



INDIA VS ENGLAND, DAY 3: SIRAJ PICKS 4, ENGLAND 284 ALL-OUT, INDIA LEAD BY 132 : PAGE-7

SPARKLERS



Learn to turn every adversity into opportunity. Then everything in life becomes an experience for growth and progress.

H. H. Swami Avdeshanand Giri

Man shot at in Jadugoda Rankini temple

Mail News Service

Jadugoda, July 3: Jadugoda Rankini temple reverberated with sounds of gunfire as 22-year-old Manoj Mahato of Birsanagar was injured after he was shot at on Sunday evening.

He received injuries in his chest while his female friend Mahi Kalindi of Hurlung, Birsanagar narrowly survived. According to reports, they had come to visit Jadugoda Rankini temple. After the incident, the priest of the temple rushed them to UCIL hospital and was later referred to MGM Hospital for better treatment. DSP Chandrashekhar Azad confirmed the incident and police has intensified checking to nab the culprits. Police has started investigation and is also probing the relationship between the two.

Jamshedpur among six Jharkhand cities to get Urban forests

Ranchi, July 3 (IANS): Six cities in Jharkhand have been selected under the Centre's ambitious 'Nagar Van' or urban forest scheme, which will be launched on July 9 across 75 cities of the country, a forest official said.

The six Jharkhand cities where the project is being launched are Ranchi, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur and Giridih.

"Jharkhand's six cities are among the 75 cities of the country selected under

'Nagar Van' scheme, which will be launched by the Centre on July 9. The scheme will be kicked off with ceremonial plantation. Altogether 75 saplings will be planted in each Nagar Van on the very first day to mark the 75-year celebration of Indian Independence," Sanjeev Kumar, additional principal chief conservator of forest, CAMPA, Jharkhand, said. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCC) had issued guidelines

for the scheme in 2020 with some modification in existing Nagar Van Udyan Scheme launched in 2015.

"We will focus conserving indigenous plants of the state in urban forests," Kumar said. The objective of the scheme is creating green space in an urban set up and contributing to environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, providing cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect, he said.

This will also help creating awareness about plants and biodiversity and developing environment stewardship.

Jharkhand's tree cover was recorded at 2,867 sqkm, 3.6% of total geographical area, in FSI report 2021. In 2011, it was recorded at 2,914 sqkm.

In Jharkhand, one Nagar Van will come up on 30 hectares of land in Ranchi's Baram area, while another will be developed on 22.93 hectares of land in Bokaro's Kandra area. It will come up

on 9.59 hectares in Dhanbad's Damodarpur area, on 50 hectares in Hazaribag's Jagadishpur area, on 15 hectares in Jamshedpur's Baliguma area and on 11.17 hectares in Giridih's Kalyandih area.

These cities are among Jharkhand's most polluted urban areas, with Dhanbad topping the list. The Centre had picked Dhanbad among 102 non-attainment cities under National Clear Air Programme in 2019.

Learn from mistakes of parties in terminal decline: Modi

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked BJP members to learn from mistakes of the parties which ruled India for long but are now in "terminal decline", as he emphasised on qualities such as restraint, balanced outlook and coordination among them.

In his speech at the final session of the BJP national executive, PM Modi called upon party workers to strive to make India "shreshtha" (great) and asserted that its goal should be "triptikaran" (fulfilment) from "tushikaran" (appeasement), something it has accused opposition parties of.

"This will lead to 'sabka vikas' (development of all). No one should be left behind," he said.

He called for taking out "Sneh Yatra" which, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a press conference, will be aimed at boosting affection and coordination



in society by reaching out to different sections of people.

PM Modi called for "P2 to G2" (Pro-people to good governance) in the party's political and governance model. Taking aim at the opposition, PM Modi said the country was fed up with dynastic politics and dynastic parties and added that it would be difficult for them to survive long.

Emphasising on the need for party workers to stay connected to people, he

said they should not make fun of or jeer at the parties which are in terminal decline and instead learn from their mistakes.

Recalling that he had noted in a 2016 party meet about BJP workers having qualities of "Sevabhaav, Santulan, Sanyam, Samnway, Sakaratmak, Sadbhavana and Samvud" (Service, balance, restraint, coordination, positivity, empathy and dialogue), PM Modi reiterated this message to BJP members in the

Sunday address.

The two-day executive meeting saw the party taking stock of its organisational activities and lauding the Union government over its economic policies and overall governance. Issues such as the killing of a tailor in Udaipur by Islamic fanatics and the Nupur Sharma row were not discussed in the meeting, though the obituary reference did mention tailor Kanhaiya Lal, party leaders said.

PM calls Hyderabad "Bhagyanagar"

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) Hyderabad or Bhagyanagar? Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the city for the big BJP meet, referred to Telangana capital as Bhagyanagar during his address to the delegates from across the country. The Prime Minister said that it was in Bhagyanagar that Sardar Patel, the freedom fighter icon, had coined the term "Ek Bharat".

"PM Modi said that Hyderabad is Bhagyanagar which is a significance for all of us. Sardar Patel kept the foundation of a unified India and now it's BJP's responsibility to carry it further," BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said in Hyderabad quoting the Prime Minister.

PM lauds Murmu's candidature, says it stands over and above any politics

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) On the second day of the BJP National Executive Committee meeting here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu and said that her candidature stands over and above any politics. Sources said that Prime Minister Modi spoke before Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved the political resolution. It is learnt that in his address Prime Minister Modi spoke about ruling alliance's Presidential candidate Murmu. Sources said that Prime Minister Modi also told the BJP National Executive Committee members that it was indeed an honour for India to get its first tribal woman president if Murmu is elected in the coming days, adding that her candidature stands over and above any politics.

SC judge seeks regulatory law for social, digital media

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) Supreme Court Justice J.B. Pardiwala on Sunday called on Parliament to consider introducing appropriate legislative and regulatory provisions to regulate digital and social media as trials by digital media cause undue interference in the process of justice dispensation, as he cited various instances of media crossing "Laxman Rekha". Justice Pardiwala, who was part of the Supreme Court bench, which slammed former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for "igniting" the country and damaging the social fabric with her remark on Prophet Muhammad, emphasised on regulating digital and social media in the country to preserve the rule of law.

Media trials are not healthy for rule of law, he said in his address on topic "Vox Populi vs. Rule of Law: Supreme Court of India" in the 2nd Justice H.R. Khanna Memorial National Symposium.

CM to inaugurate overbridge soon: Banna

Health Minister and Jugsalai MLA review Jugsalai overbridge construction

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Jamshedpur West MLA and state health minister Banna Gupta along with Jugsalai MLA Mangal Kalindi reviewed the progress of construction work of Jugsalai overbridge after complaints of slow progress on Sunday.

When the work of Jugsalai overbridge was stopped, Banna Gupta had in December too inspected and took prompt action, instructing officials of the departments concerned. As a result, the work of the railway overbridge started.

But again, due to some technical reasons, the construction work of Railway Over Bridge was slackened. When the local people gave this information to the Banna Gupta, he along with Jugsalai MLA reached the railway over bridge to review the progress and said that



when eighty percent of the work has been completed and assured that the remaining work will be completed at the earliest. He heard the three parties present there, the departmental officers, the contractor and the local public. The contractor told that file of current rate

revision is pending at the Chief Engineer level of the Road Construction Department.

Banna Gupta in his address directed the junior officers of various departments to take prompt operative action in case of any kind of problem in the matter of this

overbridge in public interest.

He assured that he and MLA Mangal Kalindi would solve the problems at the earliest by holding a meeting with the senior officers of the concerned department. Minister Banna Gupta said that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren is serious and is committed for development. In this government, not only the railway overbridge, there will be no obstacle in the path of any development plan.

Minister Banna Gupta said that soon this work would be completed and the railway overbridge would be inaugurated with the blessings of the Chief Minister. He said that apart from this, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Jugsalai residents would soon get the gift of a new scheme, which would be announced on the occasion of the inauguration. (W-rg)

Next 30 years will be era of BJP: Amit Shah

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the next 30 years will be the era of BJP and India will become a 'Vishwa guru' (world leader).

Shah was speaking after presenting the political resolution on the second day of the BJP National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting here.

The resolution was seconded by the Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The resolution talked about making the country free from politics of casteism, family rule and appeasement to take India into a new era of empowerment and development.

Sharing details of Shah's



address while presenting the political resolution, Assam Chief Minister Sarma said, "The Union Home Minister termed the recent Supreme Court judgement on the 2002 Gujarat riots historic and said all the allegations levelled against Prime Minister Narendra Modi proved baseless and politically motivated." "Some journalists, NGOs and political parties driven by

their own ideologies and for their own agenda conspire to defame Prime Minister Modi. But Prime Minister Modi kept faith in the Constitution and faced SIT in Gujarat riots case without speaking a single word for 20 years unlike some leaders who enact political drama and spread anarchy when faced by investigating agencies on corruption charges," Sarma said quoting Home Minister Shah.

Droupadi Murmu to visit Ranchi today

Ranchi, July 3 (IANS) : BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Ranchi on Monday, July 4. Droupadi Murmu will meet leaders of all parties to garner support. The Presidential election will be held on July 18.



She is also likely to meet Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief Shibu Soren, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and other top Congress leaders like Rameshwar Oran. A few leaders of Congress have also dropped hints to support Droupadi Murmu.

Murmu, who was the former governor of Jharkhand, is also slated to visit the headquarters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of the state in Ranchi.

The value of votes of MPs in Jharkhand is 700 and that of MLAs stands at 176. In the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, there are 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state barring one seat each to Congress, JMM and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU). The BJP had won 11 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand. Among six Rajyasabha MPs, two are from the JMM, one from Congress and the rest three are from the BJP.

Kshatriya Sangh protest rally against police failure to nab Kanhaiya killers

Malkhan announces Rs One Lakh reward for information on killers

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur/Adityapur, July 3: The three day time period given to the police by various social and political organizations for nabbing the killers of contractor Kanhaiya Singh lapsed today as the police administration remained clueless. On Sunday afternoon, hundreds of Jharkhand Kshatriya Sangh members reached the Adityapur police station in the form of a protest rally raising slogans against the police administration. They were accompanied by several leaders of Congress, JMM including former Ichagarh MLA and Kanhaiya Singh's brother-in-law Arvind



Singh and BJP leader Abhay Singh.

A delegation of the protesters met the Adityapur PS OC and submitted a memorandum demanding the killers be immediately exposed. The rally then reached the former Ichagarh

MLA Arvind Singh's where he held a media meeting.

During the meeting, Arvind Singh said that the police must expose the killers of Kanhaiya Singh without further delay failing which the members of the Kshatriya Sangh and sup-

porters will find the killers even if they had to reach underground.

The former MLA announced a reward of Rs One lakh to anyone who provided information on the killers' whereabouts. He said that the name of the

informant would be kept a secret. The former MLA was highly critical over the recent spurt in gang wars and murders in Adityapur. He said killing social workers like Kanhaiya Singh was a big poser before the society.

He thanked those who supported him in protesting against the murder of Kanhaiya Singh and said that there was a need to take the campaign against the crime forward. "Not only in the case of Kanhaiya Singh's murder, but the same solidarity will have to be shown if anyone is killed and only then will social harmony prevail and there will be pressure on the police administration to

resolve the cases at the earliest." However, the former MLA Arvind Singh alias Malkhan Singh reiterated that a conspiracy was being hatched to weaken him. The murder of Kanhaiya Singh was a link in that chain. He said that a conspiracy was being hatched against him from Adityapur, Jamshedpur to Ichagarh.

He said that he was capable in dealing with the criminals. He stressed that the police administration should take immediate action, otherwise they would be forced to take action at their own level. At the same time, Arvind Singh expressed faith in the law and urged the police to investigate impartially.

Thirty Bagjata Sabar families continue to thirst for water

Mail News Service

Jadugoda, July 3: Barely 15 kilometers from the Gurabandha Block Office is Bagjata village under Bhalki Panchayat that is home to 30 Sabar families who have given up hopes of basic facilities, one of them being potable water. Considered endangered, the government has envisaged several schemes for the uplift of rural denizens including Sabars. Crores of rupees have been provisioned but, thanks to the step-brotherly attitude of the Babudom, not a farthing has fallen in the miserable, almost begging bowls of the 30 Sabar families barely managing to keep body and soul



intact in the miserable village of Bagjata. These Sabar families have to trek long distances over foot-marked tracks with inherent dangers to collect water every day, every season. Presently, these families of endangered tribal community have found a seemingly easier option but with unlimited health hazards. They are now

subsisting on water from a waterfall like source meant for irrigation. Bagjata villagers have contributed out of their already meager financial resources to make a tunnel-like

structure to protect the water from pollution and danger to human consumption but that is miles away from the basic issue of providing potable water.

Once upon a time, so to say, a solar-powered water tower had come up in Bagjata much to the gratified sighs of the 30 Sabar family members. But the adage, 'good times are short-lived,' fits squarely on the fate of these Sabars. The last trickle from the tower went kaput three months ago when the contractor took away the solar pump and nothing had been heard since then. They are back to their ways of trekking over foot-marked tracks to fetch water from distant sources and sometimes from the

miniature waterfall meant for irrigation purposes.

