be submitted to the state release variety committee. We will have a memorandum of understanding with the nursery people who will create more plants which will go to the people through commercialisation," the CISH director said.

He said that they recently had a research advisory council meeting and submitted the two hybrid Dussehri varieties for assessment of taste regarding whether it was fit for market or not. The varieties were approved. "One variety has an acid blend taste while the other is completely sweet," he pointed out.

Talking of the other varieties, he said: "Among the 50 hybrids, Arnika is one of the prominent varieties which has been put on display. It is a hybrid between Amrapali and Vanraj. It is one of the best hybrid varieties which has been displayed. The same variety was also appreciated by the agriculture minister because of its taste and blend," he said.

Agriculture Production Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh, and mango producing farmers were present during the event.

सम्मान आपके विश्व		Но	O BANK
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NOTICE



Hereby this is to inform that under named borrowers have not repaid principal and interest thereon of the loan. Therefore the loan become NPA. A notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 was issued at last known address, which was returned undelivered/refused. Therefore again we inform to under named borrowers by this public notice that to pay the loan amount due including interest and other expenses as nentioned in this notice within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice otherwise Bank will be bound to take action under 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002.

We invite your attention to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act which speaks about the time available to the Borrower/Guarantor's to redeem the secured assets.

Borrower:- M/s A.S. Agro Industries, 1940, Umesh Kheda, Sikanderpur, Banthara, Lucknow- 226401Hypothecated Stock & Receivables Property in the name of Smt Upasana Tripathi Partners:- (1) Shri Ajay Shukla S/o Banthara Sikanderpur, Pargana Bijnor, Tehsil Sarojini Nagar, Distt. Lucknow, Sale Deed Dated 15.01.2021, Book No. 1, Zild No. 5775, Pages 241 to 254 Sr. No. 1506, Area-316.171 Sq. mtr. (3402 Sqft.) Boundaries-: East-Land Deegar, West-Land Mian, North-Rasta 12 ft. Wide, South-Land DeegarRs. 48,12,094.74 as on 03.07.2023 +Intt & Other Charges25.05.2023 03.07.2023 as on 03.07.2023 +Intt & Other Charges	Name & Address of the Borrower & Guarantor/Acc. No./Branch	Description of immovable property mortgaged	Amt. Outstanding {as per u/s 13(2)}	Date of NPA Date of Demand Notice
	Industries, 1940, Umesh Kheda, Sikanderpur, Banthara, Lucknow- 226401 Partners:- (1) Shri Ajay Shukla S/o Shri Siddhanth Shukla (2) Smt Upasana Tripathi W/o Shri Ajay Kumar Shukla Both R/o E-68, 69, Sector-M, Kanpur Road, Ashiyana Colony, Lucknow-226012 A/c No.: 40631548995, 40497681201 Branch: Kaiserbagh Branch (7275)	Property in the name of Smt Upasana Tripathi Part of Khasra No. 1940, Village Banthara Sikanderpur, Pargana Bijnor, Tehsil Sarojini Nagar, Distt. Lucknow, Sale Deed Dated 15.01.2021, Book No. 1, Zild No. 5775, Pages 241 to 254 Sr. No. 1506, Area-316.171 Sq. mtr. (3402 Sqft.) Boundaries-:East-Land Deegar, West-Land Mian, North-Rasta 12 ft.	48,12,094.74 as on 03.07.2023 + Intt & Other Charges	



state 04

Emphasis on promoting knowledge-based farming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

 $V^{ ext{ice-Chancellor of the}}_{ ext{Chandra Shekhar Azad}}$ University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T), Dr Anand Kumar Singh addressing the scientists of the varsity at the Department of Vegetable Science appealed to scientists of different departments that they need to promote knowledgebased farming and also ensure cooperation was included which will be highly beneficial for farmers for optimal food production of the country. He said this included use of technology such as sensors for soil scanning and water, light, humidity and temperature management and in addition telecommunications technologies such as advanced networking and GPS. He advised the scientists of the varsity that they need to strike a perfect balance between knowl-



Vice Chancellor of CSAUA&T, Dr Anand Kuamar Singh being welcomed by the faculty of Department of Vegetable Sciences

edge-based farming and cooperation, push up the profits of farmers and laid emphasis on gradual development in the field. He said for this there was an imperative need to strengthen the technical base and directed the Horticulture Dr Singh directed the scientists

department scientists to promote herbal areas and for this need to inspire and advise the farmers. He said there was a need for market based study of the requirement of products and then promote that farming.

Knowledge Information Centres. He said there was also the need to produce quality and organic vegetables and this can be done if the scientists ensure they provided knowhow to farmers and also took the research to the grass-roots level. He recommended reduction of chemicalbased farming and suggested based farming and suggested that only 35 per cent of fertilis-ers need to be used for farm-ing only. He said farming taught life skills like raising food, working hard, communication, caring for others and much more. He said in such a way farmers became aware of their surroundings. Dr Rajiv Singh, Dr SP Singh, Dr Sanjeev, Dr IN Shukla, Dr PK Tiwari and others were present. INFECTIOUS DIS-**EASES:** The keynote speaker of

Prayagrag Medical College Dr Reena Sachan while delivering a lecture as part of the

Continuing Medical Education said in view of current monsoon season there was always a spurt in infectious diseases. She said it was the duty of doctors to create awareness among the society towards infection control, especially communicable diseases. She said there was a need to understand infectious disease and explained that it was a disorder caused by organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. She said umpteen organisms live in and on our bodies but often under certain conditions some organisms may cause disease and some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person which were termed as communicable diseases. Dr Sachan said infectious diseases can be viral, bacterial, parasitic or fungal infections. She said viral infections were caused due to viruses which were a piece of information inside of a pro-

tective shell. She said viruses were much smaller than cells and had no way to reproduce on their own and thus they get inside human cells and use these cells' machinery to make copies of themselves. She said bacteria were single-celled organisms with their instructions written on a small piece of DNA. She said like bacteria, there were many different fungi and they lived on and in fungi and they lived on and in one's body. When one's fungi overgrows or when harmful fungi gets into one's body through mouth, nose or a cut in skin, one can get sick. Dr Sachan said the best way was to take precautions and wash one's hands always like before consuming food, after using washroom etc. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Roshini Agarwal, Director Udit Narayan, Prof Vikas Mishra, Dr Anjali Tiwari, Dr Sonal Verma, Dr Saumya Singh and Dr

DC reviews progress of development works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma reviewed the progress made in different development works in the Varanasi division, comprising the districts of Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur and Ghazipur. The meeting was also attended by district magistrates (DMs) of these districts S Rajalingam, Nikhil Tikaram Phunde, Anuj Kumar Jha and Aryaka Akhoury respectively. Besides, the meeting was also attended by CDOs and senior officers of various departments.

Reviewing the Health

Jaunpur that the places like railway stations, bus stands etc should be cleaned at night also. In the context of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he said work should be done under a well-planned action plan relative to the target and for allotment of ponds for fisheries, he asked the officers concerned that the work of lease should be processed soon and action should be taken against the concerned for laxity in the work. While reviewing Kanya Sumangala Yojana, the DC said after the opening of the schools, work should be done by organ-



Tree plantation drive launched |Tax Clinic organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

massive tree plantation was A massive tree plantation under the mission of planting one crore saplings on Friday. The campaign was conducted under the joint leadership of President of Srijan Samajik Vikas Nyas and brand ambassador of Ganga Haritima Abhiyan Anil Kumar Singh and Commandant of 95 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Anil Kumar Briksh.

During the drive, saplings were planted in the campus of Saraswati Vidyalaya Junior High School, Ramna and saplings were also distributed among the students and villagers. On the occasion a cleanliness campaign was also done apart from taking out an awareness rally. The chief guest of the

programme was regional Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Dilip Singh Patel and the special guest was senior BJP leader Suresh Singh. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appealed to all the CRPF personnel, officers, teachers, students and villagers to plant one sapling on their annual aus-picious occasions to keep the tion free.



A sapling being distributed to a student during CRPF's plantation drive in Varanasi on Friday

nature green. He also appealed to the distinguished guests to celebrate their birthdays, marriage anniversaries and other auspicious occasions by planting saplings to keep the environment pollu-

During the day, about 1,000 saplings were planted and distributed and to preserve them Anil Kumar Singh also administered the Umakant Ojha, Deputy Commandant and Praveen the programme.

enthusiastically participated in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR pride that two prominent CAs

had taken up the role to act as Commissioner (I) Dr a bridge. She said they will do liaisoning for this Tax Clinic. CIRC member and noted

Pallavi Anand were present.

Preeti Jain Das while addressing the Tax Clinic organised by the Institute of Chartered CA Abhisak Pandey also discussed in detail the role of the Accountants of India at the central office of the CIRC on Tax Clinics and said the initiative served as an outreach programme to create general awareness about direct tax Thursday said it was a welcome step that the CAs were provid-ing great help to the IT depart-ment by organising the Tax Clinic. She advised the CAs to ensure they filed the essential compliances, expand the tax base of the country and base of the country and encourage voluntary filing of tax returns. He said tax experts will be available solely to address queries and experts will also offer free consultations on queries related to direct taxes. details of their clients so that the benefits can be transferred directly into their accounts and other important details of He said the service was free for general public and will be helpthe IT department can also be She advised them to ful for those who had faced issues during the filing of their ITR. He said there had been a expand their base of help and recent increase in the number of youngsters filing their IT returns and this rise can be attributed to the growing awareness of the importance of filing IT returns, aided by government campaigns, initiatives and social media efforts and above all the efforts of CAs. Prominent among those who took part were Atul Mehrotra, Manu Agarwal, Amit Pandey, Shalini Pandey, Garima Pandey, Prashant Rastogi and Ankur Goel.

department works, Sharma directed all CMOs to ensure that health wellness centres (HWCs) are made functional and incharges should be nominated for teleconsultation services. He said doctors should be deployed on roster basis. The DC also instructed the CMOs to ensure proper monitoring of work of community health officers (CHOs). He directed the CDOs to get all vehicles related to the National Child Health Programme checked and asked the CMOs to ensure availability of proper stock of medicines. In the context of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), the DC asked the CMOs that work should be done under the action plan relative to the target. Sharma instructed the DM and CDO of Chandauli to involve farmers of the district for purchase of cow dung required for the newly-constructed biogas plant in National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) plant in Ramnagar areas. In view of contaminated water, he asked the officers to ensure putting chlorine tablets in hand pumps and bore wells etc. He directed the DMs to make necessary action plan for digitisation of records and khatauni and asked the DMs of Ghazipur, Chandauli and

work of roads and bridges under construction should be completed on time. He also gave instructions to Nagar Nigam Varanasi and other municipalities for execution of all public welfare projects. He directed the Labour department that every possible effort should be made to stop child labour completely and awareness work should be done through helpline number, dissemination and publicity. Before the admission of the students in the Atal Residential School, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure the arrangement of all the facilities there. After this meeting, Sharma also gave instructions to the SDMs for quality disposal of Inspector General of Registration and Stamps (IGRS) related matters. He said that all complaints at tehsil-level should be verified under the two-factor system. "The cases and applications for income and caste certificates were not kept pending for more than 20 days. The khatauni should be issued on the basis of mutation of dead persons," he said, directing all SDMs, tehsildars and naib tehsildars to make their permanent residences in the respective tehsils only and to solve problems related to the gener-al public on the spot.

ising large camps etc. He said

play the role of good samaritans. She said certain issues were a major cause of concern and drew the attention of the CAs towards the plight of the schools at the primary level, especially girls' school, and said there was a need for clean Singh along with a team of and proper washroom and CRPF personnel, Mukund food halls. She said companies which were helping the CAs in this mission should also under-Jaiswal, Saurabh Singh Patel Amit Patel, Ramna gram pradhan, manager, principal, teachstand that they need to come ers and children of the school forward and extend all possible help in this direction. She said it certainly a matter of

Progress in works reviewed | Heart check-up camp held at NER div hospital

passed on to them.

check-up medical camps are and other diseases after a fixed interval in the future so that the medical beneficiaries of Varanasi Division of NER get full benefits of these facilities. SPECIAL LECTURE: Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is going to organise the G-20 University Connect Programme. In this connection, a special lecture cum interaction programme has been scheduled on Saturday at 11am at KN Udupa Auditorium, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU. Ambassador Preeti Saran, Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India will be the chief speaker. Chintamani Prof Mahapatra, founder and honorary chairman, Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies, Bhubaneshwar will also address the participants. After the lec-In the tures, a question and answer session has also been scheduled.

Deputy Inspector General (Range) RP Singh has asked the working agencies to complete the works within the stipulated time and hand them over to the department without delay. Such direction was issued by him while reviewing the progress in the ongoing works under the range on Thursday. Reviewing the progress of all the ongoing works asked the officials concerned to provide information about the physical progress from time to time.

CHALLANS ISSUED: A team led by Additional District

overloading and evasion of revenue found 64 vehicles flouting the provisions. Senior Mines Officer Shailendra Singh said that it was the result of the week-long drive under which 26 vehicles were handed over to different police stations of the district and online challans were issued against 38 vehicles.

ARRESTED: The Dehat Kotwali police arrested an accused under the POCSO Act on Thursday. One person had lodged a named FIR on May 5 this year alleging that his minor daughter was enticing away by

investigation. However, the accused remained at large. On Thursday on being tipped off about the location of the accused by an informer the police raided the place, nabbed him and sent him to jail. ELECTION: In the elec-

tion for membership in the development authority, Mirzapur, the BJP bagged all the four seats on Thursday. The election started under the supervision of Chairman Shyam Sundar Keshari and as returning officer EO Angad Gupta conducted the process.

CORRESPONDENT MIRZAPUR Magistrict (Finance & Revenue the accused. After registering PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI heart health check-up Acamp was organised at North Eastern Railway (NER) Divisional Hospital, Lahartara here on Thursday on the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division of NER Ramashray Pandey. Speaking on the occa-Chief Medical sion, Superintendent (CMS) Dr RJ Chaudhury said the hospital is conscious about the health of railway employees and is always striving to provide them high quality treatment. In this heart disease check-up camp, Dr Sanjeev Sharma, senior cardiologist from Batra Hospital and Research Institute, New Delhi, examined the heart patients and gave advice and counselling to the patients. A total of 20 heart patients were given intensive check-up including ECG and medical advice. Assistant Divisional Medical Officer Dr Abdul Mabud informed that



A heart check-up camp being held at NER Divisional Hospital in Varanasi on Thursday.

the patients who came to the cardiac camp were suggested to exercise regularly to prevent

simple nutritious food and and heart attack. check-up camp, CMS Dr RI adopt a restrained lifestyle, take diseases related to heart disease Chaudhury said that such

domestic violence organised eminar on

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Cecretary of Sakhi Kendra **J**Neelam Chaturvedi while addressing a seminar on 'Domestic violence and causes' at its headquarters on Friday said domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of action or other patterns of coercive behaviour that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship. She said brutal action displayed against women either in rage or under influence of liquor can also be termed as domestic violence.

She said research figures carried out in India reflected that 16 per cent of women had reported experiencing physical forms of domestic violence, 25 per cent sexual form, 53 per cent psychological and 56 per cent reported other forms of domestic violence. She said the irony is women in India were submissive and surrendered to domestic violence

without protest and the main reason was illiteracy and economic depandence on husband. She said women organisation were making concerted efforts to ensure that literacy rated in women went up which is a potent factor for standing up against domestic violence.

She said women empowerment was intended to ensure that they became self-reliant and can raise their voice of concern. She said till women submitted meekly to domestic violence there can be no solution to this problem. She said one of the major steps to stop domestic violence was to create awareness among women. She said there is an imperative need for stringent laws against domestic violence and they had to be imposed stringently. Chaturvedi said domestic violence against women is an age old phenomenon as women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. She said violence had long been accept-

ed as something that happened to women, especially in India, and major factors were religious practices besides economic and political conditions which may set the precedence for initiating and perpetuating domestic violence. She said women were socialised into their gender roles in different societies throughout the world and in societies with a patriarchal power structure and with rigid gender roles, women were often poorly equipped to protect themselves if their partners became violent. She said much of the disparity related to how men dependence and fearfulness amounted to a cultural disarmament. Chaturvedi said it was universal truth that women fear the consequences of reporting violence and declare an unwillingness to subject themselves to the shame of being identified as battered women. She said lack of information about alternatives also forced women to suffer silently within the four

violence against women was a violation of basic human rights. The vote of thanks was pro-

posed by Archana Tripathi. CHILD MORTALITY: Secretary of Indian Academy of Paediatrics, Kanpur Chapter, Dr Arun Kumar Arya, while addressing presspersons on Friday said the state government had expressed concern over the neonatal and infant mortality rate and thus it had directed the Health Ministry to ensure they create awareness programme and work out strategies in all the children's hospital and Paediatric departments and try to peg child mortality. He said government efforts had certainly brought down the infant mortality rate but certainly more had to be done in this direction. He said special sessions and workshops will be conducted on the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme. NRP course meant to convey an evidencebased approach to care for the walls of their homes. She said newborn at birth and facilitate

effective team-based care for healthcare professionals who cared for newborns at the time of delivery. He said workshops to be held from July 15 will focus mainly to provide healthcare professionals the basic knowledge to care for the neonatal patient in cardiac arrest and to manage resuscitation efforts in conditions that may lead to arrest. Dr Arya said there shall be two sessions first provider courses and the second instructor courses. He said NRP instructor candidate must be a physician, registered nurse or a respiratory therapist or physician assistant with experience in the hospital care of newborns. He said selection for suitable candidates who had current maternal-child educational or clinical responsibility within a hospital setting will be preferred. He said the first session will be conducted by Principal of the GSVM Medical College Dr Sanjay Kala. He appealed to doctors of the Paediatrics department to avail themselves of the facility.