Are the government babus aware of the fate of the Bagjata Sabars? Where are the funds when it comes to development of rural areas? When will they be awakened to the dark reality of the survival ways of the 30 Sabar families? Many such questions haunt Gopal Sabar, Kajal Sabar, Somwari Sabar, Kesri Sabar, Malti Sabar, Pano Sabar, Sita Sabar and the rest of the beleaguered 30 Sabar families. Will crossing fingers help in awakening the slumbering government bosses to the stark reality of these Bagjata Sabar denizens? The babus have the answer to these long unanswered questions.



Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee President Rajesh Thakur was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in Jamshedpur on Sunday, July 3.

Lord Jagannath worshipped with rituals

Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 3: Lord Shri Jagannath, who arrived with his sister Subhadra and elder brother Agraja Balabhadra from Shri Mandir on Rath Yatra from Shri Mandir, was worshipped with rituals by the devotees at Gundicha temple on Sunday. On this occasion, prasad was distributed among the devotees, who reached Mausri Bari in the presence of Shri Jagannath Rath Mela Committee President, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, Vice President Govind Sahu, Secretary Chhote Lal Sahu and other members. On the occasion, people saw the Dashavatar form of Lord



Shri Hari Vishnu based on mythology in the Dev Sabha organised by the Shri Jagannath Rath Mela Committee in Gundicha temple premises. Shops

ranging from various household items to children's toys have been set up in the Rath Mela organised on this occasion. Various types of swings have been installed in

the fair for the entertainment of children and the elderly. Through which everyone is being entertained. The fair was banned for two years during the global pandemic.

Legal Awareness programme at KPS Kadma

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: A legal Awareness Programme for students of Std IX and above was conducted at Kerala Public School (KPS), Kadma on 'Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace' under Jharkhand Legal Awareness Authority's (JHALSA) project, 'Vatsalya,' on July 3.

The Director of the school, Sharat Chandran, Academic Director Lakshmi Sharat, Principal Sharmila Mukherjee and Headmistress Alamelu Ravishankar were present on the occasion. First Class Judicial



Magistrates of Jamshedpur Civil Court, Aditya Kumar and Numan Khan Azam and Panel Lawyer Shamsad Khan, in their discussions aimed at creating better awareness among students, on substance abuse. They informed the students on the ill effects of drug abuse and the modalities required to deal with different

situations without taking recourse in drugs. Principal Sharmila Mukherjee initiated the programme by stressing on the importance of a safe and supportive school environment. "It is important to set clear policies and procedures that provide care, counseling and support for all students to eradicate the drug

menace and ensure a cooperative approach among students, teachers, parents and society in general," she observed.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the school's Headmistress, Alamelu Ravishankar while emphasizing on the ill effects of substance abuse and motivated the youth to be responsible citizens.

Marwari Yuva Manch camp organises blood donation camp



Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 3: The Seraikela branch of Marwari Yuva Manch organised a voluntary blood donation camp at the blood bank located at Sadar Hospital, Seraikela. A total of 36 units of blood were collected. At the blood donation camp, Seraikela Nagar Panchayat Vice President Manoj Kumar Choudhary reached out and donated blood. On this occasion, he said that blood donation is a great donation and life donation. He urged people to save the lives of those in need and donate blood for the country. Rahul Agarwal, president of Marwari Yuva Manch Seraikela branch, who was present on the occasion, said that 8 people donated blood for the first time in the blood donation camp and shared their experiences with the members. On the occasion, all the blood donors were honored and encouraged to continue donating blood continuously. Akash Aggarwal, Vice President of Marwari Yuva Manch, Seraikela branch, former President Sumit Chaudhary, Sanjeev Ashutosh Chaudhary, Treasurer Nitish Chaudhary, Anmol Chaudhary, Keshav Chaudhary, Dinesh Agarwal, Nitin Agarwal, Vivek Chaudhary, Saurav Agarwal, Anand Agarwal, and Saket Agarwal attended the camp.

Workers should be dedicated: Ganesh Mahali



Seraikela, July 3: The meeting of the Block Working Committee of Seraikela West was held under the chairmanship of Block President Manoj Mahato. Former BJP candidate from Seraikela assembly Ganesh Mahali, block in-charge Manoj Tiwari, and district social media in-charge Niranjana Mishra were present. In this meeting, the expansion of the organization, the reorganisation of the booth committee, and further plans were decided. Ganesh Mahali said that the present state government has failed on every front. There is no such thing as a government. The state government has completely failed to stop all these incidents. On this occasion, former Block President Mukund Das, Mohan Jamuda, Raju Mahli, Prashant Sahu, Mangala Nayak, Michael Mahto, Roshan Samad, Veer Singh Banra, Bilasi Sardar, Ramesh Gop, Varun Mahto, Sunil Mahto, etc. were present.

Feeding 200 rotis daily to Mother Cows to continue, poster released

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: The Sakchi branch of Purvi Singhbhum Zila Marwari Sammelan (PSZMS) completed one year of its programme to feed 200 rotis daily to Mother Cows at Tatanagar Gaushala under the programme, 'Pahli Roti Gomata' on Sunday. The scheme was further extended on Sunday and a poster was released to the effect that the Tatanagar Gaushala. Rotis, jaggery, green vegetables and bran were fed to the cows at the Gaushala by the Sakchi branch of PSZMS. Social worker and chief guest, Ashok Bhalotia was highly impressed with this programme and lauded the PSZMS for the venture of feeding Gomatas every day. Social worker Ashok Bhalotia, who was present as the chief guest on the occasion, was very impressed with this program of Sakchi branch. While praising this



program, he assured of his support to this programme. PSZMS Sakchi branch General Secretary Suresh Kumar Kauntia and Treasurer Abhishek Agarwal Goldie jointly observed. "According to our elders, a stone flung with the hand moves 100 feet, a gunshot travels 1,000 feet and a cannon ball covers a distance of five miles but one piece of roti given to Gomata goes to the door of heaven. Serving Gomata is the path to eternal happiness."

Tatanagar Gaushala Committee President Kailash Saraiwala and General Secretary Mahesh Goyal appreciated the PSZMS Sakchi unit for its programme for serving Gomatas. Nirmal Kabra, Ashok Modi, Naresh Modi, Prakash Modi, Manish Agarwal, Sunny Sanghi, Kamal Agarwal, Pramod Jhaluka, Satish Sharma, Bablu Agarwal, Rajesh Harnathka, Ravi Bhautika, Purushottam Debuka and many others were present on this occasion.

Meritorious students felicitated at Shishu Mandir High School

Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 3: A meritorious student felicitation ceremony was organised for the students who excelled in the secondary examination of class X along with a grand ceremony at Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School, Seraikela's Shantikunj. On this occasion, social worker Rajesh Sahu as the chief guest, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, vice-president of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat as a special guest, Siddharth Shankar Singh Dev, president of the school management committee, secretary Ramanath Acharya, vice-president Bishkeshan Satpathy, treasurer Prasad Mahato, and principal Parthasarathi were present. At the request of Acharya, committee members Chiranjeevi Mohapatra and Ganesh Kumar Satpathy were present. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp by the distinguished guests.

All the guests present at Bandanaporant were honoured. On this occasion, the principal of the school, Parthasarathi Acharya, introduced the guests present. In his remarks, he congratulated all the students for the highest performance in the school and said that one who groans in pain due to chisel and hammer blows never gets established as a good idol in society and the farm. Unhappy with ploughing, he can never produce a crop. Our students are those stones who have the capacity to bear every sorrow and pain, and in the end, they die only after being successful.



1442 candidates appeared in the 8th second term examination

Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 3: Under the Aikela block, the second term examination of class eight continued on Sunday. Block Education Extension Officer Seraikela Dilip Kumar said that out of 1597 candidates, 1442 candidates



appeared for additional subjects (Sanskrit, Ho, Santhali, Mundari, Panch Pargania) at the six examination centres set up for the said examination. While 130 candidates remained absent from the examination. He said that Sunday's examination was conducted peacefully and malpractice free.

CAIT asks for one year to comply with ban on single use plastic

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: In the wake of imposition of ban on single use plastic from July 1, 2022, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has today sent a communication to Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav urging for a one year lean period with a conciliatory approach instead of coercive methods for the implementation of the ban, formation of a joint committee of officials and stakeholders for developing equitable alternatives and launching of a nationwide education and awareness drive, support policy for

manufacturing units for switching over their business to other alternatives and thereby protecting the huge employment, the industry is currently having and plugging the usage of single plastic use at the end of manufacturers of different commodities.

CAIT National Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal and National Secretary Suresh Sonthalia in the communication sent to Yadav said that since it is the transformation period therefore serious initiatives are required to ensure that usage of single use plastic is minimized in phases leading to total idealistic



situation of no usage of single use plastic. The duty of the Government is to roll out the policy and respective orders but it may not reach to desired results and therefore for such a gigantic task of ushering into a new era having no usage of single use plastic, a comprehensive,

collaborative and participatory approach is needed to ensure that in a short time, the Country should be free from single use plastic. Hence, we urge for a "participatory governance" as highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi several times, to ensure success of

this initiative.

CAIT has urged Yadav to direct the concerned departments not to take any coercive action against any trader or unit for at least for first year and an effective national campaign should be launched with the support of all stakeholders to make it a national movement like Jan Dhan Yojna. CAIT Chairman Brijmohan Agarwal said that over the period of more than four decades, the usage of single-use plastic has become integral with the day today life of the people. The mass usage is either in packaging of goods or handling the goods primarily because of

its negligible price and easy to handle. It is a matter of fact that so far the equitable alternatives are either not available or are much costly in comparison to the price of single use plastic. Their use is extensive and includes industries such as food handling, storage, information technology, health care, transportation, energy management, building construction, and packaging etc. An immediate ban on usage of single use plastic may cripple several economic activities related to different sectors and a phase wise implementation approach is needed-said the leaders.



People during a Hanuman Chalisa recital organised by various Hindu organisations to protest against the murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, in Jaipur on Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Akhilesh dissolves all SP organisational units

Lucknow, July 3 (IANS) Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Sunday, dissolved all units of the party with the exception of the state president.

The state and national party organisations have been dissolved. All frontal organisations, women's wing and cells also stand dissolved. Akhilesh announced his decision on Twitter. The step has been taken after the party's poor performance in assembly elections and then the recent Lok Sabha by-elections where SP lost the two seats it held - Rampur and Azamgarh. State president Naresh Uttam,

Yadav veterans criticise Akhilesh

Lucknow, July 3 (IANS) Veterans in the Samajwadi Party and the Yadav family have now started openly criticising the leadership of party president Akhilesh Yadav.

Former chairman of the Vidhan Parishad, Sukhrum Singh Yadav, has said Akhilesh Yadav should do introspection of the defeat in Azamgarh and Rampur seats. He said that Akhilesh should also maintain balance in the family. He supported the



statement of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, wherein the latter had said that Akhilesh became chief minister

because of his father's grace'. Rajbhar had also stated that all the elections fought under the leadership of Akhilesh were lost.

"Akhilesh Yadav should review the defeat in Azamgarh and Rampur seats. Also, as long as he does not maintain balance with his father Mulayam Singh Yadav and his uncles Shivpal Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav, he will see election results like this only," Sukhrum Yadav said.

however, will continue in his post. Party sources said that Akhilesh will soon reconstitute the various party organisations and induct new blood.

Telangana intelligence officer caught during BJP national executive meet

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Sunday claimed that they caught an intelligence officer of Telangana who allegedly intruded into the ongoing national executive of the party here.

The incident occurred before the start of the second day proceedings at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC).

Senior leader Indrasena Reddy told reporters that the officer was caught when he was taking photos of the draft resolutions kept on the tables at the meeting hall.

The officer, who identified himself as intelligence inspector Srinivas Rao, entered the meeting hall with a police pass. The BJP leader said police officials have no permission to enter the meeting hall.

"We handed him over to the police commissioner and made him delete the photos he had taken on his mobile phone," he said.

Reddy demanded that the Telangana government should come out with a clarification and apologise for the incident.

"Everyone has his/her privacy. This was a violation of our privacy," he said.



India has new Covid sub-variant of Omicron, may be alarming: Israeli expert

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) About 10 states in India have detected a new sub-variant of Omicron BA.2.75, which may be "alarming" in nature, according to an Israeli expert on Sunday.

However, the Indian Health Ministry is yet to officially confirm the detection of the sub-variant in the country.

In a series of Tweets, Dr. Shay Fleishon, with the Central Virology Laboratory at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, said that 85 sequences from eight countries have been uploaded so far on Nextstrain, an open-source platform of genomic data.

This included 69 from India: Delhi (1), Haryana (6), Himachal Pradesh (3),

Jammu (1), Karnataka (10), Madhya Pradesh (5), Maharashtra (27), Telangana (2), Uttar Pradesh (1), and West Bengal (13).

Besides India, the strain has also been reported by seven other countries: Japan (1), Germany (2), the UK (6), Canada (2), the US (2), Australia (1), and New Zealand (2), according to the Nextstrain data.

"No transmission could be tracked based on sequences outside India yet," Fleishon wrote on Twitter. While he said it is "too soon to tell" whether BA.2.75 will be the next dominant variant, he noted that the sub-variant may be "alarming because it may imply a trend to come".

Fleishon explained that in recent months, there has



been a trend of second generation variants based on Omicron sub-lineages, namely BA.1, BA.2, BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5. This was based on Omicron lineages with mutations in the S1 section of the spike protein and specifically in the part of the spike protein which the virus uses to connect to and gain entry into cells.

However, the rise seen in these sub-variants has been

inter-host is alarming. It means that if BA.2.75 will not succeed, and even if it will, other 2nd gen might grow better over time," Fleishon said. The sub-variant is worth "keeping a close eye" on, Thomas Peacock, a scientist at Imperial College London, said on Twitter.

The BA.2.75 was also flagged by Bloom Lab at the Fred Hutch research institute in the US.

In a tweet, posted this week, the institute said the sub-variant "is worth tracking, as it has appreciable antigenic change relative to its parent BA.2". The lab pointed to two mutations as key: G446S and R493Q. "G446S is at one of most potent sites of escape from antibodies elicited by

current vaccines that still neutralises BA.2. So for immunity from vaccines or early infections, adding G446S to BA.2 will decrease neutralisation," the lab said. "However, G446S will have less effect on antibodies of people with prior BA.1 breakthrough infection. Therefore, BA.2.75's antigenic advantage relative to BA.2 will be most pronounced in people who have not had BA.1 exposure," it said. This means that "BA.2.75 will have antibody escape that is similar to that for BA.4/5 with respect to the current vaccine". The R493Q mutation, on the other hand, seems to increase the virus's ability to attach to ACE2 -- the protein which the Covid virus uses to enter cells.

Book on critical assessment of sex laws

Chandigarh, July 3 (IANS) A book on 'Sex Laws in India', a critical assessment of sex laws for the common man, was released here on Sunday by Justice M.M. Kumar, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

The book is primarily meant for the welfare of the people by enlightening them with respect to their constitutional, fundamental and human rights so as to save them from unnecessary harassment at the hands of the law enforcement authorities, especially certain unscrupulous police authorities.

Co-authored by father-son duo -- Sanjeev Jindal, Additional District and Sessions Judge (ret'd) and Abhishek Jindal, an advocate of Punjab and Haryana High Court, it is published by Unistar Books Private Ltd.

Talking about the book, Sanjeev



Jindal said the critical assessment of the sex laws also enables the common man to shape their views and to smoothen their behaviour vis-a-vis other members of society.

The beauty of this book is that it does not discuss the sex laws statute-wise and section-wise in a typical legal or academic manner, but it discusses them topic-wise in an interesting story-telling manner and in

the process smoothly encompasses all laws on that topic and subject as embodied in different provisions of different statutes.

Abhishek Jindal said the topics are such with respect to whom the one comes across in his routine life and which affects them in their daily life. For example couples living in live-in relationship and adultery, run-away couples, rape, prostitution, members of third gender community i.e. gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgender vis-a-vis Section 377 of the IPC, molestation and sexual harassment of women and public obscenity, etc.

"The book has not been written to get any critical acclaims from legal luminaries or legal technical experts or legal scholars in the field of law but for the benefit of the people in the street who does not know much about the laws, especially about the sex laws," Abhishek added.

BJP's Urdu counter to Gujarati tweets by TRS

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) The war of words between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on social media took a new turn on Sunday when the saffron party used Urdu language to counter the attack by Telangana's ruling party. After TRS took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP by listing achievements of Telangana government in Gujarati, the preferred language of the PM, the saffron party hit back with a series of tweets in Urdu to list out failures of the state government.

"People are frustrated with you, Mr KCR. You became deaf to the problems of Telangana.



Let's see if Shri KCR and super CM from Darussalam will listen if we tell them in their preferred language," tweeted BJP's Telangana unit in a dig at Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM)

president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

The saffron party tweeted in Urdu the failures of KCR and TRS. It alleged that under KCR's rule, prosperous Telangana fell into debt trap. It reminded KCR of his unfulfilled promises of providing 3

acre land to Dalits and making a Dalit the chief minister. The BJP also accused TRS ministers and leaders of corruption. "There is no freedom of expression in Telangana and Kalvakuntla (KCR) constitution is in force in the state," reads another point listed in Urdu.

Earlier, the TRS listed 15 achievements of its government in Gujarati language. "Modi Ji & his party have failed to recognise the unprecedented development TRS govt has done in Telangana. So here are Telangana achievements in the PM's preferred language," it tweeted.

Delhi govt to double MLAs' salary, Bill on Monday

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) The Delhi government is all set to double the salary and allowances of MLAs and ministers in the Assembly's Monsoon Session.

The Bill to hike the salary will be introduced on the first day of the special session of Delhi Legislative Assembly to be commenced from July 4 (Monday). Delhi Law and Justice and Legislative Affairs Minister Kailash Gahlot will table the Bill on Monday, said an official.

As per a source, the minister will table the Bill seeking a hike of 66 per cent in the salary and allowances of ministers, MLAs, chief whip, Speaker, deputy Speaker and the opposition leader.

As per the source, the AAP government is planning to increase the salary from Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 per month. There will also be an increase in many other allowances, which altogether will raise the salary to Rs 90,000 per month from existing Rs 54,000.

The AAP government had sent the proposal in August last year to increase the salary which was approved by the Centre in May this year. The LG also gave the nod for the proposal last month which has made the way clear for tabling the Bill in the assembly.

ED attaches Rs 234.75 cr property of Chennai jeweller

Chennai, July 3 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached Gold Palace, of renowned Chennai business groups, Saravana Stores.

The action came on Saturday. The attached property, according to the statement from the ED is worth Rs 234.75 crore. The attachment is on a criminal case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case of reportedly cheating Indian Bank.

The probe was initiated by the Premier investigation agency dealing with money laundering on the basis of an FIR dated April 25, 2022 registered by the Economic offences wing of the CBI.

The ED initiated the probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on May 26. The agency in its report alleged that the partners of Saravana stores Gold Palace, late Pallakudurai, P. Sujatha, and Y.P. Shiravan cheated the bank by projecting sound financial health and fabricating balance sheets while the firm was seeking a loan from the bank.

Amravati killing prime accused sent to police custody till July 7

Nagpur, July 3 (IANS) A court in Maharashtra's Amravati district on Sunday sent the prime accused in the murder of chemist Umesh Pralhadrao Kolhe to police custody till July 7, officials said here.

The accused - Sheikh Irfan - who is also the mastermind behind the dastardly killing of Kolhe on the night of June 21, was nabbed from Nagpur on Saturday, hours after the Centre handed over the probe to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The other accused arrested are Mudassar Ahmed, 22, Shahrukh Pathan, 25, Abdul Taufiq, 24, Shoib Khan, 22, Atib Rashid, 22, and Yusuf Bahadur Khan.

Currently, Irfan, 35, is being interrogated by the investigation team,



and the police indicate the possibility of more arrests being carried out in the case.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the Amravati incident as a "very serious matter and

the killing was barbaric" and the NIA will attempt to unravel if it has any international links.

Former Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, declining to comment, merely said that now the NIA has taken over the probe, they will do a thorough job.

Kolhe, 54, a veterinary chemist was waylaid on the night of June 21 when he was driving home on his scooter, and stabbed in the neck, after he allegedly forwarded some posts supporting ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments.

The incident - which took place at the height of a political crisis in the state - was virtually ignored and shot to limelight after the Centre asked the NIA to probe the matter.

Cong refutes claims of Rahul reaching out to AIADMK

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) The Congress has refuted news reports that Rahul Gandhi has reached out to the AIADMK for support in the Presidential elections.

Jairam Ramesh, Congress General Secretary said, "This is wholly bogus and totally false. No such phone call was made. The DMK-Congress alliance is firm and steadfast enough to withstand such crude and mischievous efforts to sow confusion and weaken it."

The Congress refuted claims that Rahul Gandhi called up

AIADMK leader E. Palaniswamy seeking support for Yashwant Sinha, the joint Opposition candidate for the Presidential election.

K'taka teacher forced student's mother for physical relation, suspended

Raichur, (Karnataka) July 3 (IANS) In a shocking incident, a teacher forced the mother of his student for physical relation and circulated video of the act in Raichur district of Karnataka.

The accused is identified as Mohammad Azaruddin, a teacher



of Singapura Government School. The accused teacher is also

accused of misbehaving with school children, police said on Sunday.

Following a complaint against him, the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Instruction, Raichur district issued a suspension order against the accused teacher.

According to police, the mother of the student alleged that, the accused teacher had promised her that he will provide tuition to her daughter, government facilities and forced her to have physical relation with him.

He had recorded the private moments and threatened the woman to cooperate with him otherwise he would make her video viral on social media. Later, he circulated the video.

The woman had lodged a complaint with the Karatagi police station.

During probe, it surfaced that the accused used to punish children severely and took pleasure in touching their private parts.

The police are investigating the case.

Markets looking for a trend

Arun Kejriwal

The week gone by behaved on expected lines and made marginal gains. It could be called a week where markets tried to find their levels but were unable to do so. At the end of five days, gains were notched on Monday, there were losses on two days and the remaining two days were flat.

BSESENSEX gained 179.95 points or 0.34 per cent to close at 52,907.93 points while NIFTY gained 52.80 points or 0.34 per cent to close at 15,752.05 points. The broader indices saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.32 per cent, 0.049 per cent and 0.55 per cent respectively. BSEMICAP was up 0.26 per cent while BSE SMALLCAP gained 1.17 per cent.

The Indian Rupee lost 70 paise or 0.89 per cent to close at Rs 79.04 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones gained on two of the five trading days and lost on the remaining three. It closed with losses of 403.42 points or 1.28 per cent at 31,097.26 paise.

The week's trading saw an interesting event happening. While the gap which was talked about was entered into, but failed to be filled. Having done so, it just gave way. The high of the week was made on Monday itself at 53,509 on BSESENSEX and at 15,927 on NIFTY. This indicates that markets exhausted all their momentum in just one day. Not only the highs were not attempted again, but markets remained range bound with only intraday volatility.

There was plenty of economic activity. The government increased the import duty on gold from 7.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent. It also levied a windfall profit tax on exploration companies. This is a tax which is being levied in a number of countries as a result of the sharp increase in crude prices. At the same time, it also levied an export duty of Rs 13 per litre on Diesel and Rs 6 per litre on Petrol and ATF. This would reduce the effective realisation made by refiners who find it easier to export than sell in the local market.

GST numbers for June 2022 were very encouraging at Rs 1.44 lakh crore. This gives confidence that the number of 1.4 lakh crore could be taken as a base for the future collections and the gross GST collection could be in the range of Rs 16.5-17 lakh annually.

FPI sales seem to continue unabated. In the month of June 22, they have sold Rs 58,112 crs making the total in the first half of calendar year 2022 a total of Rs 2.2 lakh crore. This becomes one of the highest sales by FPI in a month and the highest half yearly as well.

Coming to the market's performance on Friday, it is quite interesting. The day was propped up by ITC which rose Rs 10.90 or 3.98 per cent. For the week, ITC was up Rs 18.55 or 6.98 per cent. Heavyweight Reliance lost Rs 185 or 7.13 per cent on Friday. For the week, Reliance lost Rs 92 or 3.68 per cent. Along with Reliance, another oil explorer ONGC and OIL India were also sharply down on Friday.

June futures expiry on 30th June was a quiet affair. The series closed with losses of 389.90 points or 2.41 per cent at 15,780.25 points. The series had begun at 16,170.15 points.

Results would begin in the week ahead and the market would keenly watch the impact of commodity prices and how companies have coped with the same. It would be interesting to see how the favourable impact of the depreciation in the rupee has helped the IT sector.

The week ahead would be crucial for the markets as we need to decide which way they are headed. While broadly speaking we would continue to be range bound, and trading in a range, we need to decide the trend. As readers would recall the immediate resistances would be at 15,900-15,950 levels, all the way to 16,100 points. On the BSESENSEX these levels would correspond to 53,750-53,950 points.

This would be followed by the downward gap made on 13th June at the level of 15,886 points to 16,172 points. The gap on BSESENSEX is at 53207 to 54,205 levels. It is important that for there to be a breakout and upward momentum to set in, the gap needs to be filled and also sustained. On support we have them at 52,650-52,750 on BSESENSEX. The final support would be at 51,000 levels. On NIFTY the support would be at 15,350-15,425 points followed by 15,150-15,200 as the final support.

The strategy for the week ahead would be to avoid overnight exposure as markets have a nasty habit of opening with gaps in either direction. The gap is not the worry as after the opening, markets have become range bound for the remaining part of the day, making trading difficult. Use rallies to sell and sharp dips to buy in only large cap stocks. Allow markets to decide a trend or at least attempt making a trend.

Trade cautiously.
(Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

'Dilution of environmental jurisprudence', experts slam proposed amendments to Env, Water, Air Acts

Nivedita Khandekar

petitions against environmental and forest law violations, drew attention to the

A day after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced its intention to bring about amendments to the Environment, Water and Air Acts for decriminalisation of relatively minor offences, experts have slammed the proposed move terming it as dilution of environmental jurisprudence.

As reported by IANS on Friday, the ministry put out proposed amendments to decriminalise the existing provisions of three important legislations -- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Apart from decriminalisation, the proposed amendments to the three basic building laws also proposes creation of an earmarked fund that can be utilised for paying compensation to the affected parties, for restoration of the environment or for reparation. The three funds are to be named 'Environmental Protection Fund', 'Water Pollution Remediation Fund' and 'Air Pollution Remediation Fund'.