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e/Se	ealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of follow	ing items:-			
Sr	Period/Tentative				
No	Name of Work/Item	Qty			
1.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Paneer Milk Processing and manufacturing plant capacity 2 Tonne per shift.	сай С			
2.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Hiring of Diesel Car	01year, extendable for another one year/ 02			
3.	For Verka Patiala Dairy a) Fire wood b) Leasing Out 02 no's of Verka Milkbooths situated at Civil	Half Yearly Rate Contract/ 1000 MT			
	Dispensary Tripuri, Patiala and Urban Estate Phase-2	03 Years			
4.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Pest control service and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, Lizards, rodent etc.	Annual			
	 b) Supply, Testing & Commissioning of DG set Capacity 160 KVA 200 KVA 	One time purchas 02 no. 01 no.			
	c) Supply, Installation and Commissioning of • GLC Machine • RP-HPLC Machine.	One time purchas 02 no. 01 no.			
	d) Purchase of NDDB Adulteration Kit.	One time purchas 900 no's Annual Rate			
	 e) Outsourcing the activity for preparation and serving of Food, Tea, in staff Canteen and Cleaning of Canteen and Utensils, etc 	Contract			
5.	 For Verka Sangrur Dairy For the design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of the steam generation system (Boiler) For disposal off the unserviceable scrap material, machinery 	01no. As per NIT List			
	items etc. c) For design, supply, Erection, Installation and testing of the PCC and APFC panels.	01no.			
6.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Sealed tender for allotment of Verka Milk Booth through Draw System at Sub Division Office Majitha & Primary Health Center, Naushera.	02			
	 b) Hiring of Vehicles for supplying of Milk Products in the Punjab and Other States. 	01			
7.	c) Hiring of Vehicle for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products Local Army 02 and Beas route 01. For Verka Ferozepur Dairy	03			
	For supply of manpower Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled, High- Skilled & other categories & security personnals (Security Supervisor & Security Guards	Annual Rate Contract			
8.	 For Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Ghania-Ke-Banger (Batala) a) Hiring of Tankers for Transportation of Molasses b) Wall/Shop painting in the state of Punjab Himchal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir(U.T). 	4500 Mts(approx) 2,00,000 Sqft			

Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on y website only

Incharge (Purchas

state 05

carrying cattle overturned in

Jasra. People said the police had

buried the dead cows but left



Flood: Govt in alert mode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Although the water level of Ganga and Gomti rivers in the district is still far below the warning mark, the state government is in alert mode in view of the possibility of flood as it is expected that the water level of Ganga will increase sharply when the flood water arrives here from Prayagraj, especially through Yamuna river. Its possibilities have increased after heavy rains in the Himalayan regions, especially in the northern states and torrential rains in various districts of the state. According to the local office of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), water levels of Ganga and Gomti which was rising a few days ago slightly was recorded steady at 8 am on Friday and the level of Ganga was 61.57 metres against the warning mark of 70.262 metres in Varanasi and of Gomti, which merges into river Ganga about 25 kilometres from the city at Kaithi (near famous Markandey Mahadev Temple), was 67.71 metres against the warning level of 73.066 metres at Jaunpur. However, it is certain that when the water from the northern states arrives the level of Ganga will increase sharply within a few days. Seeing this



concerned in view of the dangers of possible floods. Varanasi's 11 Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is gearing up to deal with flood hazards. The NDRF has prepared its teams by pre-positioning. Varanasi-based 11 Battalion NDRF undertakes rescue and relief work in 42 districts of UP. In view of the rain scenario, the Yogi government has alerted all the departments

ment has also alerted the flood relief agencies in UP. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of 11 NDRF Manoj Kumar Sharma said NDRF is fully prepared for rescue work in any circumstances during floods. "Flood prone areas have been identified in Varanasi. For this, four teams of NDRF (one team consists of 35 to 40 trained personnel) are ready. Along with this, a medical team and water ambulance

have also been deployed," he said. The NDRF DIG said there are 35 rescue members in one team and each team has four boats or outboard motors (OBMs) for rescue.

In each team, two deep divers (divers) have been deployed with all equipment, including oxygen cylinders. Along with this, life jackets, lifebuoys (tubes) etc are available in sufficient quantities.

Cops maintaining strict watch on ghats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Rising water levels of Ganga and Yamuna have prompted district authorities to step up security measures at all ghats, especially Dashashwamegh Ghat and Sangam nose, which are frequented by a large number of kanwariyas for taking a dip and collecting water to be offered to Lord Shiva in the Hindu holy month of Shrawan.

Additional jal police jawans, PAC (flood operations), SDRF and divers have been pressed into service to ensure safety of kanwariyas. The water level of Ganga and Yamuna has risen at Phaphamau, Chatnag and Naini by 24, 29 and 28 cms respectively in the past 24 hours. ACP (Jhunsi) Chirag Jain told mediapersons that cops are maintaining a strict watch on ghats and no one is allowed to enter deep water zones.

Deep water barricading on Ganga banks will be reset as per the water level. We are maintaining that there should be at least four feet depth on the ghats, he said. Besides, the department has also sought cooperation from swimmers and boatmen to ensure safety of devotees. Patrolling on motorboats has also been intensified.

WATER **CRISIS:** Drinking water crisis in some blocks of trans-Ganga and

trans-Yamuna areas here which worsens every summer is all set to end by 2025. Firms from Hyderabad and Rajasthan have bagged tenders for setting up water purification plants through which potable water will be supplied to households of 18 development blocks of the parched rural areas of the district as part of the ambitious 'Har Ghar Nal' Scheme.

In the villages of Meja, Manda and Koraon development block, the water of Ganga will be filtered by a purification plant. Likewise, for supply of potable water to households in the villages of Shankargarh and Jasra development blocks, the water of Yamuna will be filtered and supplied. For this, the work of providing water to every house by borewell pump method in 18 development blocks of the district has begun. The tender has been bagged by Gaja Engineering Pvt Ltd of Hyderabad and the survey work has begun to find a suitable site on the banks of Ganga for setting up the plant, said officials of Jal Nigam who are overseeing the project. Likewise, for supply of potable water to households in villages of Shankargarh and Jasra development blocks, the work has been awarded to Rajasthan-based firm Pungalia Limited. A team that will undertake the survey for iden-

tifying the site for the proposed plant has reached the region, they added. Surveyor engineer of Gaja Engineering Pvt Ltd Om Prakash said the survey work is going on for a suitable site on the banks of Ganga. "The plant will have the capacity to supply 90 megalitres of purified drinking water per day," he added. Officials said as com-

pared to the purification plant of Ganga, the unit to come up on the Yamuna will be of lesser capacity. Assistant engineer of the Jal Nigam Prayagraj Rishikesh Kumar said an estimated cost of ₹1,754 crore will be required for the completion of the Ganga project and ₹934 crore for the Yamuna project.

ACTION TAKEN: Police Commissioner took major departmental action on Thursday night. After receiving report of the month-long investigation against the Ghurpur police in the case of animal cruelty, action was taken against nine policemen, including SHO. Besides six police station incharges found guilty on various charges were sent to Lines.

The workplaces of 35 policemen, including 7 inspectors, 22 S-Is and six constables were changed. The police commissioner was continuously receiving complaints against those against whom action has been taken. On June 6 a truck

the injured ones there. The truck was also abandoned and no paper work of any kind was allegedly done. There was a complaint about it and the investigation of which was being done at DCP level. After the investigation report came on Thursday night, Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma has sent the SHO Ghurpur Dinesh Kumar Maurya, outpost incharge Gauhaniya Tarachand, sub- inspector Harnarayan Singh, constables Amit Yadav, Rakesh Yadav, Sameer Singh, Vimal Rawat, Rakesh Pal and driver Vashishtha Yadav to the Lines with immediate effect. Police Commissioner Ramesh Sharma sent the Colonelganj police station in-charge Ram Mohan Rai to the Reserve Police Line. S-I Janardan Prasad Sahni, posted in the Traffic Police Line, has been made Jail police in-charge. Besides Bahria police station SHO Ramesh Kumar Singh has been sent to Reserve Police Lines. The Industrial Area police station in-charge Sanjeev Kumar Choubey has been entrusted with the responsibility of Ghurpur police station. Similarly, subinspector Amit Kumar Singh has been posted as the second officer of Dhoomanganj police station

Take action against illegal PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ hookah bars, spas: Sinha The atmosphere in Allahabad University (au)

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The chairman of Social Harmony Committee of the Legislative Council Ashutosh Sinha directed the Commissioner of Police (CP) Varanasi to take action against the illegal hookah bars and spas operating in this holy city and submit the month's progress report in this direction before the committee in Lucknow. He was addressing a review meeting of the committee at Circuit House here on Friday. Apart from chairman Ashutosh Sinha, who is local Samajwadi Party (SP) MLC, the other members present were MLCs Lal Bihari Yadav, Annapurna Singh and Surendra Chaudhary. During the review of the E rtment of Varanasi district, the committee asked the officers concerned to speed up the process of recovery from the defaulters. In reply, a senior Excise department officer informed that during the last three months, a total of 3,859 raids were conducted in connection with illegal liquor. During the review of business tax, the traders were ordered to correct the errors in registration. The panel asked the transport commissioner to take continuous action against vehicles involved in overloading and submit the report before the committee soon. During the review of revenue and city development, the pending cases were ordered to be disposed of in time. Regarding the waterlogging on the road going from Jaitpura to Pilikothi, it was informed by the municipal commissioner



Student's death: AU still tense the reason of his death. If we

is still tense over Ashutosh Dubey's untimely death case. After the vandalism and violence on the campus during the 'Aakrosh March' on Wednesday, a candle march was taken out from the campus to the Gandhi statue at Balsan Crossing on late on Thursday evening. Students alleged Ashutosh's life could have been saved if an ambulance had been provided on time or security guards of the university had allowed e-rickshaws to enter the campus. Student leader Ajay Yadav Samrat said Ashutosh was a promising stu-dent of AU. "I do not go after

had got the ambulance on time or e-rickshaw had been allowed to come inside, then his life would have been saved. This is the negligence of the university administration. When compensation was demanded from the university administration, it was said to give ₹10,000 only", he added. Another student Dinkar Vikram Singh said is the cost of the life of a promising student only ₹10,000 only?. We demand that the family members be given ₹50 lakh as compensation and a report be lodged against the chief proctor and DSW. Student Harendra Kumar alleged the university administration is try-

preparations are being made to operate the electric auto. Electric buses will start operating in the city in the coming days. Passengers have got a lot of relief after the operation of electric buses has started. Electric vehicles are being promoted by the Ministry of

Transport. After e-rickshaws and ebuses now it has been decided to start operation of e-autos in the city. Plans are underway to run e-autos on a priority basis in four cities of the state, which include Prayagraj, Lucknow, Varanasi and Noida. In the first phase, 350 to 500 e-autos will be operated. Experts say that it will cover ing to divert the fight. ELECTRIC AUTO: Now a distance of about 150 kilo-will be f meters on full charge at one ₹4 lakh.

go. It is expected that this year the showrooms for e-auto will be operational so that people do not have to travel to other cities to buy it.

Meanwhile ARTO (Administration) Rajeev Chaturvedi said preparations are on to start the operation of electric autos soon. It will operate inside the city and will connect Naini, Jhunsi and Phaphamau. This will provide relief to passengers along with environment protection. The sound of the e-auto will be negligible. It is not clear what will be its cost, but many companies are working towards making it. According to some companies, its price will be fixed from ₹1 lakh to

Intensive Mission Indradhanush

Legislative Council Committee reviewing progress of works in Varanasi on Friday

cent of which has been completed while the rest of pending work will be done soon as the work is going at a fast pace. Earlier, in the beginning

the committee reviewed the Excise department work in Chandauli and in reply, the District Magistrate (DM) Chandauli said a total of 2,331 raids were conducted in the last three months, in which a total of 1,349 litres of illicit liquor was seized and 122 cases were filed. Expressing satisfaction over the campaign against illegal liquor, Ashutosh Sinha directed the department officers to run the campaign continuously so that the revenue of the government could increase.

Committee member Lal Bihari Yadav asked the Basic that the repair work on the said and Secondary Education road is going on and 80 per department to take action and Secondary Education

against the schools running illegally and taking admissions more than the norm. He also asked the schools to ensure that 25 percent admissions are made under Right to Education (RTE)

The committee also sought information regarding incidents of harassment with Scheduled Castes families, exploitation of women, harassment, dowry, rape, murders, illegal betting business and action taken on them. The committee also directed to run a special campaign on illegal betting business going on in Varanasi. Regarding the employment of child labourers in the industrial/ small scale/handicraft industries, the

District Magistrate Varanasi S Rajalingam informed the committee that out of the 32 child

is also considered to be the son

of Vishwamitra. "In addition to

surgery of eyes, skin, internal

organs, Maharishi was well-

versed in reconstructive or

reconstructive surgery, which is

nowadays called plastic surgery," he said, adding that

the reconstruction of cleft nose

is one of them. "Today

Maharshi Sushruta is consid-

ered the father of plastic

surgery or father of plastic surgery in the whole world.

There is no single opinion about his birth. Some people

also believe that Sushruta was

one of a series of surgical gurus

who lived in Kashi in India

from 1,200 years before Christ

till the birth of Christ," he

added. The function was also

attended by several senior plas-

tic surgeons and others of the

centre.

labourers identified, 16 child labourers were given educational rehabilitation in the district basic education schools. The committee praised the Varanasi DM for the campaign launched against begging. The details of providing benefits to construction workers registered under the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board were placed before the committee.

Information was also given to the committee by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) regarding the installation of lights and barricading or iron mesh on the highways and construction of public toilets etc. In the end District Magistrate S Rajalingam proposed the vote of thanks.

5.0 to run in three phases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The Intensive Mission Indradhanush 5.0 campaign for children up to five years and pregnant women who have been left out of the regular vaccination programme will be run in the district in three phases. Its first phase will be conducted from August 7 to August 12, second from September 11 to September 16 and third from October 9 to October 14. For the success of the campaign, a District Level Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was organised at a hotel in the Kakarmatta area here on Friday. The workshop was presided over by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary in which district level medical officers and urban and rural level CHC /PHC medical superintendents, in-charge medical officers, health education officers, AROs etc were present. In the workshop along with discussing in detail about head count survey and micro plan, detailed information was given about the strategy of the campaign. Speaking on the occasion, the CMO said regular vaccination sessions are being conducted in the district on every Wednesday and Saturday but due to some



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary addressing a workshop on IMI 5.0 in Varanasi on Friday

reasons, many children and pregnant women miss vaccination. For this the intensive Mission Indradhanush 5.0 campaign will be run in three phases in the months of August, September and October. In this campaign, special emphasis will be laid on covering the left out children and pregnant women with vaccination in an integrated manner. The CMO directed all superintendents and incharge medical officers to lay special emphasis on the campaign in high risk, slums and remote areas. "Door-to-door survey (head count survey) should be conducted through ASHA workers. Children up to five years and pregnant women who have been left out of vacci-

nation should be identified and uploaded on the e-Kavach portal. Special emphasis should be laid on the first-second dose of Measles-Rubella and booster dose of OPV and DPT for children aged two to five years," he said, asking the officers to make the beneficiaries aware and motivate them to attend the vaccination session. He said that a daily review meeting of the campaign should be held. While ensuring public participation, cooperation of public representatives, religious leaders and influential persons should be taken, he added. District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma said coverage of children and pregnant women vaccinated under the

campaign would be entered on the e-Kavach portal. Vaccination sessions will also be organised at Health and Wellness Centres, VHSND sessions, private hospitals, railway stations, voluntary health institutions.

Cooperation of ICDS Department, Mahila Arogya Samiti and Municipal Corporation will also be taken. The campaign will emphasise on 'five years-seven times' vaccination. In this, no child should be deprived of 11 vaccines including BCG, Hepatitis-B, Penta, Measles-Rubella, PCV, Rota virus, Polio from birth to five years. Technical cooperation of WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, TSU organisation will be taken in the campaign, he added.

Contribution of Maharshi Sushruta in field of plastic surgery recalled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

This 'karmbhoomi' of great Maharshi Sushruta, who performed first plastic surgery about 2,600 years ago on the banks of holy river Ganga here, celebrated the World Plastic Surgery Day here on Friday.

At a local leading plastic surgery centre, GS Memorial Hospital, which received world fame operating maximum number of cases suffering from cleft and palate deformities by birth and a documentary 'Smile Pinki' shot at this centre in 2008 received Oscar Award in 2008, the contribution of Maharshi Sushruta in the field of plastic surgery was recalled.

Leading plastic surgeon Dr Subodh Kumar Singh said that around 600 BC, Maharshi Sushruta's surgery ashram located in Kashi was famous in the entire Aryavarta and Gulf countries. "Students and doc- then, and was based on the

tors from far and wide used to study of deep anatomy and

come to learn the modern method of surgery from him as Maharishi disseminated the knowledge gained from here in his own areas and also used to treat patients," he said, adding that Sushruta was a modern surgeon. "On the banks of river Ganga in Kashi, when the dead bodies got wet with water, Maharashi and his disciples studied their anatomy, muscles, blood vessels, nerves, internal organs, bones and bone joints with wooden tools and brushes and also let the students practice the same," he said.

According to him, there were also modern instruments and tools whose names were often kept on the mouth or beak of animals and birds. "Even today many surgical instruments match Sushruta's

instruments. The method of

surgery was science compatible

Workshop for teachers to be held principles of surgery," he said, PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI adding that Maharishi Sushruta

> Vivek Sanjivani, an initiative for healthcare and education unit of Ramakrishna Mission Home of Service (Varanasi), will organise a workshop for teachers and inaugurate a biology book for Class X in Hindi as a foundation course for NEET at Vivekanand Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Home of Service (Luxa) here on Saturday at 10.30 am. Deputy VP, Tata AIG General Insurance, Mumbai, Devang Pandya will be senior guide of Vivek Sanjivani Team and Prof Awadhesh Pradhan, department of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will be the chief guest for the programme. A total 30 teachers from 15 schools of Varanasi will participate in the programme.

Students go on industrial tour

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

About 60 students of Class XI of the Commerce Section of Glenhill School, Manduadih, went on an industrial tour to Annagar in the city in which they were accompanied by their teachers. During the visit Depot Manager of Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chakrapani Siddharth and Manager Daya Shankar Prasad Maurya informed the school students about the working of the FCI and gave details about the National Food Security Act (NFSA).



80 crore people of the country month. Students were made are getting five kg per ration aware about the grains distribcard under Targeted Public uted by the FCI, especially Distribution System (TPDS) as fortified rice. Along with this, the beneficiary person is prothe importance of commerce in

FCI was also highlighted. Giving further information to students in this regard, it was told that many innovative steps are being taken by the corporation to make the work easy and smooth, in which online of food grains, Depot Online System through which inte-gration of Dharamkanta (weighing machine), FAP for accounting, AI grain analyser to measure the quality of grains and modern moisture measuring instruments etc are included so that transparency can be promoted.

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pinion 06

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Three cheers!

Chandrayaan-3 is yet another remarkable milestone in India's space odyssey

he successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 heralds a new chapter in India's space odyssey, one that reflects the nation's coming of age in the field of space exploration. ISRO's growth from a fledgling organisation to a globally recognised space agency is a testament to India's scientific acumen and unwavering determination. Through its lunar missions, ISRO has not only expanded our knowledge of the moon but has also ignited the imagination of millions, inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. As India continues to reach for the stars, the world eagerly anticipates the remarkable discoveries and advancements that will undoubtedly follow in the wake of Chandrayaan-3. On the global stage of space exploration, India has emerged as a force to reckon with, continually pushing boundaries and surpassing expectations. The muchawaited launch of Chandrayaan-3, the third lunar mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), marks another giant leap forward for India's space programme.



With each mission, India is not only expanding its scientific knowledge but also solidifying its position as a trailblazer in the realm of space exploration.

To fully appreciate the significance of Chandrayaan-3, it is essential to trace the remarkable journey of ISRO. From its humble beginnings in 1969, the Indian space agency has come a long way, overcoming challenges and achieving unprecedented success. ISRO's perseverance and dedication have been instrumental in transforming India's space aspirations into reality. ISRO's initial milestones, such as the launch of Aryabhata, India's first satellite, in 1975, laid the foundation for future endeavours. Over the years, the organisation has

earned a reputation for its cost-effective yet technologically advanced missions, most notably with the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) in 2013. By successfully reaching the Red Planet on its first attempt, ISRO demonstrated its prowess in space exploration. In 2008, ISRO achieved a significant breakthrough with the launch of Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission. Chandrayaan-1 showcased India's scientific capabilities and marked the country's entry into the elite club of lunar explorers. Building upon this success, ISRO took a leap forward with Chandrayaan-2 in 2019. Despite a challenging landing attempt, the mission achieved several milestones, including the successful insertion of the orbiter into the moon's orbit and the release of the Vikram lander. Although the lander encountered difficulties, the orbiter continues to orbit the moon, collecting valuable data and imagery. Chandrayaan-3 represents a continuation of India's lunar exploration programme and a testament to ISRO's unwavering commitment to space research. The mission aims to build upon the accomplishments of its predecessors, focusing on soft landing and deploying a rover to explore the lunar surface. Chandrayaan-3 holds immense symbolic value for India. It showcases the country's determination to become a key player in space exploration, not just for national pride but also for the betterment of humanity.



Stray dogs: Pounds will not help



These will inflict horrendous cruelty on stray dogs without reducing their numbers. Besides, they will be a big drain on the resources

he disarmingly benev-olent air about the proposal to herd all stray dogs in India into pounds, is the result of two contentions. First, the move will end their presence in neighbourhoods without the savagery of killing them wholesale. Second, it would ensure shelter, medical care and regular meals which they lack now. The first will replace the death sentence by imprisonment for life without parole. The sec-ond reflects wishful thinking, contrary to what the existing reality indicates. In the case of all living beings,

the quest for freedom is the central driving force behind the unfolding of life, which depends on the progressive realization of a growing corpus of freedoms beginning with those to live, grow, subsist and move. To elabrate, there can be no life without the freedom to live, find and consume food, shelter from the elements, and move.

The essence of freedom is the autonomous exercise of will, which, in turn, is a function of one's autonomous existence. Imprisonment is a denial of this autonomy; life in jails is controlled by officials who impose restrictions on the lives of the inmates. It is no different in the case of stray dogs. Humans, no doubt, have a higher level of consciousness, cognition and articulation; no other living species has developed languages. Besides, they are the only species to conscious-ly cherish and utilize the freedoms of thought and expression. Nevertheless, it would be wise to recall Desmond Morris' words in The Naked Ape: A Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal, "As I have stressed throughout this book, we are, despite all our great technological advances, still very much a simple biological phenomenon. Despite our grandiose ideas and our lofty selfconceits, we are still humble animals, subject to all the basic laws of animaĺ behaviour.



erinary care and food they may receive in these. In fact, if the terrible conditions prevailing in most pounds/ shelters in India are any indication, life in these will be, with apologies to Thomas Hobbes in Leviathan, "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short," stalked constantly by hunger, illness (often psychosomatic) and depression. Most of the money given for providing food and medicines will be siphoned into private pockets.

Clearly, the two contentions accounting for the air of benevolence around the proposal to confine stray dogs in pounds/shelters, are not valid. Hence, that air is misleading. If implemented the proposal will inflict the most horrendous sufferings on the stray dogs impounded. This, of course, will not be a consideration with those who hate all stray dogs and want them killed. Even they, however, have to face the fact that the proposal is utterly impractical and almost impossible to implement. For one thing, the existing pounds will not be able to accommodate even a tiny fraction of India's stray dog population which, as Mr Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, told the Lok Sabha on August 2,

2022, numbered 1.53 crore in 2019 against 1.71 crore in 2012

A large amount of money and a huge organizational infrastructure will be needed to build an adequate number of pounds and recruit and train enough people to run them. The question is: who will do all this? A venture of this magnitude is beyond the capacity of animal welfare NGOs to implement. The Union and State governments, A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND A as well as large municipalities and corporations, will have to HUGE undertake it through their public works departments. ORGANIZATIONAL Not many of the latter, if any, INFRASTRUCTURE have any experience in setting up pounds, which require spe-WILL BE NEEDED cialized planning and implementation. This will increase TO BUILD AN the time taken to complete ADEQUATE constructions and, in the process, push up costs. NUMBER OF Even if, by a miracle, the POUNDS AND

pounds are built and made rates. operative, the problem of catching stray dogs will remain. The present personnel with NGOs and government/municipal bodies are

Finally, putting stray dogs into pounds will not reduce their numbers. Guidelines for Dog Population Management, released by World Health Organization and World Society for the Protection of Animals, in May, 1990, states, 'Removal and killing of dogs should never be considered as the most effective way of dealing with the problem of surplus dogs in the community: it has no effect on the root cause of the problem, which is over-production of dogs." Further the Eighth Report (WHO Technical Report Series 824) of the WHO's Expert Committee on Rabies, has stated, "The population turnover of [stray] dogs may be so high that even the highest recorded removal rates (about 15 per cent of the dog population) are easily compensated by survival

Ferocious, dogs that bite, doubtless, pose a problem. They should be dealt with according to the procedure detailed under Section 16 of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which is humane and comprehensive. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

The urge for freedom is the defining component of the psyches of both humans and stray dogs with the latter's free-roaming lives. The agony of the loss of freedom in the pounds will not be compensated by the shelter, vet-

PEOPLE TO RUN THEM

TRAIN ENOUGH

RECRUIT AND

too few in number and poor-ly trained. They struggle to catch even the small numbers that are taken for sterilization. The street canines are sharp and flee at the sight of these people.

An Indian Army contingent marches past during the Bastille Day Parade, in Paris

Embarking on a journey to explore new lunar frontiers



BIJU DHARAMAPALAN

Chandrayaan-3 success is yet another step in India's bid for space exploration and opens up possibilities of further lunar research

side). The Moon has a rocky

surface covered with impact

craters, mountains, valleys,

and plains.

he first phase of India's third mission to the moon Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully done on 14th July from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota using the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3). If everything goes as planned the Pragyan rover in the Chandrayaan-3 will land softly on the south pole of the lunar surface. The Pragyan rover, equipped with six wheels, will carry two payloads aimed at discovering materials from the ancient lunar crust through the use of spectrometers. Furthermore, one of the payloads, called the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Éarth (SHAPE), will analyze spectral and polarimetric radiation to gain insights into the potential signatures of habitable Earth-like planets. Over the past 65 years, six nations have undertaken 70 missions to the Moon, both successful and partially successful. While a significant number of these missions involved orbiting Earth's sole natural satellite, only a fraction of them involved successful lunar landings. If Chandrayaan-3 achieves a soft landing as



expected probably on August 23 or 24th, India will become the fourth country, after the United States, Russia, and China, to achieve the feat and emerge as a leader in space explorations.

Even though the previous coastal ecosystems and other Chandrayaan missions failed natural phenomena. The to achieve soft landing con-Moon has been a subject of siderable data regarding the fascination and exploration lunar environment has been for centuries. Human misgathered, a commendable sions, such as the Apollo proone being the first report of gram in the 1960s and 1970s, the presence of water on the have landed astronauts on the lunar surface. But why is it lunar surface, allowing us to that every nation is vying for gather samples, conduct space on the moon? The experiments, and gain a bet-Moon is Earth's natural satelter understanding of our closlite, a celestial body that orbits est celestial neighbour.Nations are going back to the Moon around our planet. It is the fifth-largest moon in the Solar due to the scientific, techno-System and is approximately logical, economic, and strate-1/6th the size of Earth. The gic benefits it offers. The Moon is located at an average Moon is believed to contain distance of about 384,400 valuable resources, such as kilometres (238,900 miles)

from Earth. The Moon is in the permanently shadtidally locked with Earth, owed regions of the Moon. which means that it always Scientists are interested in shows the same face to us. studying these volatiles to The side facing Earth is called assess their availability for the near side, while the oppo-site side is the far side or the "dark side" (though it receives sunlight just like the near

Accessing and utilizing these resources on the Moon could reduce the costs and logistical challenges associated with long-duration space The Moon plays a signifexploration. It could act as a icant role in Earth's dynamtransit point for long-distance space travels when ics. It affects our planet's tides through gravitational interacspace colonies will become a tions, which in turn influence reality. The Moon provides a stepping stone for future space exploration and offers numerous opportunities for collaboration, resource utilization, and human space settlement, which can have farreaching implications for both scientific knowledge and also helps in establishing humans as a multi-planet species, thereby saving the species from an imminent extinction. Being at the forefront of space research will give nations an advantage in surviving the perils of the space colony era, and India is sure to excel as a global leader.

(The writer is a science water ice and other volatiles *communicator and columnist*)

LETTERS

EU RAKES UP MANIPUR ISSUE

Sir — Shortly before Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi arrived in Paris on a State visit, in another French city, Strasbourg, the European Parliament (EP) called on the Indian government to act "promptly" to halt the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities. The joint motion moved by five groups was voted in by a show of hands in a fairly full house at the EP. The resolution passed by the European Parliament urged Indian authorities to halt ethnic and religious violence, protect religious minorities, conduct independent investigations, and encourage conflicting parties to rebuild trust and play an impartial role in mediating tensions. As usual, India strongly condemned the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution regarding recent clashes in Manipur, asserting that such interference in India's internal affairs is unacceptable.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi emphasised that the Indian authorities, including the judiciary, are fully aware of and addressing the situation in Manipur to ensure peace, harmony, and law and order. India advised the European Parliament to focus on its internal matters instead. However, more than 150 Indians have died in Manipur violence. Adding to the problem, the Modi governments both at the state as well as the centre seem to be not in control of the situation for too long. While the foreign affairs group of the Indian government needs to deal with these EU actions in the most appropriate ways, internally within India, Indians need to see that things get better in the Indian state of Manipur as soon as possible.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee |Faridabad

PROMISING CRICKETER

Sir — Yashasvi Jaiswal, a promising young cricketer, achieved a magnificent century in his debut Test match against the West Indies in Dominica. It was a day of triumph and celebration as the talented cricketer left a lasting mark in the and 21st. It is important to address con-



he Vilnius Summit of 2023 will be going historic for world history as one of the most neutral nations of the world; sided its geo-political neutrality to join as a NATO member, a grouping of bipolar values. It was definitely to the world's surprise that Turkey who is creating the barrier for Sweden itself surprisingly sided its halt for Sweden as a NATO countries member.

The attempt of Sweden to deliberately alter its stand for being neutral for world issues had finally ended for the completion of its nation-

ry. The story of his remarkable achievement unfolds through his heartfelt celebrations. Filled with excitement, Jaiswal removed his helmet, leapt into the air, and screamed in sheer joy. Following his personal tradition, he then humbly bowed down towards the Indian dressing room. His teammates showered him with applause, and he sought the approval of his mentor, Rohit Sharma, who warmly embraced him. Virat Kohli, wearing a wide grin, expressed his pride in Jaiswal's accomplishment. This heartwarming statements promoting divisive ideologies moment beautifully exemplified the unity and camaraderie within the Indian cricket team.

Md Imdadullah | Patna

MEDIA FEST

Sir — The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Tumkur University will host a National Conference and media fest on July 20th record books with his exceptional centu- cerns regarding one of the invited

Sweden to join NATO

al interest. Of course, it has been a great challenge to be a neighbour nation to Russia. And considering the current circumstances, Sweden wanted to play save for at least itself vis-a-vis Russian power. Everybody knows that although not officially, Sweden was always with NATO on unofficial terms for the last 30 years. Utilising the Russia-Ukraine war as an opportunity, Sweden is trying to manage its unofficial play with official agreements. However, all this in the end will be going to raise bitterness more being the Baltic, Norwegian and Russian states. Europe is burning with more and more ignites together. The war is not going to end by any chance in this way. We need to pave peace and dialogue for cooperation and harmony.

The need of the hour is to think about global peace, not national peace.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

speakers, Ajit Hanamakkanavar, a former editor at a regional News Channel in Kannada. Attendees perceive the speaker as having a rightist inclination, which has generated mixed reactions. The conference aims to discuss diverse aspects of the media industry and therefore requires speakers representing varied perspectives. The individuals chosen must demonstrate a commitment to fair and unbiased journalism,. Concerns have been raised about the speaker's past and fostering a hostile environment. The conference will unite professionals, academics, and aspiring journalists, and it is crucial to maintain a high standard of unbiased discourse. Finally, such efforts will transform the conference into a platform for meaningful exchanges that benefit all participants

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

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FIRSTCOLUMN CONTROL YOUR MIND, CONTROL YOUR LIFE

Like iron corrodes with its own rust, so can your own mind destroy you



SAKSHI SETHI

 $\boldsymbol{0}$ ur mind is a multi-dimensional consciousness. As humans, we all have a unique set of beliefs, values and opinions that make an individual distinct and different from others. It's the thoughts and beliefs that decide perception towards anything in life and thus by empowering them, one can guide their inner self and control the feelings, fears, hopes and thinking patterns. These beliefs and opinions shape our personality and how we perceive the world around us. Thus, it becomes important to mould individual thoughts and point their attention in a particular positive direction to achieve peace of mind.

One of the biggest advantages of mind control is the potential to create positive change in the world. If an individual could influence the thoughts and actions of others, he/she could use this power to effect change on a global scale. Working on mental models such as practising critical thinking; strengthening the vision and leverage; learning big ideas and studying big disciplines helps an individual think and act differently.

When a person is in total control of themselves, everything falls into place. One needs to learn how to select thoughts just the same way an individual selects clothes every day. Learning to be optimistic, trying to tell self and reminding that one will succeed over the mind as intended are some of the ways to keep oneself away from negative thoughts and be positive.



Controlling the mind is a realistic idea that can very well take place in the future. The availability of numerous devices and smartphones along with the experiments are devoted to creating the idea of taking over someone's mind. With the help of increased technology and unbelievably available devices and smartphones, this may be able to happen sooner than anyone can expect. Controlling the mind takes

Judicial overreach: Is it going too far?



analys \$ 07

SURESH KUMAR SANJEEV SHARMA

The issue of judicial overreach, or judicial activism, has cast a shadow over our constitutional framework and interferes with the governance which is a different domain

Since its enactment in 1950, the Constitution of India has undergone numerous amendments to address the changing aspira-tions of society. While some of these amendments went unnoticed ini-tially, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Bill passed during the internal emergency in 1975 brought significant charges that impacted the func-tioning of the executive, legislature, and judiciary. It modified the division of powers between the states and the Union by expanding the concurrent list. Despite these changes, the Constitution and the nation were ultimately preserved.

DIVISION OF POWERS OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The Constitution distinguishes between justiciable and non-justiciable actions, setting clear roles for the three branches of government: the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. These branch-es are designed to be mutually comple-mentary, with the Executive relying on the strength derived from the Legislature and Judiciary for the effective fulfilment of its functions. However, in recent years, there has been a growing debate on the issue of judicial overreach, also known as judicial activism.

DEFINING THE BASIC STRUCTURE: THE KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE

The 24th Amendment to the Constitution of India, enacted in 1971, introduced changes related to Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. It modified Article 368, which deals with the amending procedure. The amendment expanded Parliament's power to amend any pro-vision, including those relating to fun-damental rights. It also added a clause to Article 13, stating that constitutional amendments under Article 368 would be outside judicial review and not open to challenge on the grounds of violating

fundamental rights. The 24th Constitutional Amendment aimed to counter the Supreme Court's judgments in Golaknath v State of



EXPANSION OF BASIC STRUCTURE AND JUDICIAL **ACTIVISM**

Over the years, the term "basic structure" has expanded to include the notion that if citizens' rights are not being fulfilled, even without a violation of fundamental rights, it becomes the responsibility of the executive to ensure their delivery. This expanded scope of justice delivery is encompassed by Public Interest Litigation (PIL), which extends the jurisdiction of constitutional courts to non-justiciable functions. The interpretation of the basic structure has also brought actions or decisions initially outside judicial scrutiny under judicial review.

JUDICIAL OVERREACH STRUCTURE"

In the process of safeguarding the basic structure of the constitution, the judiciary has assumed powers that were not originally

enced by the ideology of the elect-ed government, remains outside the scope of review.

BRIDGING THE POLICY GAP BY THE JUDICIARY

Instances of conflict between the legislature, executive, and judiciary arise when policies and legislation are ambiguous or still evolving. The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) case is one such example. In 2015, the Supreme Court struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, which sought to establish the NJAC as responsible for judicial appointments and transfers. The court deemed the legislation unconstitutional, as it violated judicial independence and the principle of separation of powers. The issue of judges appoint-

Reservations in educational institutions and government jobs have also witnessed conflicts between the legislature and judiciary. The judiciary seeks to ensure fair implementation, while the executive faces challenges in meeting these requirements. A unified law at the state and central levels could reduce friction.