"The proposed amendments are directed at two kinds of changes. First, it is carving out the criminal or civil liability based on a hierarchy of non-compliance or legal offence, as defined by the Environment Ministry. Second, the EPA amendments attempt to delink non-submission of reports/studies from offences leading to loss of life or injury, but there may be cause and effect relationship between the two," said Kanchi Kohli, a senior researcher with Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research.

Kohli pointed at the serious issue with the proposed amendments that will increase the amounts of financial penalties and recommend the creation of management funds where the money will be collected, saying, "These proposals require wider and informed public debate based on whether the proposed liability framework can effectively incentivise compliance and whether the fund creation mechanism can become a distraction from acknowledging the long history of pollution related impacts in many parts of the country."

Leo Saldanha, Coordinator of Bengaluru's Environment Support Group (ESG), an advocacy NGO that also files



exercise of dilution of environmental laws that had started in 2003-04 during NDA-I rule and continued through till the current dispensation took it to further levels of dilution.

Charting out the chronology, Saldanha said that it was in 2004 when then Environment Secretary Pradipto Ghosh had proposed to turn India's environmental jurisprudence based on criminal jurisprudence to civil.

"The UPA I and II regimes neither pushed for watering it down nor strengthened it, and also made no attempt to ensure it remained without trampling," Saldanha said.

The T.S.R. Subramanian Report of 2014 was the first major environmental reform brought about by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this dilution got a boost based on self-regulation by the corporate/industry sector in 'utmost good faith', he said, adding that following the nation-wide outcry and criticism, the then Environment Minister backed out only to bring the Environmental Laws Amendment Bill of 2015, which too was heavily slammed by the civil society.

"Then during the pandemic came the Forest (Conservation) Act, EIA notifications - all pushed back by public pressure. Now, these proposed amendments. The EPA is an umbrella protection law. If you remove this, you are leaving the field open. It will legalise criminality in the garb of decriminalisation and lead to dilution of environmental jurisprudence built over the last four decades," Saldanha warned.

Politics by proxy is disturbing internal peace

Dc Pathak

The diminished opposition in the second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in office has stepped up its propaganda offensive against the regime and in concert with certain civil society fora in the country and anti-India lobbies abroad, tried to build narratives to project Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a practitioner of majoritarianism, authoritarianism and an anti-minority policy.

This 'alliance' has now tried to build a new theme for running down Modi's government by finding flaws with the latter's ability to 'build resilience against the threats to the strategic autonomy' of India.

Clearly, there is no room for the opposition to fault Prime Minister Modi's handling of national security as such - the political will shown by him in ordering the surgical strike at Balakot in February 2019 in reply to the Pak-sponsored terror attack on a CRPF convoy at Pulwama was a glaring contrast to the Congress government's weak-kneed response to the horrific 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, and the clarity of decision-making that he displayed in ensuring a rapid build-up of our army in Eastern Ladakh following the Chinese aggressive conduct at Galwan valley in June 2020, to enable our troops to take on PLA there in a very direct manner - the approach of friendship towards China that Prime Minister Modi had legitimately adopted in his interactions with President Xi Jinping earlier was discarded without hesitation - all showed beyond doubt that India under Modi is totally geared to safeguarding national security.

Strategic autonomy is tested primarily on three fronts - defence, international relations and internal security. The common context to these is provided by the state of the country's economy - it is now universally accepted that national security is inseparable from economic security - and it is nobody's case that Prime Minister Modi did not have plans of economic recovery in the Covid affected scenario.

In fact, Modi can be said to be even ahead of his economic advisors in constantly devoting to building India's economy - his emphasis on 'vocal for local', encouragement to entrepreneurship and start-ups and the policy of promoting 'ease of doing business' through comprehensive reforms in different sectors, speak for themselves.

Individuals and think-tank platforms taking up advocacy of some specific measures - ranging from private partnership in policy formulation to 'welfarism' - are welcome so long as their intention is to provide inputs for decision-making, but if in the process they start questioning the sovereign right of a democratic state to decide things in its own wisdom, that would amount to an attempt to push their own politically-motivated agenda.

Anti-Modi forces are tearing down every policy of the government and this gives away their true intentions. Floating intellectual debates on public issues to project tinted views should not become a route to 'politics by proxy'. There has been a concerted attempt of anti-BJP lobbies in India and abroad, elements of the opposition and the practitioners of 'minority politics', to unleash certain narratives to undermine the Modi government through non-Parliamentary means. The Gujarat riots of 2002 largely provoked by a backlash of the gruesome burning to death of 60 Hindus, including children, returning from Ayodhya in a bogey of Sabarmati Express at Godhra Railway Station, were blamed on the alleged complicity of Modi - who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat then - by the anti-Modi lobby for long years.

The Supreme Court of India has finally thrown out all those allegations, giving a clean



chit to Modi which would rightly reinforce his image as a national leader.

International relations constitute one of the most important spheres of strategic autonomy and this has been handled by Modi exceptionally well. A consistent policy of opting for bilateral relations based on mutually beneficial economic and security gains, without detriment to the cause of world peace, enabled Modi to develop an ever-deepening friendship with the US, strong bonds with leading democracies like Japan, Australia and the European nations - apart from those of South East Asia and Israel - and an even relationship with the countries of the Gulf.

What is even more important, Modi struck a mutually sustainable friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin - again with a personal equation at his level that has marked the international relations of India with major countries in Modi's time.

After the outbreak of the Ukraine-Russia military conflict in February this year, Modi was upfront in taking a line of positive non-alignment between the US and Russia as India noted that US President Joe Biden, unlike his predecessor, had declared Russia as an enemy and activated US alliance with NATO, creating some security concerns for Putin in relation to Ukraine.

The Cold War had already ended with the dismemberment of the USSR as the Superpower and Russia was a diminished successor of the same. The West should have explored the possibility of democratically run former East European states like Ukraine having pacts with Russia for peaceful coexistence.

As it is, the Ukraine-Russia conflict is seeing the US camp pumping in fire arms into Ukraine in the hope of weakening the Russian war machine, but this may lead to an unpredictable scenario. The UN should explore terms for peace between the two neighbours.

It goes to the credit of Prime Minister Modi - now known as a world leader committed to a fair approach to international relations -- that both Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Putin wanted him to act as the peacemaker and that Modi also lost no time in talking to both of them to call for immediate cessation of military action and resumption of peace talks.

India did not support the moves of the US and Russia in the UNSC. Many democratic powers like Australia, France and Germany did show a sense of understanding towards India's stand.

Biden also did not make any direct criticism of India and in fact went on to describe the India-US friendship as potentially the best in the world. India has expressed its willingness to join

any peace intervention on behalf of the UN.

The remarkable rise of India as a counsel of the world is reflected in the fact that Modi was heard with great attention in all fora like Quad, BRICS and G20 and India was able to secure unanimous condemnation of Terrorism - a threat that has become particularly grave for India because of Sino-Pak axis. An upshot of India's successful foreign policy during the Modi regime is that the world is already acknowledging the advent of a multi-polar order.

The defence and foreign policies of the Modi government have proved effective, sustainable and long-range in application. The opposition and the anti-Modi lobbies have therefore concentrated on raking up issues that pertained to internal security, national cohesion and communal peace. They have taken recourse to agitational politics, militant street protests and whipping up of Hindu-Muslim discords.

A concerted attempt was made to blame the Modi government for acts of violence - prevention of which squarely fell on the shoulders of the respective state governments. This happened in the recent incidents of communal violence and the protest calls against the Agnipath scheme of the Centre.

Even if the number of soldiers proposed to be recruited in Agnipath is small, there is an avenue of useful temporary employment with the defence services at that level which gets the youth willing to avail of it, an educational upgrade, benefit of specialised training that commanded a premium and a lump sum of savings fund for support.

A subsequent announcement of reservation in an entire set of organisations under the Defence and Home Ministries, takes the sting out of any criticism of the scheme. How can something positive be rejected on the plea that the scale of employment offered is not large enough?

The narratives of authoritarianism, lack of attention to the poor or anti-minority bias remain in place because lobbies are active behind the opposition in pursuit of politics by other means. At present, the issue of perceived 'insult' caused to a religion, through some remarks or depiction against its Gods or Prophet, has come into limelight in India and is becoming instrumental in precipitating fanatic violence in public.

Any offensive speech or writing is punishable under a set of laws and cannot be made a justification for heinous acts of raw violence against person or property. The sensitivities of all communities have to be equally respected - an alleged 'criticism' of the Prophet or an 'insult' to some body's God cannot be treated differently.

Leaders of the Muslim minority in India are expected to acknowledge the legitimacy of Gods other communities believe in. The vulnerability of this country to communal conflicts has made this issue a potential destabiliser of internal security, particularly because radical extremists and enemy agents are out to cause an escalation under foreign guidance.

We need 'intelligence from below' to deal with the situation. On matters of internal security that are placed above politics, the state and district intelligence machinery should take guidance from and functionally be accountable to the Intelligence Bureau - this in fact was the tradition set after Independence.

Meanwhile, the ongoing advancement of India in the spheres of both national security and economic development is expected to keep the Modi government on the side of the people - India, it may be noted, has always found democratic means of appreciating or faulting the government on merit.

(The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau. The views expressed are personal)

Akhilesh on a journey to nowhere, RLD grinds to a halt

Amrita Verma

The state of the Samajwadi Party (SP) in Uttar Pradesh is similar to a man on a journey to nowhere. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's foes are getting increasingly offensive, while his friends are also snapping at him. His own party leaders are slamming his policies and his family is no less upset with him. The biggest challenge for Akhilesh in the coming months would be to keep his party and family together.

Akhilesh was apparently over confident of his victory in the recent Assembly elections, but the results proved otherwise. For him, one journey has ended and another has just begun -- this one tougher than the previous one.

Five years is a long time and not many of the newly-elected legislators would be in a mood to struggle against the establishment for this period. Moreover, Akhilesh has been losing every election since he took over the reins of the party. He lost the 2017 Assembly polls, 2019 Lok Sabha polls and now the 2022 Assembly polls. And, party leaders and workers stay loyal only to those who can get them votes.

Voices of dissent have already started getting louder. The Muslim leaders in the party have been speaking out against the party's failure to fight for Mohd Azam Khan, who spent 27 months in jail after being booked in 89 cases.

Ticket distribution in the Assembly polls, then the Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishad elections, has also made the critics rather vocal.

Besides keeping the legislature party intact, Akhilesh will now have to work overtime to prevent an exodus from his party -- the kind that he had encouraged from other parties before the elections. The Samajwadi Party is already brimming over with turncoats and there is no guarantee that such elements will not turn away again. These turncoats, interestingly, are a major reason for SP's below expectation performance.

Akhilesh chose the 'outsiders' over his loyal partymen when it came to ticket distribution and



this led to his cadres receding into their shells.

The defeats of Swami Prasad Maurya and Dharam Singh Saini, both of whom came from the BJP, are an example. The Vidhan Parishad ticket to Swami Prasad Maurya has added insult to the injury. Akhilesh has already managed to irk the upper caste voters, particularly the Thakurs. In the midst of elections, Akhilesh damaged himself to a large extent when he said in Pratapgarh -- "Raja Bhaiyya Kaun (Who's Raja Bhaiyya?)" Raja Bhaiyya, in at least six districts of the Avadh region, is an icon for the Thakur community. Akhilesh's uncalled for remark made sure that Thakurs did not vote and support the Samajwadi Party, leading to the defeat of SP's own Thakur leaders such as Arvind Singh Gope. Raja Bhaiyya, incidentally, had helped Mulayam Singh cobble up a majority for his government in 2003 and has served as minister in Mulayam and Akhilesh governments. Akhilesh also targeted Dhananjay Singh, another well-known Thakur leader, who was contesting from Malhahi in Jaunpur.

This has added to the Thakur angst against SP and Akhilesh is doing nothing to make amends. Within the family too, Akhilesh has managed to ruffle many feathers. Sister-in-law Aparna Yadav joined the BJP before the Assembly elections. Uncle Shivalp Yadav makes no bones about his displeasure with Akhilesh.

Other relatives are now talking in hushed tones about Akhilesh becoming 'arrogant'.

His refusal to campaign for cousin

Dharmendra Yadav in Azamgarh, which led to his defeat, is also a major issue in the family.

Post elections, the allies of the Samajwadi-led alliance are getting increasingly restive.

This was only expected since failure has few friends, while success has many.

Mahan Dal President Keshav Dev Maurya has already snapped his ties with the SP. He blamed Akhilesh's arrogance as a major reason.

Janwadi Party chief Sanjay Chauhan has also spoken of the SP chief's inaccessibility and arrogance. Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) leader Om Prakash Rajbhar -- once a biggest supporter of Akhilesh -- is now claiming that the SP chief will have to give up his 'air-conditioned drawing room politics'.

The allies apparently are in no mood to continue their alliance with SP and are only waiting for better opportunities to come their way. The only ally which has not spoken a word against Akhilesh and his party is the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The RLD is trading with extreme caution. RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, sources say, will not snap ties with SP unless he finds a better and more reliable ally.

As a political analyst said, "The RLD knows that an alliance with the BJP will not work for him. Farmers are still upset with the BJP and the Angipath controversy has irked the youth. Jayant is holding Yuva Panchayat and he can sense the mood of his voters. He is playing his cards well and trying to strengthen his own party at the grassroots level till the next elections."