The three organs of governance have also clashed over environmental issues and regulations. The judiciary's interventions, such as banning certain industries or activities in ecologically sensitive areas, have sometimes been perceived as an overreach by the executive. At the same time, the laws made by the legislature leave loopholes, which the executive either turns a blind eye to or actively permits their exploitation. The judicial interventions sought in such cases become necessary to ensure fair and just governance. Even the policy gaps are bridged or rectified through judicial pronouncements. The Constitution of India, though amended quite often, has met the aspirations of society. However, the issue of judicial overreach, or judicial activism, has cast a shadow over this otherwise noncontroversial subject. While the judiciary plays a crucial role in safeguarding the basic structure of the country, it is essential to maintain a balance between the powers of the three branches of government-the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. This balance allows each branch to fulfil its specific functions without compromising the integrity of the constitutional framework. Éffective governance can be achieved by ensuring that the executive formulates policies backed by constitutionally mandated legislation, reducing the burden on the judiciary, upholding the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and maintaining the balance of powers.

over the ability to create an individual's thoughts and interrupts the mindfulness imagination.

Practising the art of mindfulness meditation, in particular, can help an individual become more skilled at focusing on things as they happen. Meditation is the key to nourishing the soul and blooming the divinity within. As an individual becomes more mindful with time, they will notice that they no longer need to constantly pull their awareness back from troubling or distracting thoughts. Also, spending time with others and on others can increase happiness and well-being. Happiness and well-being can increase an individual's self-image and reduce negative feelings that make self-control more difficult.

In the words of Idowu Koyenikan, "The mind is just like a muscle - the more one exercises it, the stronger it gets and the more it can expand."

Both the mind and body are deeply connected. It's the mind that can make the body stressed and physiological stress in the body can lead the mind to feel stressed. If an individual cannot control their thoughts, they cannot control their actions. The thoughts of an individual are a mixed baggage of past, emotions and fears. They are so much powerful that they are capable of turning a dream into reality. The greatness of a man does not lie in how much wealth they acquire but, in the integrity and the ability to affect those around them positively. Unwanted thoughts can cause plenty of frustration and distress.

(The writer is an educator)

Punjab (1967) and Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973). These judgments affirmed the basic structure doctrine, which limited Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court partially nullified the 24th Amendment in the Kesavananda Bharati case. The Court established the doctrine of the basic structure and further restricted Parliament's amending power

The Kesavananda Bharati judgement, delivered by the Supreme Court on April 24, 1973, ruled that Parliament did not have unlimited powers to amend the Constitution under Article 368. It held that certain core principles and features of the Constitution, known as the "basic structure," were inviolable and could not be amended. Although the judgement did not provide an exhaustive list of what constitutes the basic structure, it outlined essential features such as the Supremacy of the Constitution, Republican and democratic forms of government, Secular character, Separation of powers, Federal character, Judicial review, and Rule of law.

TO INCLUDE THE NOTION THAT IF **CITIZENS**' **RIGHTS ARE NOT** BEING FULFILLED, EVEN WITHOUT A VIOLATION OF

OVER THE

YEARS, THE

TERM "BASIC

HAS EXPANDED

RIGHTS Suresh Kumar is a *retired Punjab-cadre* IAS officer and was hief principle secretary to Punjab CM & Sanjeev Sharma is Senior Advocate, Punjab and Haryana High Court

intended for it, allegedly encroaching upon the domain of the executive. This encroachment can be motivated by various factors, including the lure of post-retirement benefits that may even influence some decisions. Such overreach casts a shadow on the judiciary's integrity and raises concerns about the balance of powers.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN FUNDAMENTAL THE EXECUTIVE AND **JUDICIARY**

There have been instances where the judiciary, through its pronouncements, has directed or coerced the executive to frame laws and rules in a specific manner. While the executive may comply, the issue arises as to how one can legislate as directed. This compromises the independence of the legislature, which should propose legislation and be subject to judicial review to identify any unconstitutional provisions. The intent or objective of the legislation, influ-

has also been critiqued. The confrontation between the executive and judiciary becomes evident when recommendations for elevation or transfers of judges are kept pending for years. While no system is perfect, improvements are needed.

judges and transferring judges

Similarly, the Aadhaar Card case highlighted differences between the judiciary and executive regarding the mandatory use of Aadhaar for government services. Despite court-imposed restrictions and emphasis on privacy rights, the executive continues to mandate the furnishing of Aadhaar data without adequate privacy protection laws. Conflicts have also emerged over the disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs)

and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) in cases of criminal convictions. While the judiciary upholds provisions for disqualification upon conviction, the executive sometimes refuses to act as per the law.

UCC: Abide by the wish of the Constitution makers

The Supreme Court has held the view that there is no necessary connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society

he Constituent Assembly appointed the Drafting Committee on August 29, 1947. The Committee was chaired by Dr BR Ambedkar. Draft Constitution was submitted on 21.2.1948 to the Constituent Assembly. The Draft Constitution contains 315 Articles and 8 Schedules. Article 35 in the Draft Constitution was the direction to the State to legislate Uniform Civil Code (in short "UCC") i.e. "35. Uniform Civil Code for the citizen.- The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

HISTORICAL BACK-

Constitution was debated in

Article 35 of the Draft

GROUND



GOPAL JHA

(The writer is Advocate

Supreme Court of India)

personal law in case it has such a law." Muslim Members namely Ismail Sahab, Pocker Sahib Bahadur, Naziruddin Ahmed, and Mahboob Ali Baig Saheb Bahadur supported the Motion. It was their stand that (1) Law of succession, inheritance, marriage and divorce of Musalmans are completely dependent on their religion., (2) Britishers carried out the administrations of this country for the last 150 years and over, for the reason that they have given a guaran-

the Constituent Assembly on

23 November 1948. Mohamad

Ismail Sahib moved a motion

that it is not possible to have to add a proviso i.e. "Provided uniformity of Civil Law. On that any group, section or community or people shall not these arguments, Muslim members wanted a proviso in be obliged to give up its own Article 35 'that, it may not affect their personal laws'. Mr Naziruddin Ahmed submitted that Article 35 would undo what had been given in Article 19 as it will encourage the State to break the guarantee given in Article 19. However, he expressed the view that the stage would come when the civil law would be uniform. Mohammed Ismile Sahib submitted that for creating harmony it is not necessary to compel people to give up their law. The motion was opposed

by Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, tee of following own personal K.M. Munshi, Suresh Chandra laws to each of the various

communities in the country. Majumdar, Ananathasayanam (3) Mr Hussain Imam argued Ayyngar etc. Sri Suresh Chandra Majumdar argued that our country is so diverse that submissions of Muslim Members are in direct negation of Article 35 and cannot be taken as an amendment. Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyngar said that marriage in Muslim is a contract. Mr KM Munshi submitted that nowhere in the advanced Muslim country the personal law of each minority has been recognized as so sacrosanct to prevent the enactment of the Civil Code. Mr Munshi argued, when

Shariat Act was passed by the Central Legislature, certain Muslim members, Khoja and Cutchi Memon were unwilling, but had to surrender.

Where were the rights of minorities then? He argued that if the personal law of

inheritance succession etc. is a part of religion, then there cannot be equality for women. It was argued that the attitude of mind perpetuated under the British rule that personal law is a part of religion. Mr. Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer argued in European countries there are Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Christians and Jews. In France, Germany, Italy in all the continental countries of Europe, they have not perpetuated personal laws. It was argued that Article 35 not invading the domain of religion. On the above logic, it was asserted that the motion may be negated. Babasaheb argued that we have Uniform Criminal Code. Civil Code in its contents applies to the whole of the

country. Up to 1935 North-

West Frontier Province was not subject to Shariat law, Hindu law in the matter of succession and other matters were being followed. North Malabar following Marumakkathyam law. Dr Ambedkar opposed the motion contending that Muslim law was not immutable. Dr. Ambedkar opposed the Motion. PRESENT SCENARIO

In John Vallamattam Vs. UOI reported in (2003) 6 SCC 611 Supreme Court held that "it is a matter of regret that Article 44 of the Constitution has not given effect to. Common code will help the cause of nation national integration."

The Hindus along with Sikh, Buddhists and Jains have forsaken their sentiments in

munity would not, though the Constitution enjoins the establishment of a common civil code for the whole of India.' Article 14 is the guaranteed fundamental right to equality. Article 13 provides all the laws that include custom or usage to the extent of inconsistency shall be void. The right of religion is guaranteed subject to public order and morality. The Supreme Court time and again regretted 'why the Parliament had not given effect to the Article 44 of the Constitution despite having the direction by the Constitution maker'. There is no justification whatsoever for delaying indefinitely with the introduction of uniform personal law in the country.

the cause of national unity and

integration, some other com-



nation 08

Shah stresses on using modern agri methods to attract youth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $U_{\rm Cooperation\ Minister}^{\rm nion\ Home\ and}$ Amit Shah has emphasised the importance of adopting modern methods of agriculture to attract youth and ensure the prosperity of marginal farmers. He also highlighted the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Farmers Produce Organisations (FPOs) as viable tools for agricultural transformation.

Speaking at a National Mega Conclave on 'PACS as FPOs' organized by the National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC), Shah called for a hybrid model that integrates PACS and FPOs.

He suggested designing a complete system for information exchange, profit sharing, and marketing based on the collaboration between PACS and FPOs. "It is crucial to instill confidence in the 12 crore farmers of the nation that



agriculture is a profitable business and should be practiced in a modern way with proper marketing. This will not only increase agricultural production but also contribute to the GDP," Shah stated.

He emphasized the need to revive and advance the cooperative movement in India, particularly in the agricultural sector. Strengthening agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries through cooperatives

would not only boost employment opportunities but also contribute to the GDP. Shah acknowledged the steps taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the welfare and prosperity of farmers, including the promotion of FPOs. He men-

tioned the scheme 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' launched in 2021 to support the sector. Ministry The

of Agriculture and Farmers

Welfare has allocated additional blocks to NCDC to form and promote 1100 FPOs in the cooperative sector through strengthening of PACS.

"PACS should increasingly transform into FPOs with the assistance of NCDC and District Cooperative Banks. There is no limitation on PACS converting to FPOs," Shah explained, while discussing various measures taken by the government to encourage cooperatives to thrive in the open market.

Integrating PACS into the FPO scheme will enable them to expand their business in the areas of supply of production inputs, agricultural equipment, and processing. Additionally, PACS will be able to undertake high-income generating activities such as bee-keeping and mushroom cultivation.

Under the FPOs Scheme, each FPO receives financial assistance of Rs. 33 lakh, with an additional Rs. 25 lakh provided to Cluster Based Business Organizations

(CBBOs) for promoting and supporting FPOs. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation BL Verma, and officials from the Ministries of Cooperation and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare were present at the event, along with representa-tives from PACS and FPOs

across the country. Shah emphasized that if PACS transition into FPOs, all farmers associated with PACS will benefit from the FPO model. He highlighted the potential of FPOs formed through PACS in uplifting

farmers' prosperity. To support the segment, the government has provided loans of over Rs. 127 crore to FPOs, in addition to Rs. 6,900 crore. Notably, 922 FPOs have been formed for work related to forest produce in tribal districts. Shah praised the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and

Punjab for their excellent work in the field of FPOs.

Electoral bond scheme designed to favour ruling party, says Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Congress on Friday alleged that the electoral bond scheme was designed to favour the ruling party and demanded a transparent system of elec-

toral funding. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said more than 52 per cent of the BJP's political donations of Rs 5,271.97 crore through a money bill in January between FY 2016-17 and FY 2017 for the purpose of electoral funding and was passed in 2021-22 came from electoral bonds as against Rs 1,783.93 crore received by all other Sabha having the power to national parties according to a new report by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

"This effectively implies that the Modi government's controversial, corrupt and contrived electoral bonds scheme is a money whitening scheme, which converts black money to white," Khera said at AIcC press conference.

"Cash, crony capitalism and corruption is the new 'chal, charitr and chehra' of the BJP," Khera alleged. The Congress has been opposing the electoral bond scheme and alleging that to give a final view on the matit has brought opacity in electer. The Congress, Khera said,

The BJP earlier said the

rights and justice. The district

administration in Patna had

largest government hospital.

Bihar between the BJP and the

RJD-JDU-Congress-left alliance as Lok Sabha poll-

play a significant role in gov-

With the swearing-in of Justices

Bhuyan and Bhatti, the work-

ing strength of judges in the

apex court has risen to 32

against the sanctioned strength

of 34, including the CJI. The CJI administered the oath of

office to the two new judges in

a swearing-in ceremony held at

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

formation at centre

found on his body.



toral funding. The electoral

bond scheme was introduced

Parliament without the Rajya

spirit of the Constitution,"

Khera alleged. According to the

amendments brought through

the Act, political parties are not

required to mention names

and addresses of those con-

tributing by way of electoral bonds. This had made electoral

funding even more opaque,

has since been challenged in the

Supreme Court by several peo-

ple including ADR and some

others, but the apex court is yet

The electoral bonds scheme

the Congress has alleged.

'This was an assault on the

reject or amend it.

wants a transparent system of electoral funding. "We will keep on exposing the corporate money greed of the Modi government and the BJP," he added. He said earlier a company

could not donate more than 7.5 per cent of its net profit for three years. But the BJP government removed this limit. Now there is no need for any company to tell how much amount was given to whom.

"When such huge benami money comes into the account of a party, it becomes clear how black money is converted into white. PM Modi and Amit Shah ji, You ended the limit on corporate donations under electoral bonds. Didn't this act legalise crony capitalism? Congress wants a transparent system of this election funding," he said.

Khera claimed that these bonds made electoral funding non-transparent and the Election Commission, Supreme Court, RBI all had objections against these bonds. But it was passed like a money bill. Through this one money bill, BJP did the work of buying MLAs and toppling governments," he alleged.

Khalistan backers

in Australia

PNS SERVICE/AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/MELBOURNE

beat Indian student

In yet another incident of

Lalleged Khalistan supporters

indulging in violence, a 23-year-old Indian student was

beaten up with iron rods by

them in Australia for opposing

the activities of extremist ele-

ments. According to a media

report from there on Friday, the

student, who also works as a

driver, was on his way to work

when he was attacked by

assailants chanting "Khalistan

Zindabad" in Sydney's western

suburb of Merrylands, The

Australia Today news portal reported. "Today, morning at

"As soon as I sat in my dri-

me with an iron road on my

cheekbone under my left eye,

he said. The student said he was

e and

East Asia Summit must be committed Nadda sets up 4-member body for **Swamy slams** to free, open Indo-Pacific: EAM fact-finding police action in Bihar "dictatorial" mindset, it said the

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/JAKARTA

Tn light of China's increasingly Lassertive stance in the Indo-Pacific region, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasised the importance of a free, open, inclusive, and rulesbased Indo-Pacific during his visit to Jakarta on Friday. Speaking at the East Asia Summit, he called for a commitment to respect sovereign-ty and territorial integrity in the

region. He also met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken there and discussed issues like Ukraine, Myanmar and Indo-Pacific. "Pleasure to meet Secretary Blinken. Followed up on PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US. Also exchanged views on Ukraine, Myanmar and Indo-Pacific," the minister, who is here in the Indonesian capital, tweeted. Speaking at the 13th East Asia EAS) Iaishankar mmit

said India firmly supports the ing Indo-Pacific in the back-ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-drop of China's rising military drop of China's rising military Pacific (AOIP) and its implemanoeuvring in the resource-

mentation through EAS. "ÊAS rich region. must be committed to a free, the disputed South China Sea, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, with respect for though Taiwan, the Philippines, sovereignty and territorial Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam integrity," he said. all claim parts of it. Beijing has "There is great synergy between the Indo-Pacific built artificial islands and military installations in the South

Oceans Initiative (IPOI) proposed by India and AOIP," Ĵaishankar said. "Quad will the East China Sea. always complement ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms. AOIP contributes to the vision

of the Quad. India affirms ASEAN centrality in Indo-Pacific and advocates strengthening of EAS," he said. The Indo-Pacific is a bio-Regional Forum.

geographic region, comprising the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including South China Sea. The US, India and several other world powers have been talking about the need to and thriv Ministers' Retreat on July ensure a

PNS NEW DELHI

As the BJP president JP Nadda on Friday consti-China claims nearly all of tuted a four-member committee headed by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das to visit Bihar and do 'fact-finding' over incidents in the state, Union Minister of state for home China Sea. China also has ter-Nityanand Rai, demanded ritorial disputes with Japan in resignation of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy-The minister is visiting Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav Indonesia for the Foreign for the alleged 'brutalities' Ministers' Meetings under the against the protesting "peace-ASEAN framework in the forful BJP workers."

mat — ASEAN-India, East The BJP has alleged that its Jehanabad district general sec-Asia Summit and ASEAN retary Vijay Singh, lost his life After Jakarta, Jaishankar and many have been injured in will travel to Bangkok in the police lathi charge on will travel to participate in the Thailand to participate in the 12th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Thursday. Union Minister Nityanand Rai told reporters here that the death of Vijay Singh during the protest march Mechanism on July 16 and also was a "sacrificial offering". He alleged Bihar police has behaved like colonial British attend the BIMSTEC Foreign

committee will soon visit Patna and submit its report to party's national president. death of Vijay Singh, alleged-ly in a police lathi charge, in Patna was "a pre-planned conspiracy" of the Nitish Kumar government to stop people of the state from demanding their

and the lathi-charge was akin to attack on the Simon Commission during the freedom struggles. As the BJP sought to queer the pitch over the police action, BJP Chief setup a commiee to probe the incident.

Former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das will be the convenor of the "high-level probe committee" and Vishnu Daval Ram, Manoj Tiwari and Sunita Duggal will be its other members, the party said in a statement.

2024 are closing by. Bihar has total 40 LS seats which may Noting that BJP president Nadda has strongly con-demned the police's "barbariand the ate governmen

TDP, JSP leaders for spreading lies about TTD



issued a statement, asserting New Delhi: BJP leader that no injury marks were Subramanian Swamy on Friday accused TDP leader Chandra The statement claimed that Babu Naidu, JSP leader Pawan Kalyan for spreading lies and Singh was found unconscious on the roadside in Chhajju fake propagandas against Bagh locality from where he Tirupati Temple administration was taken to PMCH, the state's to hurt sentiments of Hindus. Politics is hotting-up in

5.30 am when I was going to Addressing media here, Swamy said that both Opposition leaders telling blawork, some 4-5 Khalistan supporters attacked me," the student, who preferred anonymitant lies about the Tirumala ty, was quoted as saying. Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) and its trust Srivani Trust and ving seat, these Khalistan supmaking false charges of swinporters came out of nowhere. dling money to State Government headed by Chief One of them opened the left side door of my yehi

'We need to reform to meet emerging security challenges'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

∽hief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said here international geo-politics is in flux and the national security strategy should aim to absorb the changes in such a way that it meets the challenges and exploits the opportunities.