The RLD has appointed Ramashish Rai as its state President. Rai, a former BJP leader, belongs to eastern UP and the party plans to expand its base to this region before the next general elections. Interestingly, Jayant Chaudhary does not believe in criticising his rivals, and this keeps him in the good books of the BJP and other parties.

"He believes in old school politics where even foes were friends. He has not abandoned the veterans in his party and encourages the youth at the same time," said a senior party leader.

Successive adverse court rulings leave Mamata fuming against petitioners

Kolkata, July 3 (IANS) Earlier, the word "conspiracy" was hurled at the Union government or the BJP in case of any central agency probe into any matter in West Bengal. Although that still continues, of late Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has found a new target on this issue.

Having faced adverse judgements in the Calcutta High Court in all education sector recruitment related cases, that ultimately led to central agency probes, Mamata Banerjee has recently blamed the petitioners in these matters. She asked the petitioners to withdraw their petitions to enable the state government to re-start the process of teachers' recruitment to make room for them.

At the same time she advised the petitioners to hound their lawyers who won the legal battle for them in the Calcutta High Court to arrange jobs for them.

IANS spoke to a number of legal brains. All of them said that the legal fraternity in West Bengal has termed this action of the chief

minister as sheer disregard of the judicial system and an expression of her fear.

Senior advocate of the Calcutta High Court and former Kolkata Mayor, Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who was the principal counsel for the petitioners in the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment scam, became the principal target of the chief minister on this count. "Bikash Bhattacharya has lots of money. Go and ask him so that he arranges your jobs since he has been responsible for the court orders that have stopped recruitment of 17,000 teachers," Mamata Banerjee recently told the petitioners at a public rally.

Speaking to IANS, Bhattacharya said that this advice of Mamata Banerjee is an expression of her disregard of the judicial system and also an indirect admission that the earlier recruitments were done flouting all norms. "By asking the petitioners to withdraw the cases as a chief minister she is justifying



the irregular recruitments. Had there not been irregularities there would not have been so many petitions. And what will the petitioners get by hounding me. I just appeared as a counsel on behalf of the petitioners. I did not file the petitions," he said.

Speaking to IANS, Calcutta High Court Bar Association president and senior advocate, Arunava Ghosh questioned whether the chief minister can give a written declaration that jobs for all those deprived will be

ensured if the petitions are withdrawn. "I think Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya would have asked this particular question to the chief minister and would have thrown an open challenge. Mamata Banerjee made a political statement without understanding the legal implications of asking the petitioners to withdraw their petitions and that too from the chair of the chief minister. Remember, she made this appeal to the petitioners at an administrative review meeting which she was chairing as the chief minister," Ghosh said.

Another senior advocate of the Calcutta High Court, Kaushik Gupta pointed out that when anyone feels deprived or is a victim of injustice, he or she has the fundamental and constitutional right to knock on the doors of the judiciary. "Now by asking the petitioners to withdraw the petitions just because the court verdict had gone against the state government, the chief minister, who herself holds a degree in law, has disregarded that fundamental

right to approach the judiciary for justice. If the chief minister feels that any particular court order has not been justified, who is stopping her or her government in approaching a higher bench or a higher court. But probably she also knows very well that approaching higher benches or higher courts will not make any difference," Gupta said.

Calcutta High Court advocate Jyoti Prakash Khan took special objection to the chief minister asking the petitioners to hound their counsel for arranging jobs for them. "This is nothing but indirect instigation. If the counsel concerned approaches the court claiming insecurity since the instigation has come from none else but the chief minister, then things can really take a serious turn. In my opinion such expressions on the part of the chief minister are out of fear, understanding that the judiciary is taking an extremely tough stand with regard to the teachers' recruitment irregularities and the corruption involved," Khan said.

NDA is Nitish and Nitish is NDA, says Upendra Kushwaha

Patna, July 3 (IANS) Leaders of Bihar's ruling JD-U are



upbeat after coalition ally BJP's top leadership made it clear that Nitish Kumar will remain Chief Minister till the 2025 Assembly elections, and went on to call him the

JD-U Parliamentary Board President Upendra Kushwaha on Saturday said: "Nitish Kumar is NDA and NDA is Nitish Kumar" in Bihar, evoking memories of one-time Congress President and

former Bihar Government Dev Kant Barooah, who once said: "India is Indira and Indira is India", about then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"Nitish Kumar has been the leader of NDA ever since it was formed on ground and he will remain as leader of the NDA until his NDA exists in Bihar. I want to tell those leaders who are living in misbelief to avoid misleading our workers and supporters. It would give the wrong message among them. Those leaders should remember that the NDA is Nitish Kumar and Nitish Kumar is NDA in Bihar," he said. Kushwaha's statement came in wake of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan coming to Patna, meeting Nitish Kumar, and publicly announcing that he will remain Chief Minister till the next Assembly elections.

The leaders of BJP's Bihar unit, especially state President Sanjay Jaiswal, were critical of the Nitish Kumar government in the past.

Parent-Teacher meet organized at Xavier School



Mail News Service

Gamharia, July 3: A Parents-Teachers meeting was organized at Gamharia Xavier School. Parents of students in classes 1 to 5 interacted with the teachers at the meeting held on Sunday, July 3. The meeting was informative as parents interacted with teachers to gauge the progress of their wards. School Principal, Fr (Dr) Tony Raj, SJ observed on the occasion, "Parents are the first teachers of their children but, in modern days' hectic life, it hardly leaves little or no time for parents to devote full time and attention to their children. This is a prime reason for the feeling of loneliness that creeps into them and they take refuge in mobile phones that leads them to tread the wrong path." Fr Tony Raj suggested that parents should take some time out from their busy schedule for their children that would go a long way in their kids' allround development. In the same vein, he advised children to concentrate on their studies and stay off from their cell phones. A captivating cultural programme was presented by the Xavier School students. Vice Principal Father Dayanidhi, Sister Rashmi, and other teachers ensured the success of the parent-teacher meeting.

Distribution of dhoti saree among 317 beneficiaries



Seraikela, July 3: Dhoti, sari, and lungi were distributed free of cost among 317 beneficiaries under the Sona Sobran scheme in the public distribution system shop in Mahalimorup under Murup Panchayat of Seraikela block. Pano Mahli, the Panchayat mukhiya, distributed dhoti, lungi, and sari to card holders in the public distribution system shop on this occasion. Mukhiya Pano Mahli said that the Sona Sabran Yojana is the most ambitious scheme of the State Government. Under which clothes are being given to the poor and needy beneficiaries of Antyodaya, BPL, and APL cards below the poverty line. The chief said that these three items are being given free of cost to the beneficiaries by the shopkeepers of all the public distribution systems of his panchayat.

Kolkata port extends bids for Hooghly riverfront beautification and rejuvenation to Aug 1

Kolkata, July 3 (IANS): In a bid to fructify a major riverfront beautification and commercial development project near the iconic Howrah bridge here, the Kolkata Port (now known as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port) is evaluating suggestions of prospective bidders received after inviting expression of interests for the initiative.

The project, which is in line with the union government's Maritime India Vision 2030 and its plan to monetise assets of public sector entities, could usher investment of hundreds of crores and open another revenue stream for the Kolkata Port, SMP (Kolkata Port) chairman Vinit Kumar said in a telephonic interview.

The port intends to develop an 'iconic riverfront commercial complex' with robust



infrastructure at the prime business district and vantage point of Kolkata city on Strand Road surrounding the Armenian Ghat.

The waterfront rejuvenation plan envisages transforming the prime real estate around Armenian Ghat jetty that has been lying waste for decades into a happening zone with a boutique hotel, banquet hall, high-street shopping

mall, office complexes, auditorium, sports complex and multi-car parking plaza at an adjoining plot of land.

As part of the project, Armenian Ghat jetty will also be restored and refurbished for people to take a cruise or ferry across the river. Armenian jetty will be hold the key to promotion of heritage tours to Belur Math, Dakshineswar and Chandernagore to the north

and Falta, Diamond Harbour, Raichak or Garchumuk to the south.

The three plots comprise a 4,490 sqm vacant land between Strand Road and Strand Bank Road that housed the Strand Warehouse till it was burnt down in a deadly fire several years ago, a 4,390 sqm plot adjoining the river that has the Armenian Ghat shed, and a 4,670 sqm plot with a section burnt down

that houses the jetty shed. Bids extended to August 1

The port has extended the last date for submission of bids by a month to August 1 to accommodate the proposed changes, according to chairman Vinit Kumar.

"There is good response from prospective bidders for the proposed Hooghly riverfront development project around the Armenian ghat. They have suggested some changes in bid terms and conditions which we are evaluating. We will take necessary action in this regard for a win-win proposition."

"With the invitation of expression of interests, we are trying to find which model would be the best suited for the project so that it would bring the maximum private investment. The suggestions will help us

decide the most suitable model for execution," Kumar said.

According to the EoI document, the proposed development is supposed to be executed either through a 30-year land lease model or on a public-private partnership mode.

"If a 30-year lease for the land parcels is considered, the base price excluding taxes will be approximately Rs 62 crore," an official said. Roughly, 3.6 acres of land in three plots next to each other, adjacent to the Armenian Ghat, will be offered by the port for the development.

Kumar said the Maritime India Vision 2030 outlines 10 key themes which are essential for India to secure its place at the forefront of the global maritime sector.

One of the ten key themes focuses on promoting ocean, coastal and river cruise sector.

13-year-old boy electrocuted to death in Kolkata, locals blame municipal corporation for negligence

Kolkata, July 3 (IANS): A 13-year-old boy was electrocuted to death in the Saheb Bagan area near Narkeldanga in north Kolkata after coming in contact with a street light post that had remained defunct for over four years. However, its electric connection had not been snapped. Meanwhile, angry locals blamed the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for the lapses.

A similar incident took place at Haridevpur six days ago in which a 12-year-old had died in similar circumstances.

The deceased has been identified as Farzan Ansari, a resident of Saheb Bagan and a Class-VII student.

As per locals, Farzan Ansari was walking down Raja Ramnarayan Street with his father Md Fakruddin, a motor mechanic who worked in Dubai



(he had returned last week on holiday) when they saw water accumulated in a section of the road. The road was waterlogged due to an hour-long spell of heavy rain that had led to waterlogging in parts of the city. The rain had been more intense in the north than in the south.

Fakruddin went to one side of the street to avoid stepping into the water while Faizan took the other side.

Faizan, while negotiating a narrow dry path, reached out to grab a street light pole and was instantly electrocuted, reported TOI.

Eyewitnesses said they saw him jerk while holding still with the hand around the post for a few seconds and then fall to the ground. Though Fakruddin tried to jump to rescue his son but locals stopped him from risking his life.

The boy was rescued only after the power supply to the locality had been switched off and rushed to Calcutta Medical College & Hospital where he was declared brought dead, as per TOI report.

DC (ESD) Priyobrata Roy said the victim's father took him to a nursing home and then to a private hospital before where Faizan was declared dead.

Rajkumar, Pankaj honoured by Mango Sunder Garden Society



Jamshedpur, July 3: On Sunday, the Mango Sunder Garden Society organized a ceremony in the community auditorium where newly elected Zila Parishad Vice President Pankaj Sinha and outgoing Vice President Rajkumar Singh were felicitated with angavastram and bouquets. The huge margin of victory was lauded by the society members. In his address on the occasion, Society President Uma Shankar Sinha said that Rajkumar Singh and Pankaj Sinha shared a family bond with the Mango Sunder Garden Society and shared the joys and sorrows by being with them always and he expressed the hope that this relationship would continue. Amresh Mishra conducted the program. The vote of thanks was offered by Ranjana Mishra, Ranjan Kumar, Mohan Singh, D Singh, Harendra Singh, Bawali Tiwari, Sarita Singh, Ritu Arya, Neetu Kumari, Richa, Jai Prakash Mishra, Narayan Jha nd Santosh Kumar were among others present at the felicitation ceremony.

Irregular lifestyles accounting for enhanced cardiac problems: Dr Priti Singhania

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: "With deteriorating environmental conditions, fast life, irregular and unhealthy food habits, cardiac related ailments have been growing disconcertingly," observed Dr Priti Singhania, a gold medalist with MBBS, MD (Medicine) and DM (Cardio) FSCAI. She said that heart problems in varied forms were growing across the world and India was no exception. She observed, "However, quality medical services for heart and heart related ailments are constantly on the ascent and we, at Hridayam, have ensured state of the art treatment and care for all cardiac issues." Dr Abhay Krishna, the other cardiologist at Hridayam was also at hand who endorsed Dr



Singhania's views. Himself an MBBS, MD (medicine), DM (cardio), FESC and FSCAI, Dr Krishna added, "Sometimes, in spite of best and sincere efforts, there are instances when proper cure may not be possible due to several issues. The cost factor is one such obstacle. The other important aspect is that people misunderstand or, for that matter do not understand the signals leading to cardio problems." Dr Abhay Krishna said that in a bid to

reach out to people as an additional address to similar heart care centres already existing in the city, Hridayam was launched in Jamshedpur at Birenu Asha Palace on Sakchi Sanjay Road. With facilities like OPD, ECG, Echo, TMT, Holter and Ambulatory BP among others available at Hridayam, the heart care centres in the city have expanded their wings to provided prompt, efficient and reassuring care to patients with cardiac problems.