Making this point while inaugurating the annual twoday Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Directors' conclave, he also stressed the need to perform, reform, transform, inform and conform to meet the emerging challenges.

Referring to the 'Technology Requirements emerging from Theaterisation", he said superiority in technology and tactics is the need of the hour and Indian Armed Forces are investing in new technologies to win engagements.

Highlighting the princi-ples of jointness, integration and theaterisation, General Chauhan said in the national security realm, the concept of theaterisation is a fundamental change that is on the anvil.

"It is one of the most ambitious changes with far reaching implications attempted postindependence. The start on this journey depends on the right steps being taken first towards jointness and integration

Three PFI men get lifer in 2010 case

Unlawful

in a press release.

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Friday that a Special Trial Court in Ernakulam, Kerala has sentenced three out of the six Popular Front of India (PFI) members to life imprisonment in the 2010 case of attempted murder involving the chopping off of a professor's

searching for a chargesheeted accused named Savad, who palm. According to the NIA, the convicted individuals Sajil, was involved in the brutal attack and is currently absconding. Savad is also a member of the banned orga-Najeeb, and MK Nazar have been given life sentences along with a fine of Rs 50,000 each. nization Popular Front of India The remaining three individu-(PFI), the statement added. als convicted on Thursday, MK Nausha, PP Moideenkunu, and to kill Professor TJ Joseph by

PM Ayoob, have been sentenced to three years in prison. The court also ordered

that a compensation of Rs 4 Prophet Mohammed in a queslakh be provided to the victim tion paper prepared for B.Com students at Newman College in Thodupuzha, Idukki district. from the fines collected from the convicts. "All six accused

Post SOPs for bringing back mortal remains of Indians who die abroad, SC to MEA

were found guilty under the PNS 📕 NEW DELHI Indian Penal Code (IPC),

Activities The Delhi High Court has directed the Ministry of (Prevention) Act, and the Explosive Substances Act. They were convicted of promoting External Affairs (MEA) to enmity between different reliprominently post on its website gious groups and engaging in terrorist acts," stated the agency and widely circulate the standard operating procedure (SOP) followed for bringing The NIA is currently back the mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.

A bench headed by Justice Najmi Waziri said such guidelines, including information about a welfare fund created for this purpose, should be widely circulated in the public domain, and asked airlines The accused had conspired operating from the country to consider hosting the SOP on chopping off his right palm, their websites for Indians flyallegedly in response to derogaing abroad.

"The court is of the view tory remarks he made about that .. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the 'Guidelines on Indian Community Welfare Fund

established in Indian Missions/Posts Abroad' should be accessible and widely circulated in the public domain. Therefore, the MEA is direct-

ed to prominently post and make accessible the said SOP and Guidelines on its website, if not already available, within one week from the date of receipt of copy of this order," said the bench, also comprising Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, in an order dated July 13.

The court's order came on a plea dealing with issues arishere. ing from the death of an Indian man in the Maldives. The central government counsel said Bhuyan, who was the chief justhe SOP for transportation of mortal remains of both Indian tourists and workers are already in place. The court noted in case of Indian tourists, ordinarily, all Indian Missions coordinate with the family of the deceased. judges on Wednesday.

Minister YS Jagan Mohan

Reddy. "Naidu is politically isolat-ed, failed and trying to hurt CJI administers oath of office to Hindu sentiments by accusing that TTD and Jagan led Government are supporting two new judges Christian conversion kind lies. Pawan Kalyani is also doing **New Delhi:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud same kind of malicious propaganda. I am appearing for TTD on Friday administered the in a defamation case against oath of office to Justice Ujjal Andhra Jyothi newspaper and Bhuyan and Justice S they are facing criminal and civil Venkatanarayana Bhatti as cases. These leaders will also face judges of the Supreme Court. the same fate," said Swamy.

"Naidu must limit himself to political works. While associating with Sonia Gandhi in the last election, now he is pretending as champion of Hindus. He must prove his allegations against TTD and its Srivani Trust or otherwise desist from fake propagandas," added Swami.

the apex court's auditorium Srivani Trust is formed by TTD few years ago to route the money received for VIP Darshan by fixing Rs.10,500 The Government had cleared the names of Justice from devotee As per the whitepaper issued by TTD, tice of the Telangana High Rs.10,000 is used for rebuilding, Court, and Justice Bhatti, his counterpart in Kerala, for elerehabilitation of old temples and temples in socially vation as judges of the top court on July 12. Law Minister depressed areas. Srivani Trust Arjun Ram Meghwal had was created to avoid brokers announced elevation of two making money for VIP darshan PNS in temple for ages. PNS

then dragged out of the vehicle and beaten with iron rods adding two of the assailants also video-recorded the attack. "They were repeatedly raising the slogan "Khalistan Zindabad" the whole time," he was quoted as saying in the report. "Everything happened within 5 minutes, and they left saying this should be a lesson for me for opposing the

Khalistan issue. If not, they are ready to give me more lessons like this," he said. The New South Wales (NSF) Police were informed about the incident, and the Indian student was taken to Westmead Hospital with major injuries to his head, leg, and arm, the report said.

"Police have been told a 23vear-old man was walking along Rupert Street before he was assaulted by four men armed with a metal pole," a police spokesperson was quoted as saying in the report. "The 23-year-old was allegedly kicked, punched, and hit with the metal pole repeatedly before the four men left the scene in a grey sedan," the spokesperson added.

Plastic pollution on coral reefs alarming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Researchers have uncovered the alarming Rextent of plastic pollution in coral reefs, with fishing gear plastic accounting for nearly threequarters of the plastic debris found in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans.

In a study published in the journal Nature, an international team of researchers from the California Academy of Sciences, the University of Sao Paulo, the University of Oxford, and other collaborators conducted over 1,200 visual surveys across 84 shallow and mesophotic reef ecosystems in 14 countries. Mesophotic reefs exist between 30 and 150 meters deep, also known as the 'twilight zone.

The study revealed that debris increased with depth and was correlated with proximity to marine protected areas. The researchers have called for immediate management plans to conserve these unique and ecologically important

ecosystems, similar to their shallow-water counterparts. Of the total debris found, 88% consisted of macroplastics larger than five centimeters. Human-derived debris was present in almost all locations surveyed, including remote and pristine coral reefs near uninhabited islands in the central Pacific.

The lowest density of plastic pollution was observed in the Marshall Islands, while the highest was recorded at Comoros, an island chain off the southeast coast of Africa, with nearly 84,500 items per square kilometer.

The study found that coral reefs were more contaminated by plastics compared to other marine ecosystems evaluated, and contamination increased with depth, reaching its peak in mesophotic zone. Luiz Rocha, senior author of study and curator of ichthyology at the California Academy of Sciences, noted, "It was surprising to find that debris increased with depth since deeper reefs, in general, are farther from sources of plastic pollution."

new Consulate in Marseille New Delhi/Paris (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that India will open a Consulate in the

India to open

southern French city of Marseille. He made the announce-

ment during a joint press state-ment with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace here.

Stressing that there have been deep people-to-people ties between India and France for a long time, Modi said India will open a new Consulate in health body. Marseille. Modi also welcomed France's decision of giving long-term visas to Indians who used in various food and bevhave studied in France.

It is also used in dairy products such as yogurt, breakfast cereal, toothpaste and medica-The World Health Organisation (WHO) on tions such as cough drops and Health chewable vitamins.

Artificial sweetener possibly carcinogen,

safe if consumed in moderation: WHO

Friday formally labelled artifi-The assessment of the cial sweetener aspartame as a health impacts of the non-"possible carcinogen" specifi-cally used in diet drinks, chewsugar sweetener aspartame was released by the International ing gum, gelatin and ice cream. Agency for Research on Cancer But it remains safe to consume (IARC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the in moderation and at already agreed levels, said the global Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Joint Aspartame is an artificial Expert Committee on Food (chemical) sweetener widely Additives (JECFA). Citing "limited evidence" for carcinogenicity in humans, IARC erage products since the 1980s.

classified aspartame as possibly carcinogenic to humans and JECFA reaffirmed the acceptable daily intake of 40 mg per kg body weight. "Cancer is one of the leading causes of death globally.

Every year, 1 in 6 people die from cancer. Science is continuously expanding to assess the possible initiating or facilitating factors of cancer, in the hope of reducing these numbers and the human toll," said Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO.



money 09

Sensex closes above 66,0000-mark NCLAT sets aside RIL order

Achieves feat for first time, Nifty settles at new record high PTI MUMBAI

 $B_{closed\ above\ the\ historic}^{enchmark\ BSE\ Sensex}_{66,000\ mark\ for\ the\ first\ time}$ while NSE Nifty hit a new all-time closing high on Friday driven by heavy buying in IT counters and fresh foreign fund inflows.

Optimism in global equity markets also helped the local markets maintain their winning momentum for a second day. The 30-share BSE Sensex

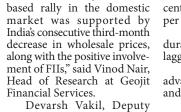
jumped 502.01 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at its new alltime closing high of 66,060.90. During the day, it rallied 600.9 points or 0.91 per cent to hit its



all-time intra-day peak of Wipro, Tata Steel, Nestle, Asian 66,159.79 Paints, Larsen & Toubro and The NSE Nifty went up by Hindustan Unilever were also

150.75 points or 0.78 per cent to end at a new record high of 19,564.50. During the day, it reached its lifetime intra-day peak of 19,595.35, registering a ump of 181.6 points or 0.93 per cent.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services jumped over 5 per cent and Tech Mahindra rallied 4.51 per cent. Infosys, HCL Technologies,



Furthermore, the broad-

tributed to the strong buying of

Indian IT stocks despite muted

Q1 earnings.

Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said that benchmark indices settled at their fresh record closing highs on Friday on gains led by shares of IT majors.

Positive global cues, amid expectations that the US among the major gainers. On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Federal Reserve may pause rate hikes after July, also gave Grid, Titan, Maruti, UltraTech a fillip to domestic markets, he Cement, NTPC and Axis Bank were among the laggards. "The controlled inflation in said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.14 per cent and midcap index jumped 1 per cent.

Among the indices, IT zoomed 4.30 per cent, teck

jumped 3.74 per cent, metal (1.37 per cent), realty (1.19 per cent), services (1.14 per cent), telecommunication (1.08 per cent) and commodities (0.81 per cent).

Utilities, consumer durables and power were the laggards.

A total of 2,206 stocks advanced while 1,212 declined and 149 remained unchanged. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trad-ing mostly with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. The wholesale price-based

inflation rate declined to (-) 4.12 per cent in June on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,237.93 crore after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

NCLT had directed RIL for stakeholders nod for transfer of RPPMSL's Digital EPC assets

TRIBUNAL

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The National Company Law **I** Appellate **T**ribunal (NCLAT) on Friday set aside the order of NCLT, which had directed RIL to get stakeholders' consent for the transfer of the Digital EPC Company on a going concern basis from RPPMSL into the company.

The NCLAT said the transfer of Digital EPC Undertaking from the wholly-owned sub-sidiary RPPMSL (of RIL) into the parent/transferee company RIL by way of the demerger is akin to the merger of the wholly-owned subsidiary with the parent company RIL.

is allowed and disposed of "We set aside the Impugned Order dated 11.5.2023 and direct that the accordingly". convening and holding of meetings of Equity Shareholders, Secured and Unsecured Creditors of the Appellant Company RIL is dis-

shareholders or to hold the meeting before the final hearing in view of huge credit exposure.

NCLT also directed RIL to serve notice to all their respec-ATIONAL COMPANY LA tive creditors with instructions that they may submit their representations before it within 30 days.

This was challenged by RIL before the appellate tripensed with and further conbunal contending that RPPMsent affidavits of 90% of the SL is a wholly-owned subtotal value of shareholders and secured creditors and all unsesidiary of RIL and accordingly no consideration is pro-posed to be paid by RIL to cured creditors will not be necessary at this stage," said RPPMSL upon implementation It further said: "The appeal of the Scheme.

The Scheme does not involve the issue of shares by RIL, it said.

However, the imports from China dipped to USD 23.6 billion in the first quarter of

this fiscal as compared to USD

24.31 billion in April-June

from the UAE too declined to USD 10.31 billion in the first

The inbound shipments

On the export front, the

The Mumbai bench of the Equity Shareholders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on June 6, RIL will not be impacted as 2023, directed RIL to obtain there will be no dilution of their consent affidavits of at least 90 shareholding in RIL postper cent of the value of total implementation of the Scheme, secured creditors and equity it said.

last year.

2022.

Exports decline by 22% to USD 32.97 bn in June, steepest monthly fall in 3 years chemicals, gems and jewellery, PTI 📕 NEW DEI HI 4.11 billion in the same period

 I_{22}^{ndias} exports contracted by per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to USD 32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe.

According to the data of the commerce ministry, the trade deficit in June stood at USD 20.3 billion against USD 22.07 billion in the same month last year due to a fall in exports and

imports. The inbound shipments during the month under review declined by a steep 17.48 per cent to USD 53.10 billion.

Exports in May 2020 contracted by 36.47 per cent when the world was reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the numbers, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said trade sector growth is in the hands of global factors.

As the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has pro-jected a slowdown in world trade, "that fear is coming true", he added.

inflation in June 2023 is pri-

marily due to fall in prices of

mineral oils, food products,

basic metals, crude petroleum

and natural gas and textiles,"

the Ministry of Commerce

Citing reasons for the dip in trade growth, he said there is a slowdown in major economies, including the US and Europe; and inflationary pressure.

in May

He also attributed the slowdown to the tightening of monetary policies by the rich nations as it is affecting manufacturing and businesses. Export promotion councils

the US has instilled optimism

among investors that a 25-bps

rate hike would be adequate to

stabilise the US economy. This

improved prospect has con-

are expecting the demand to pick up in the coming months. "From July, there should be pick up," the secretary said.

Cumulatively, exports dipped by 15.13 per cent to

USD 102.68 billion during April-June this fiscal. Imports too declined by 12.67 per cent to USD 160.28 billion.

The trade deficit during April-June 2023 improved by 7.9 pc to USD 57.6 billion from USD 62.6 billion in the same period last year.

Oil imports in June con-tracted by 33.8 per cent to USD 12.54 billion, while during the April-June quarter, the ship-ments slipped 18.52 per cent to USD 43.4 billion

about USD 5 billion, while it dipped by 7.54 per cent to USD 9.7 billion in the April-June quarter.

The ministry said that India's trade performance, after witnessing "very high" growth in 2022-23, has shown declin-

ing trends compared to the high base of last year in the backdrop of a global slowdown.

As per the World Bank Global Economic Prospects report (June 2023), the global economy is set to slow substantially in 2023 to 2.1 per cent after growing at 3.1 per cent last On the exports front, 21 of

of all textiles, engineering,

leather and marine. However, exports of electronic goods increased by 45.36

NCLAT.

per cent in June to USD 2.43 billion. During April-June 2023, these exports rose by 47 per cent to USD 6.96 billion.

Silver imports slumped by 94.36 per cent from USD 0.79 billion in the month under review. According to the data,

quarter of this fiscal as com-pared to USD 13.55 billion in April-June 2022. imports from Russia jumped to USD 16 billion during Aprilcountry's shipments have June this fiscal from USD 6.91 billion in the same period last recorded positive growth in the

Netherlands, the UK, and Saudi Imports from Switzerland Arabia. It declined to China, rose to USD 5 billion during UAE, USA, Germany, Italy and April-June this fiscal from USD Bangladesh.

Wholesale inflation falls to 8-yr low of (-) 4.12% in June

PTI NEW DELHI

The deflation in the whole-sale price continued for the third month in a row in June, with WPI contracting to a nearly eight-year low at (-) 4.12 per cent on account falling prices of food products, fuel and basic metals, according to official data released on Friday.

and Industry said in a release The Wholesale Price Index As per the data, the index (WPI) based inflation stood at for fuel and power contracted (-) 3.48 per cent in May and at by 12.63 per cent in June, pri-16.23 per cent in June 2022. mary articles by 2.87 per cent, and manufactured products The lowest WPI was recorded at (-) 4.76 per cent in October by 2.71 per cen 2015 The decline in WPI is in 1.24 per cent. contrast with June retail infla-

tion which inched up to 4.8 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent food articles compared to May contracted by 2.40 per cent, crude petroleum and natural "The decline in the rate of

gas by 3.01 per cent, and minerals by 4.32 per cent. Also, prices of mineral oils (-2.30 per cent) and electricity (- 2.96 per cent) declined in June on a sequential basis.

Regarding manufactured products, the release said 11 groups witnessed a decrease in prices while 9 groups saw an increase in prices in June. The decrease in prices was

mainly due to basic metals; al and chemical prod The food index shrank by ucts; textiles; rubber and plastic products; and paper and In June, the prices of nonpaper products, among others.

India, UK working to iron out issues on IPRs, rules of origin under proposed FTA

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

India and the UK are working to iron out differences on issues like intellectual property rights (IPRs) and rules of origin under the free trade agreement being negotiated by the two countries, a top government official said on Friday.

The 11th round of talks is underway in the UK for the agreement. Negotiations for the trade agreement started in

January 2021. C mmerc

ters there are certain important on those issues. Hopefully, we contentious issues pertaining to environment, labour, and digital trade.

This agreement is the "most complex" one which will be going to be signed by India, he told reporters here. "UK will be the first with

which we are going to have a comprehensive FTA which we have not signed with any other developed country as such," he added.

There are some differences ect to IPR and rules h resn

will be able to close it and has recently stated that the move," he added.

The 'rules of origin' provision prescribes minimal processing that should happen in the FTA country so that the final manufactured product may be called originating goods in that country.