MYM celebrates Members' Day at Amusement Park

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Marwari Yuva Manch (MYM) Tatanagar Achievers Branch celebrated Members' Day at Jubilee Park's Amusement Park on Sunday, the seventh day of its week long Foundation Day program. Founder President Sugam Saraiwala cut the cake on the occasion. Led by MYM Tatanagar Achievers branch President Ravi Kumar Gupta, members and their families enjoyed the games and rides at the Amusement Park. Others present on the occasion included Branch Secretaries Chetan Agarwal, Sushil Gupta, Preeti Agarwal, Umang Agarwal, Shiv Chaudhary, Mahesh Kumar, Anand Agarwal, Aditya Jajodia, Anshul Ringasia and others along with their family members.



Narayana's free mock tests for NEET 2022 on 7 and 12 July



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Narayana IIT/NEET Academy, Jamshedpur, a leading engineering and medical coaching institute, will hold mock NEET-Meter tests at the all-India level on 7 and 12 July 2022 in Sakchi. It will be held online from 2 pm to 5.20 pm and will be completely free. To appear in this examination on July 7, July 2022, students and girls can apply online by July 6, July 2022 at 7 pm on Narayana's website <https://www.narayana.coachingcenters.in/neet-meter/sitting-at-home-and-to-appear-in-the-examination-on-july-12-2022>, one can apply online till 7 pm on July 11, and all the information about the examination is available on the above website. Such an event is a unique initiative not only in Jamshedpur but in India itself, through which this initiative by Narayana will prove

to be very encouraging for the students preparing for NEET 2022. Jamshedpur centre director, Shyam Bhushan said that the examination will be based on objective type and a complete syllabus, which will be based on the modern NEET 2022 pattern and will be completely free. This test will be conducted at the same time all over India level. The purpose of this test is to develop competitive ability in the students. Not only this, through this test, students can also know their ranking at the All India level, as well as students will get a chance to know how much preparation they have done for their NEET 2022 exam so far. Bhushan said that along with the result of this examination, children will be provided with the required rank and micro level analysis for NEET 2022 as well as video solutions will also be made available. For special information, students can contact 9334870020.

15-year study details origins, diversity of every known mineral

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) A 15-year study led by the Carnegie Institution for Science details the origins and diversity of every known mineral on the Earth, a landmark body of work that will help reconstruct the history of life on the earth, guide the search for new minerals and ore deposits, predict possible characteristics of future life, and aid the search for habitable planets and extraterrestrial life.

In twin papers published by American Mineralogist and sponsored in part by NASA, Carnegie scientists Robert Hazen and Shauna Morrison detail a novel approach to clustering (lumping) kindred species of minerals together or splitting off new species based on when and how they originated.

Once mineral genesis is factored in, the number of "mineral kinds" -- a newly-coined term -- totals more than 10,500, a number about 75 per cent greater than the roughly 6,000 mineral species recognized by the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) on the basis of crystal structure and chemical composition alone.

"This work fundamentally changes our view of the diversity of minerals

on the planet," says Hazen, Staff Scientist with the Earth and Planets Laboratory, Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington DC.

"For example, more than 80 per cent of earth's minerals were mediated by water, which is, therefore, fundamentally important to mineral diversity on this planet. By extension, this explains one of the key reasons why the moon and mercury and even mars have far fewer mineral species than the earth."

"The work also tells us something very profound about the role of biology," he adds. "One third of earth's minerals could not have formed without biology -- shells and bones and teeth, or microbes, for example, or the vital indirect role of biology, such as by creating an oxygen-rich atmosphere that led to 2,000 minerals that wouldn't have formed otherwise."

"Each mineral specimen has a history. Each tells a story. Each is a time capsule that reveals earth's past as nothing else can."

According to the paper, nature created 40 per cent of earth's mineral species in more than one way -- for example, both abiotically and with a helping hand from cells -- and in



several cases used more than 15 different recipes to produce the same crystal structure and chemical composition. Of the 5,659 recognized mineral species surveyed by Hazen

and colleagues, nine came into being via 15 or more different physical, chemical and/or biological processes - everything from near-instantaneous formation by lightning or meteor

strikes, to changes caused by water-rock interactions or transformations at high pressures and temperature spanning hundreds of millions of years. And, as if to show she has a

sense of humour, nature has used 21 different ways over the last 4.5 billion years to create pyrite (aka Fool's Gold) -- the mineral world's champion of diverse origins.

Pyrite forms at high temperature and low, with and without water, with the help of microbes and in harsh environments where life plays no role whatsoever.

Composed of one part iron to two parts sulfide (FeS₂), pyrite is derived and delivered via meteorites, volcanoes, hydrothermal deposits, by pressure between layers of rock, near-surface rock weathering, microbially-precipitated deposits, several mining-associated processes, including coal mine fires, and many other means.

To reach their conclusions, Hazen and Morrison built a database of every known process of formation of every known mineral.

Relying on large, open-access mineral databases, amplified by thousands of primary research articles on the geology of mineral localities around the world, they identified 10,556 different combinations of minerals and modes of formation, detailed in the paper, "On the paragenetic modes of minerals: A mineral evolution perspective."

Rudraprayag temple draws devout with its Goddess Kali, Lord Shiva stories

Smita Chouhan

Rudraprayag, July 3 (IANS) Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is dotted with mysteries of the gods. The famous Kalimath temple in Rudraprayag district, situated on the banks of Saraswati river in the Himalayas and surrounded by the peaks of Kedarnath, is one among them. This temple is located at an altitude of 1,463 m above sea level.

Considered as one of the major Siddha Shakti Peethas of India, Kalimath Temple is one of the major tourist places of Rudraprayag district. Dedicated to Hindu 'Goddess Kali', this place is considered as important as Kamakhya temple in Assam and Jwalamukhi in Himachal Pradesh from the spiritual point of view.

Described in chapter 62 of Skanda Purana, the divine rock, located at a steep height of 8 km from Kalimath temple, is known as 'Kali Shila', where the footprints of Goddess Kali are believed to be present which is the birthplace of Maa Durga where she had appeared in the form of a 12-year-old girl to kill demons Sumbha, Nishumbha and Raktabej.

There are 64 yantras of the gods and goddesses in Kalishila, Maa Durga got power from these yantras. It is said that 64 yoginis keep roaming at this place. It is believed that at this place the deities, troubled by Sumbha-Nishumbha demons, worshipped 'Maa Bhagwati'. Then she appeared and after hearing



about the terror of the demons, the body of 'Maa Bhagwati' turned black with anger. She took a formidable form and killed both the demons.

The most interesting thing about Kalimath temple is that there is no idol in it. Devotees worship 'kund' inside the temple. Only during Navratri, on the day of Ashtami-Navami, this 'kund' is opened and the divine goddess is taken out and the puja is also performed only at midnight, when only the chief priest is present.

According to the belief, Kalimath temple is one of the most powerful temples, which has the power of goddesses. This is the only place where Goddess Mata Kali is situated along with her sisters Mata Lakshmi and Maa Saraswati. Kalimath has three grand temples of Mahakali, Shri Mahalakshmi and Shri Mahasaraswati.

The construction of these temples is according to the same law as mentioned in the Vaikritik Rahasya of Durga Saptashati, that is, Mahalakshmi should be worshipped in the middle, Mahakali in the south and Mahasaraswati in the left part. According to the local residents, it is also said that 'Mata Sati' took the second birth in the form of Parvati in this rock. At the same time, Raktabej was killed by her near the Kalimath temple. His blood did not fall on the ground, so Mahakali spread her mouth and started licking his blood. Raktabej Shila is still situated on the banks of the river. It is said that the wishes made with a sincere heart are definitely fulfilled. In this temple, an unbroken flame is continuously lit. After killing the demons in the Kalimath temple, 'Maa Kali' disappeared there, after which she is

worshipped in Kalimath. The Kalimath temple was restored by Jagat Guru Adi Shankaracharya in the 10th century AD.

Village Kalimath originally is still known as village 'Kavaltha'. It is said that this is also the place of worship of Kalidas, the unique writer of Indian history. It is at this divine place that Kalidas attained scholarship by pleasing Mother Kali. After this, he wrote many books only with the blessings of 'Maa Kali', out of which the only poetic book written in Sanskrit 'Meghdoot' is world famous.

It is believed about Kalisheela that every year on the day of Dussehra, blood comes out of that on which 'Maa Kali' killed the demon Raktabej in Kalimath.

It is also believed that Maa Kali did not calm down even after killing Sumbha, Nishumbha and Raktabej, so Lord Shiva lied down under her feet. As soon as Maa Kali put her foot on his chest, her anger got pacified and she disappeared in this 'kund'. It is believed that 'Maa Kali' is contained in this 'kund' and Shivshakti is also established in Kalimath temple. Every year during Navratri, Kalimath temple is thronged by devotees from far and wide who come here to seek the blessings of 'Maa Kali'. For worship in this Siddhapeeth, devotees offer raw coconut and material related to the goddess's makeup, including bangles, bindi, small mirror, comb, ribbon, chunaria, etc.

Partition is not a thing of the past: Author Amit Majmudar



Sukant Deepak

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) He feels that the process of partition is ongoing and in a constant, dynamic state. While the original two-part Pakistan partitioned into Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Khalistan movement was and is an attempt to partition India yet again along religious lines.

"Much of Dravidian politics in South India fantasizes about a severance. Partition is not a thing of the past. It may well be a feature of India's future, de-facto if not de jure," says US author Amit Majmudar, whose latest novel 'The Map and the Scissors' (HarperCollins India) recently hit the stands.

The novel by Majmudar, a poet and diagnostic radiologist specialising in nuclear medicine, is about the epic origin story of modern South Asia, brought to life by two London-educated lawyers -- Gandhi and Jinnah, mirror-image rivals who dreamt the same dream of freedom-in a catastrophically incompatible ways.

Majmudar named the first Poet Laureate of Ohio in 2015, who had



written about the human fallout for ordinary people in his book 'Partitions' (2011), felt that he had not explored, in full detail, the political process that led up to the event and had shied away from portraying the main political players of the time.

While investigating the time period, he found an interview in which Lord Mountbatten, a quarter of a century later that spoke of how Jinnah had largely been forgotten even though he was the main reason the partition happened at all.

"This led me to research Jinnah, and in doing so, I realised that Gandhi, whom I already knew much more about, was a perfect foil for him. And so the dramatic structure of the book was conceived: The duel between these two figures."

Even as major publishing houses have brought out several titles on the partition in the past two years, he feels that the events of 1947 were definitional for the subcontinent -- both cartographically, and when it comes to identity.

With four poetry collections to his name and the same number of novels, Majmudar smiles that he is the same person when he writes prose and verse.

"However, I sequence words by emphasizing different principles when doing either. With verse, I emphasize patterning. With prose, storytelling or logical argument."

Despite contemporary times when people just need an excuse to get offended, Majmudar whose work 'Godsong', which is a translation of the Bhagavad Gita, says that he was not apprehensive while working on it.

"I do not create my art in prose or verse to offend anyone -- that is too trivial a motivation for writing a poem or a novel. Neither do I insult people or groups even when I tweet, and insults are 95 per cent of what Twitter is. None of my work is polemical."

A diagnostic nuclear radiologist and a writer -- with the former paying the bills and 'freeing me up to write esoteric rhymes or translate Sanskrit if it pleases me,' the pandemic allowed him to isolate himself and write extensively.

"One product of that is 'The Mahabharata Trilogy', a massive prose retelling of the epic, with a full-scale recreation of the Gita embedded in it, that is forthcoming in India in 2023. Keep an eye out for it -- it's my pandemic epic," he concludes.

Kerala RJ and single mother on a solo bike ride across India for defence widows

Nivedita Khandekar

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) A quirk of fate changed her life and it had a Delhi connection!

Almost 25 years later, life came full circle for this single mother and RJ from Kochi who visited the building where her late husband, an Indian Air Force officer, had worked till his death due to an accident on a West Delhi street.

"The goal of my socially committed journey is to motivate and give strength and courage to the widows of the brave men in uniform, the guardians of our country," said the 44-year-old gutsy woman, who has planned to visit 75 Akashvani FM Rainbow stations coinciding with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

But it was no routine visit for RJ Ambika Krishna, an Akashvani FM Rainbow artiste from Kochi. Solo biking on her Enfield Bullet, Ambika is on a mission to spread a word about the defence widows through her cross-country travel from Kochi to Shillong to Amritsar and back to Kochi.

Her arduous journey began from Kerala and on the very third day she met with an accident. It happened when she had just entered Chennai. In the accident, Krishna fell down and

incurred a major ligament tear in her left leg, the same that is used to change gears of her bike.

However, determined not to let anything stop her, she continued with medication.

Moving onwards, she covered Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, and earlier this week she reached Delhi.

It was at this time when IANS contacted her.

When asked about her journey so far, she said, "Nothing bothered me, except when I was caught in the middle of an Agnipath protest in Uttar Pradesh. Fortunately, it was a matter of minutes and I came out scratch-free."

She narrated her voyage as how she survived the oppressive heat in the central Indian belt and the devastating rainfall in northeast India. How she survived long, lonely highways along the eastern coast and the dusty, undulating roads at many places.

Almost sticking to her schedule of 47-50 days, her journey through Uttar Pradesh was delayed a day or two as she had a fever that prompted an extra day halt in Agra.