FTA Talks. Under this provision, a country that has inked an FTA the two countries for the agreewith India cannot dump goods ment cover as many as 26 polfrom some third country in the icv areas/chapters Investment is being negotiated as a separate Indian market by just putting a label on it. It has ertal agree

the free trade agreement. tain dumping of goods. The commerce ministry

invest

Commerce and Industry

The negotiations between

Minister Piyush Goyal was in

London from July 10-12 for the

ent (bilateral

The two countries last year missed the deadline due to India-UK talks for a free trade unprecedented economic and agreement have reached a "critpolitical crises in the UK.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals in the UK market and entry of Indian whiskey by removal of conditions pertaining to the threeyear minimum maturation period.

The UK is also seeking a significant cut in the import ties on Scot Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services into the Indian markets.

the 30 key sectors exhibited

However, gold imports in June rose 82.38 per cent to

negative growth in June. These include petroleum products, plastic, ready-made garments

Barthwal said that out of 26 chapters in the agreement, 14 have been closed. In five chap-

of origin (ROO).

"In services also, there are few issues...So we are working

a prescribed value addition in that product to export to India. Rules of origin norms help con-

ment treaty) between India and the UK and it would be concluded simultaneously with

ical stage".

FROM PAGE 1

INDIA'S CHANDRAYAAN 3 HEADS TO MOON

"This day is an indication of a dream Vikram Sarabhai saw six decades ago. He might have been short of resources but never short of confidence. Sarabhai and his team had faith in themselves, in India's potential, and its acumen," Singh added, speaking about the late Vikram Sarabhai, hailed as the Father of India's space programme. Earlier, every announcement from the MCC on the successful "separation" of the respective modules was received with cheers and applause. Singh and a host of former ISRO chiefs were present to witness the launch. "The LVM3 rocket is a composite of three modules — propulsion, lander, and rover," explained Project Director P Veeramuthuvel. "Following the separation from the launch vehicle, the propulsion module along with the lander would proceed for an over a month-long journey towards reaching the orbit of the moon until it goes 100 km above the lunar surface." "We are in the process of increasing the launch frequency of this vehicle considering the national requirements as well as satellite demands," stated Mission Director S Mohana Kumar.

"All the spacecraft health parameters, including power gen-eration in the propulsion module and lander module, were normal," assured Project Director P Veeramuthuvel.

Singh, lauded ISRO's achievements, saying, "I think Chandrayaan has gone beyond the limit of the sky to explore the unexplored horizons of the universe beyond."

This day is an indication of a dream Vikram Sarabhai saw six decades ago. He might have been short of resources but never short of confidence. Sarabhai and his team had faith in themselves, in India's potential, and its acumen," Singh added. The LVM3 rocket, known as 'Fat boy' for its heavy-lift capability, soared majestically from the spaceport, leaving a trail of thick orange smoke.

Today's event is a moment of glory for India and a moment of destiny for all those in Sriharikota," Jitendra Singh expressed. The mission aims to develop and demonstrate new technologies required for inter-planetary missions, according to ISRO. Chandrayaan 3's significance lies in its payload, the SHAPE, which is an experimental instrument to study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the Earth in the near-infrared wavelength range.

The soft landing on the lunar surface is planned for August 23 or 24, with the lander module expected to descend on the moon's south pole region. "The moon's south pole region has been chosen for the exploration because it remains much larger than that at the North pole. There could be a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it," explained ISRO officials. The Chandrayaan-3 mission, with its indigenous propulsion module, lander module, and rover, is expected to support future interplanetary missions. ISRO officials have put meticulous effort into ensuring a successful landing in August, and the LVM3 rocket has already demonstrated its reliability in previous missions. "The launch vehicle has proved its versatility to undertake the most complex missions, including injecting multi-satellites and interplanetary missions," said ISRO. The earlier missions of Chandrayaan were held in 2008 and 2019, and the launch window for Chandrayaan-3 was fixed during the month of July to take advantage of the closer proximity between the earth and the moon. The

mission holds immense promise for India's space exploration endeavors and will contribute to further advancements in understanding the lunar surface and beyond.

MODI ATTENDS BASTILLE DAY PARADE IN FRANCE

The French President arrived in an open vehicle with soldiers in horses, jeeps and bikes marching along with him. He also waved at the people who had gathered to witness the parade on France's National Day. Champs-Elysees was coloured in red, blue and white - colours of the French Flag. French First Lady Brigitte Macron and France's Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne received Prime Minister Modi to the Bastille Day Parade. Modi arrived at the Champs-Elysees in a traditional off-white kurta and pyjama paired with a navy blue jacket. The French National Day, or Bastille Day, occupies a special place in the French consciousness as it commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution in 1789. The Bastille Day parade is the highlight of the celebrations.

MODI HONOURED WITH FRANCE'S HIGHEST AWARD

Modi was also the Guest of Honour for this year's French National Day on Friday also called the Bastille Day. Indian Rafale jets participated in a flypast in Paris and a 270-strong tri-Service marching contingent led by a woman officer took part in the parade. President Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the parade. "It is with great humility that I accept the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. This is an honour for the 140 crore people of India. I thank President @EmmanuelMacron, the French overnment and people for this gesture. It shows their deep affection towards India and resolve for furthering friendship with our nation," Modi tweeted. The conferring of the 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor' on PM@narendramodi is a recognition of his commitment to India-France ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. "It also reflects his international standing and contribution to addressing key global issues. Join in extending best wishes to PM@narendramodi whose leadership in world affairs is an inspiration for so many," Jaishankar, who is currently in Jakarta, Indonesia, tweeted. "A warm gesture embodying the spirit of partnership. PM @narendramodi conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest award in France by President @EmmanuelMacron," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. The Prime Minister, who is on a twoday visit to Paris, received the honour at the Elysee Palace and joined the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles - the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others. The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour given by France is another in a series of top international awards and honours bestowed by various countries on Prime Minister Modi. These include Order of the Nile by Egypt in June 2023, Companion of the Order of Logohu by Papua New Guinea in May

2023, Companion of the Order of Fiji in May 2023, Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau in May 2023, Order of the Druk Gyalpo by Bhutan in 2021, Legion of Merit by the US Government in 2020 King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain in 2019, Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin by Maldives in 2019.

Modi received the Order of St.Andrew Award from Russia in 2019, and the Order of Zayed Award from the UAE in 2019. He also received the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award in 2018, the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan from Afghanistan in 2016 and the Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud from Saudia Arabia in 2016. Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, The Legion of Honour is divided into five classes (lower to higher). The colour of the ribbon is red and the badge is a fivearmed Maltese asterisk hung on an oak and laurel wreath.

Although the membership to the award is restricted to French nationals, foreign nationals who serve France or uphold its ideals may also be given a distinction of the Legion. Earlier, the French President and First Lady Brigitte Macron hosted a private dinner for Modi at the Elysee Palace. On Thursday evening, Modi addressed the Indian diaspora here and announced an agreement for the use of UPI in France, opening a huge new market for Indian innovation in cashless instant payment. In his nearly hour-long speech to the enthusiastic crowd at the La Seine Musicale -- a performing arts centre on an island in the river Seine - Modi outlined India's fast-paced development and asserted that while the world is moving towards a new order, India's strength and role is also changing very quickly. Modi announced the opening of a new Indian consulate in Marseille in France and told the cheerful audience that Indian students doing masters in the European country will now get five-year-long post-study work visas.

SC ISSUES NOTICE TO MAH SPEAKER

The petition, filed through advocates Nishanth Patil and Amit Anand Tiwari, invoked Article 32 of the Constitution of India, highlighting the Speaker's deliberate delay in adjudicating the disqualification petitions. It stated, "The petitioner is constrained to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court... due to the respondent Speaker's conduct in choosing to deliberately delay the adjudication of the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against the delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly." The petition further highlighted that despite the Supreme Court's clear direction to decide the pending dis-qualification petitions within a reasonable period, the Speaker has not conducted a single hearing. It mentioned the petitioner's multiple representations to convene hearings in the disqualification matters, emphasizing the Speaker's disregard for his constitutional duties as a neutral arbiter. This has allowed Eknath Shinde to continue serving as Chief Minister while the disqualification petitions remain pending. Therefore, the petition urged the court to direct the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to expeditiously decide the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against the delinquent members within a time-bound manner. The petitioner specifically sought a direction to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petitions filed on June 23, 2022, June 25, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 3, 2022, and July 5, 2022, under the provisions of the 10th schedule of

the Constitution. The petitioner requested that the Speaker make a decision preferably within two weeks.

MAHA CABINET REJIG: NCP'S AJIT BAGS FINANCE, 8 MORE GET MINISTRIES

The current strength of the Maharashtra Cabinet is 29, 14 short of the stipulated 43 Ministers — a number that accounts for 15 percent of 288 members in the State Assembly. After the induction of nine NCP MLAs, including Ajit Pawar, in the State government, there was intense clamour both within the Shinde Sena and BJP for ministerial berths. However, Shinde has kept his Cabinet expansion on hold for the time being since such an expansion would lead to discontentment within the Shinde-led Shiv Sena and BJP where there are more ministry aspirants than the ministerial vacancies currently.

CONG LIKELY TO DECIDE ON DELHI ORDINANCE ISSUE BEFORE OPP MEET

However, Sonia has personally extended a dinner invitation to the AAP on the occasion of the opposition meet involving 24 arties, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited the AAP to participate in the Bengaluru meeting.

The AAP, led by Arvind Kejriwal, has set a precondition for its attendance in any future opposition meetings, demanding clarification from Congress on the ordinance issue.

A senior Congress leader stated that with Sonia's attendance at the July 17-18 meeting, the party is unlikely to escalate the matter and risk an AAP boycott, which would create negative optics. Sonia's presence has increased the significance of the opposition meeting, but Congress has not indicated how it intends to resolve the stalemate. The previous meeting in Patna was convened by JDU leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and it was attended by 17 opposition parties, including Kejriwal, who expressed dissatisfaction with the Congress's demand for parliamentary support. Reportedly, Kharge assured Kejriwal in Patna that Congress cannot support any unconstitutional actions and would announce its stance at the appropriate time. However, Kejriwal urged Congress to make its stand public soon after the meeting. The Congress is torn between supporting Kejriwal as it faces strong opposition from its Delhi and Punjab units, where AAP is the main opponent. Leaders from Delhi and Punjab are also pointing out how Rahul Gandhi himself closed the doors to an alliance with the BRS in Telangana, and they want a similar approach with the AAP. The Congress has labeled Kejriwal as a conspirator for seizing power from Sheila Dikshit, who had a successful 15-year rule in the national capital. The party was reduced to zero representation in the Delhi Assembly due to fabricated and false charges against Sheila and the grand old party by the incumbent Chief Minister. However, a senior leader noted that the central leadership of Congress is not keen on antagonizing the AAP, especially when the entire opposition is joining forces to oust the BJP government led by Narendra Modi in the 2024 General Elections.



world 10

'Wagner mercenaries had option to stay as a single unit'

AP MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin Rsaid he offered mercenaries from the Wagner private military company the option of continuing to serve as a single unit under their same commander when he met with them after the group's brief revolt last month that posed the most serious threat to his 23-year rule.

Putin's comments, published Friday, appeared to reflect his efforts to secure the loyalty of Wagner mercenaries, some of the most capable Russian forces in Ukraine, while the fate of their chief, Yevgeny Prigozhin, remains unclear.

They also came amid new cracks appearing in the Russian military as the war grinds through its 17th month and Ukraine conducts a counteroffensive against the invading forces.

In remarks to the business daily Kommersant, Putin for the first time described a Kremlin event attended by 35 Wagner commanders, including Prigozhin, on June 29, five days after their armed rebellion.

He said he praised their efforts in Ukraine, deplored their involvement in the mutiny - which he previously denounced as an act of treason - and offered them alternatives for future service.

Putin told Kommersant that one

option would see Wagner keep the same commander who goes by the call name "Gray Hair" and has led the private army in Ukraine for 16 months.

"All of them could have gathered in one place and continued to serve," Putin told the newspaper, "And nothing would have changed for them. They would have been led by the same person who had been their real commander all along."

Putin said many Wagner troops nodded in approval at the proposal, but Prigozhin, who was sitting in front and didn't see their reaction, quickly rejected the idea, responding that "the boys won't agree with such a decision?

Putin didn't mention where and in what numbers Wagner could be deployed under his offer, or say what proposal the forces eventually accepted, if any.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to elaborate on Wagner's future in Friday's conference call with reporters. Putin has previously said Wagner troops had to choose whether to sign contracts with the Defense Ministry, move to neighbouring Belarus or retire from service.

Speaking to Kommersant, Putin emphasised that "rank-and-file soldiers of Wagner have fought honor-



Russian President Vladimir Putin answers journalists' questions about the grain deal in Moscow Russia on Thursday.

ably" in Ukraine, adding that "it's a cause for regret that they were drawn" into the mutiny.

Putin's remarks came in an interview with a Kommersant reporter who has special access to the presi-

dent. They appeared to be part of efforts to denigrate Prigozhin while trying to maintain control over Wagner mercenaries and secure their loyalty. The Russian president,

AP/PTI who previously denied any links between the government and Wagner, acknowledged after the mutiny that Prigozhin's company has received billions of dollars from the state and noted that investigators would probe whether any of the funds had been stolen, a warning to Prigozhin that he could face financial crimes.

State-controlled media have posted videos and photos of

Petersburg, including stacks of cash, gold bars and fake passports.

The images appeared to be part of a smear campaign against the Wagner chief, who has portrayed himself as an enemy of corrupt elites even though he owes his wealth to Putin. Putin also said Wagner has operated without legal basis. "There is no law on private military organizations. It simply doesn't exist," he told Kommersant, adding that the government and the parliament have yet to discuss the issue of private military contractors. In the revolt that lasted less than 24 hours on June 23-24, Prigozhin's mercenaries quickly swept through the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and captured the military headquarters there without firing a shot, before driving to within about 200 kilometres (125 miles) of Moscow

Prigozhin called it a "march of justice" to oust Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov, who demanded that Wagner sign contracts with the Defense Ministry by July 1. The mutiny faced little resistance and fighters downed at least six military helicopters and a command post aircraft, killing at least 10 airmen.Prigozhin ordered his mercenaries back to their camps after strik-

Prigozhin's opulent mansion in St. ing a deal to end the rebellion in exchange for an amnesty for him and his men, and permission to move to Belarus

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who brokered the deal, has said Prigozhin was in Russia while Wagner's troops were in their field camps. He didn't specify the camps'

location but Prigozhin's mercenaries fought alongside Russian forces in eastern Ukraine before their revolt and also have bases in Russia. Lukashenko said his military could benefit from the private army's combat experience, and Belarusian state TV broadcast video Friday of Wagner instructors training Belarusian territorial defence forces at a firing range near Asipovichy, where a camp offered to Wagner is located.A Belarusian messaging app channel said Prigozhin spent a night at the camp earlier this week and posted a photo of him inside a tent. While the fate of Prigozhin

remains cloudy, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday that Wagner was handing over its weapons to the Russian military. That appeared to show attempts by Russian authorities to defuse the threat posed by the mercenaries and also seemed to herald an end to the group's operations in Ukraine.

1 killed, 2 hurt in stabbing at aid centre in Dutch city of Leide

The Hague (AP): One man was killed and two people injured, one seriously, in a stabbing on Friday at a church-run center that houses several aid organisations in the Dutch university city of Leiden, police said.A man entered the centre, a former bakery in the historic heart of the university city, just before 9.30 am and "for as yet unclear reasons stabbed the victims and then fled," police said in a statement.A 66-year-old man "was so badly injured that he died at the scene, two others were taken to a hospital," police said. The chairman of the centre, Bert Verweij, told regional broadcaster Omroep West that the three wounded people were a staff member, a volunteer and a worker at one of the organisations that uses the centre. The centre houses organisations that offer help to people including homeless people, migrants and asylum-seekers. Police appealed for assistance in tracking down the suspect, but warned members of the public

not to approach him.

with self-governed Taiwan,

which Beijing considers its

own territory to be diplomat-ically isolated and annexed by

force if necessary. "The status quo of the

Taiwan Strait may only be

changed by peaceful means

and mutual consent," it said.

"Military escalation would also

affect German and European

for cooperation across issues of

global concern, particularly

the climate crisis. The strategy

was released a few weeks after Scholz and about half of his

Cabinet hosted a delegation led

by new Chinese Premier Li

Qiang, whose visit to Berlin

was his first foreign trip since

becoming China's No. 2 official

Both Scholz and

The document also called

interests.'

in March.

'China has penetrated every sector, poses spy threat to UK'

PTI LONDON

China's size and ambition has enabled it to successfully penetrate every sector of the UK's economy, an influential parliamentary panel has said, warning that Beijing's national imperative continues to become a technological and economic superpower on which other countries are reliant, which represents the "greatest risk" to the UK.

The House of Commons Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) said in a wide-ranging report released on Thursday that the intelligence threat posed by China is compounded by a "whole-ofstate" approach with the use of state and non-state players for spying. China's national imperative continues to be the dominance and governance of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and at a global level, to become a technological and economic superpower on

resources dedicated by the

UK to tackling the threat posed carried out by its intelligence officers," it said. by China's so-called "whole-ofstate" approach has been "com-

ments

pletely inadequate". "China almost certainly maintains the largest state intelligence apparatus in the world dwarfing the UK's Intelligence Community and presenting a challenge for our agencies to cover," the report

notes.

"As a result, our agencies' work has to be targeted on those aspects that are most damaging. However, the probfew questions asked," it said. lem is compounded by China's whole-of-state' approach," it said. "In practice, this means that Chinese state-owned and ence activities, which it opernon-state-owned companies, as well as academic and cultural establishments and ordinary Chinese citizens, are liable it adds. to be (willingly or unwillingly) co-opted into espionage and interference operations overseas: much of the impact that China has on national securiwhich other countries are ty is overt - through its eco-

reliant, which represents the nomic might, its takeovers and "greatest risk" to the UK, it said. mergers, its interaction with It cautioned that the level Academia and Industry – as opposed to the covert activity

Iraqi officials China flays German call for reducing defend barter deal with Iran

Baghdad (AP): Iraqi officials defended on Thursday a deal inked this week to barter oil for The ISC review is critical of the UK government approach, which until the pandemic readgas with Iran, saying it does not ily accepted Chinese investviolate US sanctions on Tehran but will help alleviate a worsen-"China's size, ambition and capability have enabled it to ing electricity crisis in Iraq. The remarks come as the government successfully penetrate every sector of the UK's economy, in Baghdad struggles to balance between its two key allies, Washington and Tehran. A preand - until the Covid-19 pandemic - Chinese money was vious arrangement in which readily accepted by HMG [His Iraq was buying gas from Iran Majesty's Government] with and paying dollars for it was held up because Washington declined "China's ruthless targeting to approve sanctions waivers. is not just economic: it is sim-That in turn led Iran to cut the ilarly aggressive in its interfergas supply, triggering severe power shortages in Iraq.

ates to advance its own inter-After decades of electricity shortages because of war, corrupests, values and narrative at the expense of those of the West," tion, oil-rich Iraq has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas to meet its electrici-The ISC called for tougher action in the government's "robust" and "clear-eyed" ty needs. The shortages in recent months are in part due to US approach to China, as it found restrictions on transferring funds to Iran. Imports from Iran are that external experts believe it especially vital during summers when Iraqis are forced to pay for was singularly failing to deploy whole-of-government approach when countering the private diesel generators or sufthreat from China – "a damn-ing appraisal indeed". fer through temperatures that rrees Celsius

AP BEIJING

China on Friday criticised a German government call for reducing dependency on Chinese products and decreasing other potentially unstable factors in bilateral relations, calling it a form of protectionism. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that a long-awaited German government strategy for relations with China that pointed to a "systemic rivalry" went "against the trend of the times, and will only aggravate divisions in the world.

Wang said the two countries were "partners rather than rivals," a typical ruling Chinese Communist Party formulation for dismissing criti-"We believe that to engage

in competition and protectionism in the name of de-risking and reducing dependency, and to overstretch the concept of security and politicise normal cooperation will only be counterproductive and create artificial risks," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

Germany has Europe

that surging

far-right party

biggest economy and its strategy seeks to balance robust trade ties with China, its biggest single trading partner in recent years, against wariness over Beijing's growing assertiveness and refusal to criticise Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The 64-page document approved by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Cabinet builds on Germany's first national security strategy, issued a month ago.Scholz's three-party coaliclear that Germany wouldn't be tion had pledged when it took deterred from doing business

dependency on Chinese products office in late 2021 to draw up a "comprehensive China strategy." In introducing the strat-egy, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that "for Germany, China remains a partner, competitor and systemic rival, but the aspect of systemic rivalry has in recent years increasingly come to the fore?

"Anyone who listens to China knows with what self-confidence it will decisively influence the development of our world — more repressive at home and more offensive abroad," Baerbock said. "China has changed and so our China policy must change too."

In its strategy, the government said it is committed to ensuring that economic cooperation with China "becomes fairer, more sustainable and more reciprocal."

Baerbock, making a solo visit It noted that "whereas earlier this year, have pushed China to use its close relations China's dependencies on Europe are constantly declinwith Russia to advocate for an ing, Germany's dependencies end to the war in Ukraine. on China have taken on greater significance in recent years." The strategy also made

Temperatures were still

expected to reach 40 degrees

Celsius in at least 12 of Spain's

17 regions on Friday, although

lower from a high of 45 degrees

(113 Fahrenheit) that scorched

the southeastern town of Albox

on Wednesday.

to come.

That has elicited a public Chinese commitment not to help arm Russia, but appears to have had no effect on Beijing's warm ties with Moscow.

US sets a grim milestone with new record for deadliest six months of mass killings

AP NEW YORK

Clain at the hands of strangers **J**or gunned down by loved ones. Massacred in small towns, in big cities, inside their own homes or outside in broad daylight. This year's unrelenting bloodshed across the US has led to the grimmest of milestones: The deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least 2006.

From January 1 to June 30, the nation endured 28 mass killings, all but one of which involved guns. The death toll rose just about every week, a constant cycle of violence and grief.

Six months. 181 days. 28 mass killings. 140 victims. One country

"What a ghastly milestone," said Brent Leatherwood, whose

Nashville on March 27 when a former student killed three children and three adults. "You never think your family would be a part of a statistic like that." 2006.

Leatherwood, a prominent Republican in a state that hasn't strengthened gun laws, believes something must be done to get guns out of the hands of people who might become violent. The shock of seeing the bloodshed strike so close to home has prompted him to speak out.

"You may as well say Martians have landed, right? It's hard to wrap your mind around it" he caid around it," he said

A mass killing is defined as an occurrence when four or more people are slain, not including the assailant, within

three children were in class at a 24-hour period. A database a private Christian school in maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University tracks this largescale violence dating back to

The 2023 milestone beat the previous record of 27 mass killings, which was only set in the second half of 2022. James Alan Fox, a criminology profes-sor at Northeastern University, never imagined records like this when he began overseeing the database about five years

"We used to say there were two to three dozen a year," Fox said. "The fact that there's 28 in half a year is a staggering statistic.

But the chaos of the first six months of 2023 doesn't automatically doom the last six

months. The remainder of the year could be calmer, despite more violence over the July Fourthholiday weekend.

"Hopefully it was just a blip," said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, a psychiatrist who is the associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis.

'There could be fewer killings later in 2023, or this could be part of a trend. But we won't know for sometime," she added.

Experts like Barnhorst and Fox attribute the rising bloodshed to a growing population with an increased number of guns in the US. Yet for all the headlines, mass killings are statistically rare and represent a fraction of the country's overall gun violence.



Revelers run in front Miura's fighting bulls during the eighth day of the running of the bulls during the San Fermin fiestas in Pamplona, Spain on Friday

Acropolis midday Scholz confident closure leaves tourists in lurch will shrink again

Berlin (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed optimism Friday that support for a far-right party which has been surging in the polls lately will shrink to previous levels again by the time of the next national election in 2025.The far-right Alternative for Germany party received 10.3 per cent of the vote in the last national election in 2021 a slight decline from 2017, when it got 12.6 per cent in the wake of the European migration crisis. Recent polls have shown support for the party, known by its German acronym AfD, at around 20 per cent and ahead of Scholz's centre-left Social Democrats. ital.

"I'm quite confident that AfD won't perform much differently at the next federal election than it did at the last," Scholz told reporters at his annual summer news conference in Berlin.

The German leader said his strategy to achieve this is to pursue policies "that give citizens enough reasons to believe in a good future" — including by showing that the country is in control of its borders and can

curb irregular migration. Scholz also appealed to mainstream parties in Germany's 16 states to keep the consequences of their rivalry in mind.

Some of those regions will hold state elections this year and in 2024, which are seen as key bellwethers for the next national election.

He argued that the "demo-cratic parties" and their supporters make up a broad majority in every state and that there has been no "normalisation" of far-right ideology in mainstream society.

AF

AP NICOSIA (CYPRUS) Disgruntled tourists bemoaned the temporary closing of the Acropolis in Athens on Friday as Greek authorities proactively shut the world monument's gates between midday and early evening amid a heat wave that continues to grip southern Europe.Red Cross staff handed out bottled water to tourists wilting in long lines hoping to beat the closure and scale the steps up to the gleaming Parthenon temple as temperpacked the beaches as the atures were expected to peak above 40 degrees Celsius (104 country enjoyed a short-lived respite from it's second heat-Fahrenheit) in the Greek capwave of the summer.

Some visitors were frustrated at being left in the lurch because they were unaware of Greek authorities' last-minute announcement of the Acropolis' closure at noon. One visitor said he was disappointed at losing the chance and that it would be unlikely he would come back any time soon.

"I even bought a 50 euro ticket to skip the line to enter and I couldn't enter the place," the man, who didn't give his name, told The Associated Press.Others who beat the closing time like Sylvia from Colombia were elated despite the heat, saying she came pre-pared. "We have water, we have some ventilators," she told the AP. "And I think it's always an amazing experience to be here."

Red Cross coordinator Ioanna Fotopoulou said paramedics on hand administered first aid to a number of tourists exhibiting symptoms of dehydration and experiencing faint-C (110 Fahrenheit). ing spells.In Spain, people

N Korea's envoy blames US for regional tensions

United Nations (AP): North Korea's UN ambassador defended his country's recent longrange missile launch in a rare appearance at the UN Security Council on Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war"

Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to selfdefence. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighbouring country", pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM which flew at a steep angle – landed in open waters outside

Japan's exclusive economic zone. South Korea's UN Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighbouring countries appear safe?"

The Aemet state weather agency says another heatwave Diplomats said Kim's is expected to start Sunday appearance was the first time a with highest temperatures yet North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council In Italy, the country's since 2017.

health ministry on Friday Hwang said each of North warned residents of 10 cities Korea's repeated ballistic missile from Bologna to Rome and of launches allow the country to another five cities in Sicily, advance its technology toward Sardinia and Puglia to avoid its goal of having an arsenal of being out in the midday heat nuclear-armed weapons.

due to extreme temperatures. Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine Temperatures in the country are expected to reach 12 council members including the degrees above average in some areas this weekend. On the US and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters southeastern island nation of condemning the launch^{*} in the Cyprus, people clustered under air conditioning units and strongest possible terms" and stressing that it was the 20th ballistic missile launch this year in cooling fans set to full blast, as blatant violation of multiple midday temperatures inland were forecast to hit a high of 43 Security Council resolutions banning such tests.



sport 11

DJOKOVIC INTO 9TH WIMBLEDON FINAL

AP LONDON

ovak Djokovic powered into his ninth Wimbledon final as the fiery defending champion feuded with the umpire and spectators before beating Jannik Sinner to reach a record 35th Grand Slam singles title match on Friday

Djokovic was in combative mood during a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) semi-final victory that moved him closer to a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title.

The 36-year-old faces world number one Carlos Alcaraz or Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev in his fifth successive Wimbledon final on Sunday.

"Semi-finals are always going to be very intense. Maybe the scoreline doesn't give the real-ity of what happened on court. It was super close," Djokovic said

On his row with umpire Richard Haigh, who stripped him of a point after he made a loud yell in the middle of a rally, Djokovic said: "The hindrance could have changed the course of the match. I felt nervous after that call, but I managed to regroup

"It's probably the first time it's happened to me, I don't normally have extended grunts. Maybe it was an echo in the roof."

The Serb will tie Roger Federer's eight Wimbledon crowns if he wins a fifth consecutive title on the All England Club grass.

Djokovic's latest milestone - his record 35th Grand Slam final — took him past American legend Chris Evert, but he has an even more significant feat in his sights on Sunday.

With 23 Grand Slam singles titles to his name, the world number two is aiming to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24.



Djokovic has already won this season's Austrálian Open and French Open as he chases an astonishing clean-sweep of all four Grand Slam events in a single year, with the US Open to come in August.

"I feel 36 is the new 26, it feels pretty good. I feel a lot of motivation," he said of his longevity. "This sport has given me and my family a lot. I will return a favour to this sport and play as much as I can.

Italian eighth seed Sinner, 21, came close to a shock victory over Djokovic in the Wimbledon quarter-finals last year before the Serb came from two sets down to win.

This time it was Djokovic who held sway from

the start as he took the first set with ease. After breaking in the third game of the sec-ond set, Djokovic found himself in trouble with Haigh

The British official took a point from Djokovic in the fourth game, ruling he made a distracting noise after his shot and just before Sinner was about to hit the ball.

Clearly furious, Djokovic stormed over to the official to ask "what are you doing?".

Haigh irked Djokovic again moments later, warning him for taking too long to serve as the Serb shook his head in disbelief.

But Djokovic recovered his equilibrium to win the second set with ruthless efficiency.

After saving two set points in the third set, Djokovic responded to the crowd's vocal support for Sinner by making a sarcastic crying gesture towards the stands.

Djokovic had the last laugh on his tormentors as he won the third set tie-break to clinch a victory that moved him to the brink of more history.

Jabeur hopes for third time lucky at Wimbledon

AP LONDON

Ons Jabeur hopes it will be third time lucky when she attempts to become the first African or Arab woman to win a Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon on Saturday.

The 28-year-old Tunisian takes on Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic, hoping to go one better than last year when she was defeated by Elena Rybakina in the final at the All England Club and lost to world number one Iga Swiatek at the US Open later in the year.

Unlike her two final losses at the majors, this time world number six Jabeur will start as the favourite against the lefthanded Vondrousova, the first unseeded woman in the Wimbledon final in 60 years.

She has had a tough run to Saturday's championship match, beating two-time former winner Petra Kvitova in the last 16, third seed Rybakina in the quarterfinal and then coming f n a set down to knock out secondranked Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals. By doing so she became the first woman to defeat three top-10 players at Wimbledon since Serena Williams in 2012.



of their first Grand Slam friend attempt to qualify for the finals, although two of those main draw. Chris Evert and Kim Cliisters -A second wrist surgery had eventually made up for lost ruled her out for six months although her absence from the time Jabeur has form on her side tour at least allowed her the for Saturday, with a tour-best 28 space and time to get married. wins on grass since 2021 match-She is the second-lowest ing the run of former ranked player to reach the Wimbledon champion Maria Wimbledon final - only Serena Sharapova between 2004 and Williams in 2018 was ranked lower at 181. 2006 However, Jabeur has lost Like Jabeur, the 24-year-old twice in 2023 to Vondrousova, Czech has had to battle hard to in the second round of the make the final. She defeated four Australian Open and third seeds in succession just to make round in Miami. the semi-finals by seeing off "I'm going for my revenge. Veronika Kudermetova, Donna Vekic, Marie Bouzkova and Jes-



Spotlight on Vinesh in **Budapest Ranking Series**

PTI BUDAPEST

Vinesh Phogat's performance will be followed keenly at the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial here on Saturday as she is set to return to competitive wrestling after a 10-month gap during which she also spearheaded the protest against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Vinesh and five other women wrestlers, including Sangeeta Phogat, have accused ngh of sexually abusing them

championships bronze medallist Katarzyna Krawczyk from Poland and Tokyo Games bronze medallist Bolortuya Bat Ochir of Mongolia among oth-

Vinesh will open her campaign with a qualification round against Areana Louise Villaescusa of the USA and if she crosses the first hurdle the Indian will be up against Li Deng of China in the quarterfinals. Sangeeta

Phogat will be India's lone conr in the 59kg and will open

Sindhu, Sen enter US Open quarterfinals, Sankar too win



PTI COUNCIL BLUFFS

 $S_{\rm Sindhu\ and\ Lakshya\ Sen}^{\rm tar\ Indian\ shuttlers\ P\ V}$ notched up straight game wins to progress to the women's and men's singles quarterfinals of the

US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here. Double Olympic medallist Sindhu, seeded third, defeated Korea's Sung Shuo Yun 21-14 21-12 Fresh from his Can Open Super 500 title last week, Sen beat Czech Republic's Jan Louda 21-8 23-21 in 39 minutes. Sindhu will face China's Gao Fang Jie next, while it will be an all-Indian clash in men's singles when third seed Sen takes on promising 19-year-old S Sankar Muthusamy from Chennai

Sindhu dashed any hope of a comeback, keeping a grip on the rallies to eventually earn the

bragging rights. After the change of sides, Sung started to match up to the Indian initially as she had a slender 5-3 lead but it soon evapo rated with Sindhu breaking off from 7-7 to march ahead.

At the interval, Sindhu had a 11-8 lead and she kept moving ahead as Sung crumbled. From 16-12, Sindhu reeled off the remaining points without much ado.

Sen too blazed his way to a 6-1 lead and then jumped to 17-5 in a jiffy to take it away from his opponent in the opening game. The 39-year-old Czech, however, made a remarkable comeback in the second game, making life tough for Sen.



But she said she could not afford to take her eye off the ball on Saturday, even though she is taking on a player far lower down the rankings at 42 in the world.

"I think a final is a final," Jabeur said. "You're playing someone, Grand Slam champion or not. I think it's going to be very difficult.

"It can happen for both. Whoever could handle more the emotions, whoever could be more ready on the court, will definitely win that match.

"I want to make my path worth it, winning against all these Grand Slam champions to be in the final. Yeah, I'm going full in, and hopefully this time it will work.

Only six women have lost all

I didn't win against her this year. She has good hands. She plays very good," said Jabeur of an opponent who is appearing in her second Slam final after finishing runner-up at the 2019

French Open. Vondrousova, whose run at Wimbledon has guaranteed her a return to the world's top 20 next week, was an injured bystander at the tournament in

2022, reduced to watching a

sica Pegula. Against fourth-ranked Pegula of the United States, she was 1-4 down in the final set. In Thursday's semi-final,

she swept past crowd favourite Elina Svitolina of Ukraine in two

comfortable sets. "For me, it's really crazy this is happening. But I think anything can happen in tennis," she said.

The Delhi police has filed a her campaign against Jennifer

chargesheet in the case against Page Rogers of the USA. 66-year-old Singh, who is also a While Sarita Mor (women's 59kg), Sujeet (men's 65kg), and BIP MP. The last time Vinesh competed was in September Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil 2022 when she won a bronze at Kumar (87kg) were scheduled to compete initially but later withthe World Championships in Budapest. However, she has drew from the tournament. entered the 55kg competition in The six protesting wrestlers

the last UWW Ranking Series of had sought time till August10 to the season instead of her usual prepare for the Asian Games trials, saying they are not in best The 55kg category consists physical shape to appear in trials due to their protest. of 11 wrestlers as against 22 in

53kg division, which features The IOA ad-hoc panel will conduct the trials on June 22-23 strong grapplers such as Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Qiabut it is unclear if the six protestnyu Pang of China, 2021 world ing wrestlers will appear or not.

It has been an impressive run for the 2022 World Junior Championships silver medalist who registered a fighting 21-18 21-23 21-13 win over Israel's Misha Zilberman.

Sindhu didn't break much sweat against Sung, who couldndia's campaign at the

Championships came to an

end as two girls' singles players

and one girls' doubles pair lost

in the round of 16 in

Yogyakarta, Indonesia on

quarter final match, Taneesha

and Karnika displayed a tough

fight against the duo of Chen

Fan Shu Tian and Jiang Pei Xi

brilliantly in the first game

and showed great coordination

The Indian pair started off

In the girls' doubles pre-

Friday.

from China.

n't pose any real challenge to the

Indian during the match. Sindhu

jumped to a 7-2 lead early on

Sung managed to narrow down the deficit to 11-14 but

efore extending it to 13-5.

but their opponents mounted a comeback in the last two games Badminton Asia Junior to win 21-17, 13-21, 13-21 in a match that lasted 50 minutes.

In the girls' singles round of 16 match, Rakshitha Sree S was up against China's Huang Lin Ran. The Indian shuttler started well but could not find sustained rhythm throughout the match before eventually losing 15-21, 13-21.