First thing she did after reaching Delhi was to visit a doctor. Then, just



like she has been doing at all her halting stations, she visited the AIR FM Rainbow station in Delhi and recorded two back-to-back live sessions and shared her adventurous journey and her inspirational story. She also visited the Air Force building where her husband had worked.

After a stay of three days in the national capital, the woman, determined to achieve her target, moved ahead to Haryana and Punjab. The roots lie in her own struggle

when she had lost her husband.

When IANS caught up with her in Delhi, Krishna was emotional as she was to visit the place where her husband was working then. Married in 1996, she lost him in a freak motorcycle accident, leaving her alone with their three-month-old daughter.

"Come to think of it, I was in Kerala after delivery. He had gone to book a train ticket for the two of us to return with the child. Imagine how happy he

must have been. But fate had other plans!"

Thus, she started her real struggle that tested her grit and determination. She completed her studies that had stopped because of her marriage and child birth. With no support from her in-laws and only indirect support from her own parents, the single parent faced enormous hardships while raising the girl child.

An accountant's job helped her survive.

"With nobody close to support me in my hardship, I know how I kept my morale high and today, when my daughter is 24 and recently hired by Infosys, I can proudly claim to have sailed through this," Krishna said with a shine in her eyes.

Her troubles never deterred her but instead made her stronger. Her originally shy nature changed once she accepted a part-time job as an RJ in 2015 and within no time, became popular all-around Kochi.

For years, she nurtured her passion for photography and regularly went on photography tours. She is equally passionate about riding her bike and going solo on nearby trips as a regular. But the pandemic hit hard and made everyone sit at home.

"This year, after almost two years of sitting at home, it struck me that I

had to do something. A trial motorbike expedition followed and I was very happy I could do it. That set the ball rolling."

With no sponsors, no crowd-funding, Krishna embarked on her solo expedition on April 11 from Kochi. Her Akashvani FM Rainbow colleagues have been helping her at most of the places with accommodation and, if needed, medical help.

But she has managed fuel on her own. "But of course, if someone can sponsor, I am willing," she said.

For now, she is deeply motivated with the choice of her purpose, a tribute to defence personnel and raising a voice to the cause of defence widows that resonated with her personal life.

"To it I decided to add my professional life. As an RJ, I think, I have a sense of communication. I can put forth a point properly. This made me choose to be a voice of those women who may face troubles if their husbands die on duty," Krishna said, adding, "When I am back from this expedition, I am going to start the next phase of my mission -- visiting all the defence widows in Kerala."

(Nivedita Khandekar can be reached at nivedita.k@ians.in)

India vs England, Day 3: Siraj picks 4, England 284 all-out, India lead by 132

Birmingham, July 3 (IANS) India fought back in the second session of day 3 in Edgbaston with the bowlers cleaning up the England batting for 284. Jonny Bairstow completed his century and was dismissed by Mohammed Shami for 106. After that, Mohammed Siraj picked the final three wickets to polish off the tail and give India a 132-run lead in the second innings.

India came out to bat with Shubman Gill and Cheteshwar Pujara opening. And James Anderson dismissed Gill for 4 off the third delivery of the first over before beating Hanuma Vihari's edge right after.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami started off Day 3 with a bit of bite in the bowling, keeping Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow well and truly on the back foot in the first half-hour. India looked to be on top before Bairstow decided to take charge.

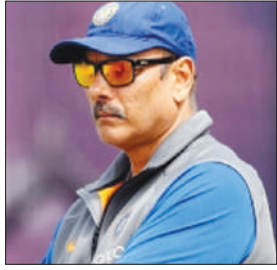
While Stokes wasn't getting his timing going the way he would have liked, Bairstow was going hammer and tongs against the pacers, and cutting



No better person to take over after me than Rahul, says Ravi Shastri

Birmingham, July 3 (IANS) Former India head coach Ravi Shastri hailed his successor and former batter Rahul Dravid, saying that he is the best person to take over from him as the head coach of the national side.

After Shastri's reign as the head coach ended after Men's T20 World Cup last year, Dravid succeeded him for the job in November 2021 and is currently with the side in



the ongoing Edgbaston Test.

"No better person to take over after me than Rahul. I got that job (of head coach) by mistake which I told

Rahul. I was in the commentary box; I was asked to go there and I did my bit. But Rahul is a guy who has come through the system, he has done the hard yards. He has been the coach of the U-19 team and he has taken over this Indian team and I think he will enjoy it once the team starts responding to what he says," said Shastri in a conversation with Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton on Sky Sports.

Ben Stokes had three brain fades in 10 minutes; did reckless batting, says Pietersen

Birmingham, July 3 (IANS) Former England captain Kevin Pietersen slammed current skipper Ben Stokes for the way he batted in the first innings against India on day three of rescheduled fifth Test at Edgbaston, saying it was reckless batting and the left-handed batter had brain fade moments thrice in ten minutes.

Stokes was out for 25 in England's first innings on Sunday.

After being beaten on both sides of the wicket by captain Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, Stokes opted to step out against the pacers, getting some



runs in the process. He had two reprieves as Shardul Thakur and Bumrah dropped simple catches.

On the very next ball after being dropped for a second time in the day, Stokes stepped out for a big shot off Thakur, only for Bumrah to take a superb diving catch at mid-off, ending his stay at the

crease for 25 and bringing his 66-run stand with Bairstow to close.

"I was watching Stokes run down the wicket and slog the ball straight into the air. It was reckless batting; it was not defending your wicket. Test match hundreds are valuable commodities, they mean a hell of a lot because of the stress, tension, patience and discipline. He had three brain fades in 10 minutes. That devaluing of his Test wicket may not be a good thing. He is too good a player to do this," said Pietersen during the lunch break on Sky Sports.

down the lead at good clip.

Stokes was lucky as he was dropped by Shardul Thakur when on 18 but could not make that count. At the other end, Bairstow smashed 7 boundaries on his way to a half-century, before upping the ante after that as well.

Shardul though would redeem himself, as would Bumrah soon. The Indian captain dropped Stokes

when on 25 but pulled off a blinder off the next ball as Shardul struck. Bairstow was now marching on towards a century with Sam Billings for company. However, rain forced an early lunch, by about 10 minutes, and Bairstow was on 91 off 113 balls with 12 fours and 2 sixes to his name.

After the rain forced the Lunch break to be longer than usual, Bairstow came back out and quickly

completed his century, not slowing down despite the break in play. Billings at the other end was happy to hold out and watch the fun.

Bairstow though was dismissed soon after he got his hundred, when Shami had him caught by Kohli for 106, having hit 14 boundaries and 2 sixes. Billings and Bairstow put on a 92-run stand.

The over after Bairstow's wicket fell, India struck

again, removing Stuart Broad for 1 as he was caught behind off Siraj. A little later, Siraj was at it again, picking his third wicket so far as Billings played on for 36, with England 149 runs behind.

Matthew Potts was the last man dismissed for 19 as Siraj had him caught in the slips by Shreyas, bowling out England for 284. India will begin the second innings with a 132-run lead.

Roger Federer returns to Wimbledon for Centre Court centenary celebration

London, July 3 (IANS) The eight-time champion Roger Federer has returned to Wimbledon almost a year after playing his last match in the quarterfinals here to be a part of a special celebration to mark 100 years of Centre Court on Sunday.

The Swiss legend was spotted walking around the grounds in a suit ahead of the ceremony. The tournament confirmed that the celebrations would take place ahead of play on the main court, saying: "Celebrating the centenary of Centre Court at Church Road and looking ahead to what the next 100 years may bring is the focus of this year's Wimbledon."

"On July 3 -- the first time that



Middle Sunday has been a permanent part of the event schedule -- there will be a special ceremony taking place on Centre Court."

Federer played in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last year, crashing out to Hubert Hurkacz. He then underwent his third knee surgery in less than two years after revealing he had suffered a "setback" with his injury on the grass.

The 40-year-old is set to make his return to London later this year, with the Laver Cup taking place in the O2 Arena from September 23 to 25. And he will then return to the official competition a month later at his home tournament, the Swiss Indoors Basel.

West Indies great Lara congratulates Bumrah after Indian breaks his record

Edgbaston, July 3 (IANS) West Indies legend Brian Lara on Sunday congratulated India Test skipper for the rescheduled fifth Test against England, Jasprit Bumrah, for breaking his record for most runs scored in a single over in Tests, saying he was happy with the achievement. Bumrah on Saturday claimed a world record in his debut Test as captain as he scored 29 runs off a Stuart Broad over which leaked 35 runs, the most in an over in the history of Test cricket, at Edgbaston. In the process of inflicting a whirlwind carnage over Stuart Broad and England, Bumrah surpassed the previous record which was in the hands of Brian Lara, George Bailey and



Keshav Maharaj at 28 runs. Bumrah remained unbeaten on 31 off 16 balls and added 41 for the last wicket along

with Mohammed Siraj (2) as India ended their first innings on 416 in 84.5 overs, with Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja top-scoring with 146 and 104 respectively. On Sunday Lara tweeted, "Join me in congratulating the young @Jaspritumrah93 on breaking the record of Most Runs in a Single Over in Tests. Well done." Lara's tweet soon went viral with fans appreciating the batting great's words of praise for Bumrah. "Batting Legend is appreciating a Bowling legend for batting...what a moment," wrote a fan, while another fan tweeted that the India pacer will break the batting great's record of the highest individual score of 400 runs in Test cricket.

Fabio Carvalho joins Liverpool

London, July 3 (IANS) Liverpool have announced the signing of Fabio Carvalho from Fulham, the club confirmed in a statement on Sunday.

The Portugal's U-21 international joined the Reds following a breakthrough 2021-22 campaign during which he was a key figure in Fulham's promotion back to the top flight.

Carvalho contributed 10 goals and eight assists as the Cottagers won the Championship title last term, earning the exciting forward a place in the division's PFA Team of the Year.

The 19-year-old joins Darwin Nunez and Calvin Ramsay in bolstering Jurgen Klopp's squad this summer and will report for day one of pre-season on Monday.

"It's just an amazing feeling to be here at one of the biggest clubs in the world, if not the biggest. So, I'm just happy to be here and I can't wait to get started," Carvalho told Liverpoolfc.com in his first interview.



BAI assures strict action against age-fudging

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) Badminton Association of India secretary Sanjay Mishra has assured players and parents that the association will not tolerate any age-fudging and would take strict action against those found guilty. Mishra flew down to Mohali on Saturday to personally interact with parents during the All India U-13 Ranking tournament and spent about an hour hearing the grievances of the parents who were protesting against a bunch of players whom they claimed were overage. After the meeting, Mishra assured them that the BAI ids of the two players, who were found guilty of submitting questionable documents during registration, would be cancelled while a detailed investigation would be carried out against other players named by the parents. "Further appropriate action would be taken on those found guilty after the Age-Fraud Committee meeting to decide the quantum of action," Mishra said in a release.



Ronaldo wants to leave this summer, Manchester United insist forward is not for sale

London, July 3 (IANS) Cristiano Ronaldo wants to leave Manchester United this summer amid concerns he will be unable to compete for the biggest trophies at the club, but according to a report, the higher authorities at Old Trafford insisted that the forward is not for sale.

Earlier, reports surfaced that Manchester United star footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is planning to return back to Juventus after an underwhelming season with Premier League club. The 37-year-old feels the urge to win even more in the twilight of his career, but is understood to feel that may not be possible at Old Trafford next season.

But while Ronaldo is keen to leave, United have taken the stance that he is not for sale and expect him to see out the remainder of his contract, which expires in the summer of 2023. The 2021/22 campaign was the fifth in succession in



which Manchester United failed to win a trophy.

According to a skysports report, Ronaldo is also understood to be concerned that United are yet to make any improvements to the squad in the current transfer window. Thirteen players have left the club this summer but none have yet arrived.

ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier begins with Indonesia's win over PNG



Bali (Indonesia), July 3 (IANS) The qualification for the inaugural edition of ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa next year, started on Sunday with Indonesia defeating Papua New Guinea by 37 runs in the first of three matches as qualifying events return to the East Asia Pacific region for the first time since 2019.

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea will play the best of three matches in the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup East Asia Pacific Qualifier at the Udayana Cricket Ground in Bali from 3 to 5 July to see which team secures their region's World Cup spot. Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United States of America, West Indies, Zimbabwe and most recently United Arab Emirates who qualified from the Asia event last month are the 13 confirmed teams for the inaugural event. The remaining teams are to be decided through the global qualification pathway.

Wimbledon 2022: Bouzkova reaches quarterfinals with win over Garcia

London, July 3 (IANS) Unseeded Czech Marie Bouzkova reached the Wimbledon 2022 quarterfinals with a 7-5, 6-2 win over France's Caroline Garcia, here on Sunday.

This is Bouzkova's first ever Grand Slam quarterfinal in her career. The 2014 US Open junior champion hadn't been past the second round of a Grand Slam in 13 prior tries entering Wimbledon, but she's now won eight straight sets since losing the opener to No 7 seed Danielle Collins in Round 1. Sunday's win also earned Bouzkova another milestone at the All England Club, her first-ever Grand Slam main draw win came at Wimbledon three years ago. Bouzkova's win over World No 56 Garcia is her third win this week against players ranked



ahead of her, in addition to Collins, the World No 66 also upset No 28 seed and former quarterfinalist Alison Riske-Amritraj in Round 3.