In the other girls' singles pre-quarter final match, Tara Shah failed to find any momentum and went down 13-21, 8-21 against China's XU Wen Jing in a one-sided affair.

Barca, Man Utd fined by UEFA over financial breaches

AP MANCHESTER

53kg division.

Barcelona and Manchester United were among the clubs fined by UEFA on Friday for breaches of financial fair play (FFP) regulations during the

2022/23 season. United were fined 300,000 euros (\$335,000) for failing to meet the break-even requirement that attempts to limit the losses made by clubs. Spanish champions Barcelona were hit with a 500,000 euro

under the regulations, to balance their books. FFP rules, which were introduced in 2010, have allowed clubs to report losses of

sanction for including profits from sales of intangible assets, no more than 30 million euros next three seasons. over a three-year period.

which are not relevant income Last season was the final vear those regulations will be used by UEFA before new licensing and sustainability regulations are eased in over the

Champions League finalists

Inter Milan, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Monaco, Roma and Marseille escaped sanction after meeting targets set by a UEFA settlement agreement.

The 23-year-old joined

Lens from Club Brugge for

around 10 million euros last

summer. He scored 21 goals, a

club record in Ligue 1, as Lens

finished second behind Paris

man Christopher Nkunku at

Leipzig, who moved to Chelsea

after finishing last season as

joint-top scorer in the Bundes-

Openda replaces French-

Saint-Germain.

liga with 16 goals.

Moyes says West Ham 'can't plan Arsenal swoop for Dutch defender Timber anything' as Rice move drags on

AP I ONDON

 $F^{\mathrm{rustrated}}_{\mathrm{Moyes}}$ has lamented Declan Rice's drawn-out move to Arsenal, saying Friday he "can't plan anything" until the captain's transfer is done.

A £105 million (\$140 million) deal for the England international midfielder was agreed with Arsenal 10 days ago but he is still officially a West Ham player.

Rice is not though part of West Ham's touring squad to Australia for pre-season friendlies against Perth Glory and Tottenham Hotspur.

The Premier League season kicks off in a month.

"Until it's done we can't plan anything really," Moyes told reporters in Perth ahead of West Ham's friendly against Perth Glory on Saturday.

"Everybody knows the situation. We are expecting something to happen."

Moyes remained coy over possible replacements for the influential Rice, who

played a major part in West Ham's Europa Conference League title win.

"Î don't think we can replace Declan exactly like for like, that is for sure," he said.

"We will add to the squad. We won't be giving any thoughts or any names or anything like that.

With Rice and several other star players absent, West Ham boasts a youthful squad in Perth in the club's first outing since their European triumph over Fiorentina.

"We're still buzzing... there are fantas-tic memories that won't fade away quicklv. But we've also moved on and preparing for the next round of games," said Moyes, whose job was under threat last season with West Ham near the Premier League's relegation zone.

We don't have all of our international players with us due to a late finish and international games so it's a great opportunity for some young players and the players we have with us now."



AP LONDON

Eredivisie titles in 121 appearances for Ajax and was part of the Netherlands squad that reached the quarter-finals of last year's World Cup.

He can operate at both cen-tre-back and right-back and will bring added depth to an Arsenal defence that struggled to cope with injuries to William Saliba and Takehiro Tomiyasu towards the end of last season.

Leipzig sign striker **Openda from Lens** club it was a record for.

AP LEIPZIG

Bundesliga club RB Leipzig On Friday bought Belgian striker Lois Openda from French club Lens. The Bundesliga team said on their website that the 23-year-old Belgium international had signed a five year contract and that "the transfer fee did not exceed the limits we had set for ourselves."

Lens said it was a "record fee", but did not specify which

"We're really excited that Jurrien has joined us," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "He is a versatile young defender, who will fit into our system and provide our squad with so much added quality." "I'm excited to play for this beautiful club, and

I can't wait to start, and to see the fans obviously in the stadium," said Timber. "I just like the way Arsenal play, it's a bit similar to Ajax's style and I like to play from the back. I can see a lot of similarities, especially in the way Arsenal and Ajax want to play.

statement. Timber won two

rsenal announced the sign-Aring of Dutch international defender Jurrien Timber from

Ajax on Friday as the Gunners continue to strengthen for a Premier League title challenge.

The 22-year-old will cost an initial 40 million euros (\$45 million, £34 million) with a further five million euros worth of add-ons, Ajax confirmed in a



sport 12

India declare 1st innings on 421/5

PTI ROSEAU

India declared their first innings on 421/5, leading West Indies by 271 runs. They lost Virat Kohli shortly after lunch to go 5 down and once Ishan Kishan scored his maiden Test run, Rohit Sharma sent the signal.

Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal became only the third Indian to score 150 on debut while Virat Kohli had to toil for a half-century as the visitors reached 400 for four at lunch on day three of the first Test against the West Indies here.

Resuming the day at 312 for two, India managed 88 runs in 29 overs in the morn-Ajinkya Rahane (3). The away team, which is looking to bat West Indies out of the game, extended its first innings lead to 250 runs.

The Indian batters had to work for their runs on a slow pitch offering a lot of turn and a heavy outfield. Kohli (71 not out off 170) celebrating after hitting a rare boundary was proof of that.

Jaiswal, who made a dream hundred on debut on Thursday, started with a crisp straight drive off Jason Holder. Left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican opened the bowling alongside Holder and instantly created issues for Kohli.

The former India skipper got a life when he was on dropped on 40 by West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite. Kohli went for a drive off Warrican and Brathwaite ended up grassing an easy chance at cover.

At the other end, Jaiswal stepped out to Warrican and dispatched him for a straight six. He became the third Indian to reach 150 on debut with a single, matching the feats of Shikhar Dhawan (187) and Rohit Sharma (177).

A double hundred was in the offing for Jaiswal but it wasn't to be as he edged one that angled away from Alzarri Joseph.

Soon after Rahane, who had a good opportunity to make a big impact, attempt-ed a drive on the up on a slow pitch off Kemar Roach and ended up offering a simple catch at cover

Ravindra Jadeja (21 off 52) joined Kohli



in the middle and they ended up forging an unbeaten 44-run stand. With Rahkeem Cornwall not allowed to bowl, the West Indies offered some easy boundaries to India towards the end of the session.

'THIS IS JUST THE START'

Delighted to score his maiden century on debut, Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal said this is just the "start" and revealed how skipper Rohit Sharma's words ahead of the opening Test inspired him to do well.

The 21-year-old lived up to the expectations with a record-breaking century on debut as he was batting on 143 at close on day two.

"This is just the start of my career... Koshish yeh karoonga ki main kitna lamba leke jaa sakta hoon (My effort will be to see how far would I be able to take it from here)," Jaiswal said in the post-match media interaction.

Jaiswal reached the century in 215 balls with Rohit playing a big support as the newest opening pair for India put together 229 runs.

It was also the highest opening partner-ship for India against the West Indies in Tests, overtaking the 159-run stand between Virender Sehwag and Wasim Jaffer in 2006 Gros Islet Test.

'We spoke a lot. All the time, he (Rohit bhai) kept telling me from where do I get my runs from, and how to negotiate the bowlers,' he said.

"Before the game also there was a lot of discussion. He told me 'you have to do it, you are the only person', I kept thinking about that and how I can get my runs. I've learnt a lot from this game, hope to continue." "It makes a big difference when your leg-

end players in the team talk to you, I try to pick their brains. We (Rohit bhai and I) had a good communication going." Jaiswal also became the highest runget-

ter for India on Test debut outside Asia, surpassing Sourav Ganguly (131 vs England, Lord's)

"Of course, it was very emotional for me and my family, this is to everyone who supported me through thick and thin. It's been a long journey. I want to thank every-one who helped me at some point of time," he said.



India's tour of South Africa to begin on Dec 10

but also because it honours

He added, "The Boxing Day

around these marquee dates." The last time India played a

Test series in South Africa, in

2021-22, they lost 1-2 following

which former captain Virat

Kohli unexpectedly stepped

over the reins.

PTI NEW DELHI

Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson ndia's next tour of South Mandela, two great leaders who Africa will begin on Decemshaped our respective nations, and the world around them," ber 10 with a three-match T20 series, which will be followed by BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in three ODIs and two Tests, the a statement issued by both the BCCI and CSA announced on boards. Friday. While the opening match will held at Durban, the second Test and the New Year Test are amongst the most important fixand third T20 Internationals will take place on December 12 and tures on the international crick-14 in Gqeberha and Johanneset calendar and the schedule has been planned particularly burg respectively.

Johannesburg will also play host to the opening ODI of the three-match series on December 17, followed by matches on December 19 and 21 in Ggeberha and Paarl respectively. The Test down from the post, paving the way for Rohit Sharma to take matches, called the Freedom Series for Gandhi-Mandela Trophy, will be played in Centurion and Cape Town from December

While India began the last tour with a 113-run victory in the opening Test at Centurion, 26-30 and January 3-7 respec-"The Freedom Series is sigthey lost the next two Tests

before being blanked 0-3 in the ensuing ODI series. nificant not just because it features two excellent Test teams,



AP 📕 GALLE

Pakistan strike bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi will seek to take his 100th Test wicket in the first Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Sunday, a year after he was injured at the same ground.

since then.

lete's life, but it is good to be back," he said at the end of Pakistan's two-day warm-up

Cricket President's XI, which ended in a draw at Hambantota.

beginning the long quest to try to qualify for the next ICC World Test Championship final, to be held in 2025.

The hosts are in seventh place and the visitors sixth in the current ICC Test rankings. In last year's series, Pakistan won the first Test by four wid

by 246 to square the series, with match Shaheen bowled at sear-Shaheen out of the attack. Both ing pace with lethal seam, takmatches were played in Galle.

ing three wickets for 36 in 12 In the recent warm-up overs as Pakistan dismissed the



opposition for 196. "I am very excited to be making my Test comeback in the country where was injured," he said.

Sri Lanka will be looking to replace Asitha Fernando, who has gone down with dengue fever, with uncapped left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka.

After an impressive start to his white-ball career, 22-year-old Madushanka has played six ODIs and 11 T20Is, and is eyeing a Test debut after being named in Sri Lanka's squad of 16 for the first Test. He was recently Player of

the Match in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier final against

in a fine new-ball spell. Off-spinner Lakshitha Manasinghe is the other new face in the hosts' squad.

But he will have to contend with several other spinners for a place in the team, among them Prabath Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis, the recalled Praveen Jayawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, and middle-order bats-

man Dhananjaya de Silva. De Silva is the heir apparent to the Test captaincy and has been named as deputy to Dimuth Karunaratne, who is recovering from a hamstring injury and had said he wants to step down ahead of the new WTC cycle, but was asked by the

Shaheen was on 99 Test wickets when he was injured landing awkwardly at the boundary line trying to stop the ball, and it will be his first outing in the long form of the game

"Injuries are a part of an ath-

fixture against a Sri Lanka while Sri Lanka won the second

The century of Test wickets "would be a big achievement for me" and he has had an extended wait to reach the milestone, he added. "It's tough to be away from cricket, but time has helped me learn a lot." The two sides are both shadows of the Test powers they once were, and are

MLC makes big hitting start

AP DALLAS

Major League Cricket got underway in Texas on Thursday, and the most serious attempt yet to establish a domestic competition in the United States provided all the ingredients of a modern T20 league.

Fans at the purpose built cricket stadium, just a 15-minute drive from Dallas Fort Worth airport, were decked out in the yellow shirts of the victorious home side, the Texas Super Kings, and were treated to the familiar sight of big sixes and non-stop action.

The Super Kings won by 69 runs after making 181 for six and then bowling out the Los Angeles Knight Riders for 112.

Any concerns that cricket in America might not be the real deal vanished when the action got under way and the crowd began cheering the big hitting of the home team

The stadium previously belonged to the now defunct Texas Airhogs minor league

baseball club, but since taking over the venue, MLC has spent over \$20 million making it

For viewers watching the TV broadcast, it would have been hard to tell the difference between MLC and the other T20 tournaments that have sprung up around the world.

With international players competing alongside domestic talent from the USA national team, the standard of play was clearly professional and the field and wicket looked up to scratch.

Texas' South African bowler Rusty Theron was taken aback by the success of the opening game. "I am actually a little bit emotional, to be honest. This is such a grand event. There was an unbelievable atmosphere and I want to thank each and every individual who has come out

here," he said. Super Kings batsman David Miller, who was awarded Player of the Match, for his hard-hitting 61 from 42 balls, including four sixes, was also impressed.

PTI LUCKNOW cricket-specific.

ucknow Super Giants have Lappointed former Australian opener Justin Langer as their head coach replacing Andy Flower, the IPL franchise announced on Friday.

Langer has also served as the coach of the Australian team, taking over the reins in the wake of the infamous 2018 balltampering incident during the Cape Town Test against South Africa

"Lucknow Super Giants have appointed legendary former Australian cricket team coach and batsman Justin Langer as their team head coach. As the two-year contract of Andy Flower comes to an end, Lucknow Supergiants thanks Andy Flower for his contribu-

tion," LSG said in a statement. LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka said they approached Langer following team mentor Gautam Gambhir's advice.



anger appointed as head coach of LSG

"I have enjoyed my interactions with Justin Langer. He seems to bring in a huge amount of aggression and a lot of clarity. His name was suggested to me by Gautam Gambhir and when I interacted with Justin I was very impressed. I am very

happy that he is a part of LSG," said Goenka. Gambhir had sought Langer's help for tackling the short ball when he was out of the Indian team

Langer, who had formed a potent opening combination with Matthew Hayden in Test

India 'A' thumping win cricket, was appointed as the head coach of Australian team in May 2018.

During his tenure, Australia beat England 4-0 in the Ashes series. And in 2021, under his charge, Australia also won the T20 World Cup for the first time.

Apart from this, Perth Scorchers also won the Big Bash title three times under the guidance of Langer.

The southpaw had rejected Cricket Australia's short-term contract offer after guiding the team to an Ashes win at home in 2021-2022.

On joining LSG as head coach, Langer said, "Lucknow Super Giants are on the journey of building a great story in the IPL. We all have a role to play in that journey and I am excited to be a part of the team moving forward.'

In 2023, Lucknow Super Giants made it to the IPL playoffs for the second consecutive vear.

PTI COLOMBO

Skipper Yash Dhull led from the front with a blazing unbeaten century after pacer Harshit Rana's heroics with the ball as India 'A' registered a commanding eight-wicket win over UAE 'A' in their opening match of the ACC Men's Emerging Cup here on Friday.

Right-arm fast bowler Rana (4/41) was right on the money after Dhull won the toss and elected to field. He was ably supported by Andhra pacer Nitish Kumar Reddy (2/32) and slow left-arm orthodox Manav Suthar (2/28) as India 'A' restricted UAE 'A' to a paltry 175 for 9 in their 50 overs

The target was never going to pose any threat to the Indians and they completed the formalities in 26.3 overs, reaching 179 for the loss of two wickets.

Sent into bat in the Group B match, UAE 'A' never got going and found it difficult to accumulate runs against the Indians' incisive bowling.

Ashwanth Valthapa (46), opener Aryansh Sharma (38) and Mohammed Faraazuddin (35) were the only three significant contributors for the Arab side.

Chasing 176 to win, India 'A' lost both their openers — Sai Sudharsan (8) and Abhishek Sharma (19) inside the sixth over with the scoreboard reading 41 but Dhull (108 not out) and Nikin Jose (41 not out) ensured an easy win, stitching unbeaten 138 runs for the third wicket.

it once.

Dhull's attacking knock was full of flair and timing as he scored his runs off just 84 balls, finding the boundary fence as many as 20 times and clearing

Duleep Trophy: Vidwath's seven-for, gritty batsmen give South Zone control

PTI BENGALURU

Couth Zone underpropped Othe effort of their bowlers with plucky batting in their second innings, reaching 181 for seven to take reins of the Duleep Trophy final on the third day here on Friday.

South are now ahead by a healthy 248 runs. Earlier, pacer Vidwath Kaverappa bagged seven wickets (7/53) as South wasted little time in bowling out West for 146 to grab a first innings lead of 67 runs.

It was Vidwath's career-best first-class bowling figures, and second best for South Zone in Duleep Trophy after Venkatesh Prasad's 7 for 38 against North Zone in 1993.

South's charge to that posi-

tion of strength with the bat was tectonic. They made a stuttering start to their second innings losing R Samarth and N Tilak

Varma in quick succession. Samarth was undone by a Chintan Gaja delivery that kept a tad low, while Arzan Nagwaswalla managed to sneak

the ball between Tilak's bat and pads to rearrange the stumps. South were 8 for 2 at that stage, and it was not an ideal situation for them as the lead had not even crossed 100.

However, Mayank Agarwal and Hanuma Vihari dented West's ambitions of making further inroads. The third wicket pair added 64 runs in a little more than 14 overs to bring South back into the game.

But the partnership was not



as smooth as one would expect misses, loud appeals, edges that considering two experienced fell short of fielders but Mayank batsmen were in the middle. and Vihari were strong enough There were several plays and

nal pressure points. But just as the partnership was blossoming, Mayank's effort to waddle through those exter- to pull Nagwaswalla's shortpitched ball ended in the hands of Suryakumar Yadav.

However, Mayank was not one bit happy about it as Nagwaswalla had already bowled two allotted bouncers per over. The Karnataka righthander deemed it could have been called as the third shortpitched ball of the over, and thereby a no-ball.

Mayank reacted to the dismissal in a trifle manner, yelling at almost everyone around him and it later required the intervention of the match referee.

Atit Sheth induced a faint outside edge from Vihari as South slipped to 95 for 4. South needed another strong push forward with their lead still at a wobbly 162

Ricky Bhui and Sachin Baby

produced the most solid alliance of the South's second innings for the fifth wicket, adding 59 runs off 97 balls.

There was hardly any moment of comfort for the duo, and a 22-minute stoppage due to poor light was the only halting point. Sachin essayed a couple of

perfect pulls while Bhui played a fine straight drive off Sheth as South swelled their lead past 200. Both Sachin and Bhui were evicted at the score of 154. But by then South had filled enough fuel for a further push forward until bad light brought curtains to the day.



Netherlands, taking three for 18 selectors to continue.

Dhull, Rana shine to hand