The 23-year-old snapped Bad Homburg champion Garcia's eight-match grass-court winning streak in 83 minutes by breaking serve four times. She's now 2-0 in her career against the former World No 4, also beating her on grass last

year in Birmingham.

The Czech player started the match with a break, and though Garcia got the set back on serve at 4-4, quickly took back momentum. From 5-4 down in the set, Bouzkova won nine of the match's last 11 games.

Bouzkova's run this fortnight has been defined by her consistency and turning defense into offense as she hit just four unforced errors against Garcia -- plus 13 winners -- marking the third time this Championships she's hit less than 10 unforced errors in victory. Unseeded Bouzkova will next face either No 3 seed Ons Jabeur or No 24 seed Elise Mertens.

"It's going to be a special one again, for sure. There's no reason why not to keep this going," Bouzkova said.

Jamuna Boro among four Indian boxers to enter finals of Elorda Cup

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) World Championships bronze medalist Jamuna Boro put up another clinical performance and got the better of Kazakhstan's Anel Sakys to enter the final of Elorda cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on Sunday. According to information received here, Jamuna, who hails from Assam produced a clinical and dominating performance during her thumping win against the home boxer by unanimous margin in the 54kg semifinal. Her speed and footwork were spot on as she managed to evade her opponent's punches several times before freeing herself up to land a few of her own towards the end of the opening round. While the Indian dominated the proceedings in the second round, Jamuna's determination and composure under pressure gifted her the win in a highly competitive final round.

Indian men win gold, women silver in Asia & Oceania ultra running event



Bengaluru, July 3 (IANS) Led by Amar Singh Devanda, the Indian ultra runners stole the show in the International Association of Ultra Runners (IAU) 24H Asia and Oceania Championships, winning the Men's Individual and Team titles at the Kanteerava Stadium here on Sunday.

The Indian men's team clocked a combined total of 739.959 km over the scheduled 24 hours, starting from 8 am on Saturday, to comfortably clinch the gold medal after finishing the race on Sunday.

Amar Singh managed a personal best of 258.418 km, which was over 18 kilometres more than his previous best, to outshine the field. He was followed home by Saurav Kumar Ranjan (242.564) and Geeno Antony (238.977), to make it a clean sweep for India in the Individual Championships.

Australia (628.405) and Chinese Taipei (563.591) clinched the second and third positions in the Team competition. On a pleasant day, with light drizzles making stray appearances, the Indian women's team put up a strong performance to secure the second position. Together, they ran an impressive 570.70 km, threatening the eventual winners all through the day.

BJP should apologise for sharing doctored video of Rahul Gandhi: Dr Ajoy Kumar



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Congress Working Committee's permanent invitee member and former Jamshedpur MP, Dr Ajoy Kumar has demanded an apology from BJP for sharing an edited video of Rahul Gandhi played by a television channel, Zee News, which falsely suggested that he called the Udaipur murder accused, "children".

Dr Ajoy said that propaganda and lies are the

foundation of BJP-RSS. India knows about history of BJP-RSS and no matter how much they do to break the country, the Congress will continue to unite India.

Dr Ajoy said that several of BJP ministers, leaders and others, have enthusiastically and without verification published and shared the deliberately fabricated and distorted reportage.

"What is of even greater concern, is that several BJP leaders Rajyavardhan Rathore, MP, Subrat Pathak

MP, Kamlesh Saini, MLA and others, have enthusiastically and without verification published and shared the deliberately fabricated and distorted reportage," he added.

Supporters of Dr Ajoy Kumar and Congress workers led by Dharmendra Sonkar, Bablu Jha, Raja Rajput, Rakesh Sahu lodged FIR at Sakchi police station against Zee News anchor who is responsible for spreading fake news on Rahul Gandhi.

Long fight ahead on sairat market should not be politicized : Banna

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Deputy Commissioner East Singhbhum Vijaya Jadhav has put a stay order on the increased rent of the shops of Sairat Bazar.

Along with imposing the stay, the Deputy Commissioner has formed a committee. The above committee will prepare a report after reviewing the fares. After this, a decision will be taken on the increased rent. The committee formed by the DC would review the rent. It will include ADM, SDO Dhalbhum, Special Officer JNAC, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sakchi Bazar Committee and Chairman of Kadma Bazar Committee. The above committee will review the rent soon and submit the report. After the report comes, the Deputy Commissioner will take further decision. It may be known that after the unexpected increase in the fare of Sairat, a delegation of shopkeepers of Sakchi, Golmuri, Kadma and Bistupur and officials of Singhbhum Chamber of



Commerce met Health Minister Banna Gupta. After listening to their problems, Minister Banna Gupta held talks with the Chief Minister, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister who is also secretary of Urban Development Department Vinay Kumar Choubey and Deputy Commissioner.

Minister Banna Gupta requested all the concerned

officers to keep their stand flexible on the issue of fare of Sairat. He told the Deputy Commissioner that the business community is the backbone of the state's economic system, they generate many types of revenue. Therefore, additional burden should not be put on them in the form of shop fare. Since the Deputy Commissioner has the right to hear the appeal,

the Deputy Commissioner should review again and postpone the notice of rent till then. The result was also positive and the Deputy Commissioner has given a stay order on the new rent of Sairat. On this initiative of Minister Banna Gupta, on Sunday, Sairati shopkeepers of Kadma and officials of Singhbhum Chamber met at the MLA office of Minister Banna Gupta. The business class felicitated the minister by garlanding flowers and giving him bouquets and expressed his gratitude to him in the matter at Sairat.

The minister said that this fight is still long, so it should not be politicised. The business class should talk directly to the govt. (Wrg)

Victory of solidarity among traders: Anil Modi



Jamshedpur, July 3: Secretary (Trade and Commerce) of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Anil Modi expressed happiness over the suspension of the hike in Sairat Bazar shop rent and attributed the success to the solidarity among Jamshedpur traders. "On earlier occasions too, the unity of traders was reflected when the government was forced to withdraw the agriculture duty from the Mandi Tax. I thank all traders' fraternity on reposing faith on SCCI," Anil Modi said.

Loyola School and LAA to host 'The India Quiz'

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Loyola High School in association with Loyola Alumni Association (LAA) will host 'The India Quiz' on Saturday, August 13 as the institution's Platinum Jubilee Year celebrations. To add to the excitement, popular Quiz Master, Barry O'Brien will conduct the proceedings in his own inimitable style. The quiz will be for participants between classes VIII and XII. Loyola High School Principal, Fr Pius Fernandes, Organizing Committee Chairman Rajiv Talwar and Secretary Savak Patel in a joint statement informed that each of participating schools had been urged to send 15 students of classes VIII to XII with one teacher to witness an exciting, 'The India Quiz' to be conducted by the famed Quiz Master, Barry O'Brien. Fr Pius Fernandes added, "Participating schools may send two teams of two members each or one team. The preliminary rounds will be held at 8 am on August 13. Eight teams will vie for top honours in the finals." Rajiv Talwar informed that prize money of Rs 20,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 would be awarded to the schools winning the first, second and third places respectively. Savak Patel added that Certificates of Participation and souvenirs will be presented to all participants in 'The India Quiz.'



Thieves steal copper pipes from AC units

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Miscreants stole copper pipes and wires of 10 air conditioners from The Milanee in Bistupur on Saturday night. Krishnendu Chatterjee, Joint secretary of The Milanee informed that the thieves might have stolen the copper wires during midnight and we have filed a complaint in Bistupur Police Station. He said, "When we tried to switch on the ACs on Sunday morning we faced issues and later noticed that the copper pipes and wires from outer units of the air conditioned are missing." Krishnendu stated that similar incident was reported from Bistupur market a few days ago.



15 NTF students offered Hindalco Industries jobs

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Fifteen students of NTF RD Tata Technical Centre, Golmuri made it big at the campus selection on Saturday. During the placement drive the students have been offered jobs by Hindalco Industries Limited (Aditya Birla) Company. 40 students of tool and die took the written test conducted by the company of which 15 were selected. This was followed by interview and individual talent of the students was also tested. 15 students were given job



offers by the company. The selected students include Ashish Kumar Mahto, Aman Kumar Pandey, Neeraj Minj, Rahul Verma,

Alok Singh, Shailesh Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar, Md Junaid Alam, Neeraj Sharma, Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Roshni Yadav, Rahil

Adnan, Nidhi Kumari, Rohit Kumar Verma, Shubham Tiwari. They have got job offer of Rs 3 lakh per annum. The selected

students are from the final year batch 2019-22. Principal Preeti John congratulated all the students for their achievements. The faculty members of the institute are proud of the hard work and success of students. Placement officers of the institute Pankaj Singh and Neha supported in making the drive successful. Pankaj Gupta, Lakshman Soren, Nakul, Ajit, Ravi, Ramesh Rai, Ashish, Ayan, Administrative Officer Varun Kumar also congratulated the students and wished them a bright future.

ABTSM to install statue of Danvir Bhamashah



Jamshedpur, July 3: A meeting of the East Singhbhum district unit of Akhil Bharatiya Tailik Sahu Mahasabha (ABTSM) was organized at the Sakchi office on Sunday during which an unanimous decision was taken to install the statue of Danvir Bhamashah at the roundabout near MGM Hospital named after the legendary philanthropist. Chairing the meeting at the district ABTSM office in Sakchi on Sunday, President Rakesh Sahu announced that all preparations had been made for the installation of the statue. In the course of the meeting, Rakesh said that the organization had to be further strengthened for which, a meeting would be convened on Tuesday, July 5 at the Sakchi Bari Maidan club house at 4:30 pm. he said that youth and women's committee would be formed. Those present during Sunday's meeting included Suresh Kumar, Pintu Sahu, Ranjit Kumar Sao, Pooja Sahu, Rakesh Kumar and Prabhat Kumar.

DC issues instructions to ensure peaceful Eid-ul-Azha

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Drawing lessons from the past, East Singhbhum district administration is taking proactive steps for peaceful conduct of Eid-ul-Azha (scheduled on July 9 and 10) in communally sensitive areas of the city. DC Vijaya Jadhav has given instructions to hold peace committee meetings at different police stations level. The focus will be peace committee meetings across the district.

A meeting led by SDO has been called this week which will be attended by senior police officials, local

urban body representatives from corporate and government sectors, and Central Peace Committee members at his chamber.

The DC has given orders to the local urban bodies and concerned police officials to ensure that safety is maintained for proper disposal of animal carcasses which would be sacrificed as part of rituals by Muslim devotees.

SDO Satyaveer Rajak informed that the senior police officials have been instructed to ask local police stations to keep vigil while Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC), Mango Notified Area



Committee, Jugsalai municipality, Tata Steel UISL and Tata Motors have been asked to ensure authorities that animal sacrifice is not carried out in public places. The local police stations have also been directed to work in



along with peace committee members of different police stations and keep an eye on persons spreading rumour and take steps to detain the said miscreant. Pickets would be posted and round the clock patrolling would be

done to maintain law and order, he said, adding peace committee meetings have been held with various communities, who have assured cooperation for peaceful observance of the festival.

SSP M Tamil Vanan also instructed to make effective police picketing and snap checking on the exits and entrances of sensitive parts of the city and take important steps for police mobile, motorcycle on on-foot patrolling to keep close vigil on suspected elements. Meanwhile, shoppers thronged city markets ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha festival, which will

be celebrated later this week. Sale of sacrificial animals and merchandise has gone up as the festival is coming closer.

Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, will be celebrated on July 9 and 10. The festival is marked by the sacrifice of animals like sheep or goats. The shadow of beef ban, which the religious groups here have vowed to defy, will loom over this year's festivity.

Shopper rush to the city markets will continue over the next three days and bakery shops are preparing for the increased sales ahead of the festival.

Using mom's jewellery as collateral, Jamshedpur sisters create model farm

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 3: Priyanka Bhagat and Preeti Bhagat, two sisters of the Kalapathar village of Jadugoda, 40 km from Jamshedpur, have created a unique model for Gerbera flower cultivation. Encouraged by their success, many farmers in half a dozen villages around Jamshedpur are now becoming self-sufficient by cultivating varieties of flowers, including Gerbera.

It was during the Covid lockdown that Priyanka and Preeti hit upon the idea. Their father, Navkishore Bhagat, a daily wage worker in a factory in Jadugoda, lost job and worries mounted as to how to feed the family. Priyanka and Preeti, who were studying in a school, tried, to find self-employment opportunities on the Internet.

They struck upon the idea that Gerbera flowers are in great



demand in the cities and it has a good advantage in commercial farming. The girls also found that flower cultivation was not pursued in Jharkhand. They shared the idea with their parents, who agreed to put their unused land to use. However to start farming a capital of about Rs 1 lakh was required. The

mother of the girls offered her jewellery for mortgaging. Along with some savings, the initial capital was arranged and the family started cultivating Gerbera flowers on about 20 hectares of land.

Many people are now coming to see and understand the model of their farming. Preeti says that



the biggest challenge in floriculture is to get the product to the market at the right time. Gerbera cultivation provides protection against this risk to a great extent. The specialty of this flower is that after plucking, it can be kept fresh and safe for a long time. It is an African flower in origin, that's why it is

also called 'African Daisy'.

If its flower is kept in a bottle of water, then it stays in the same condition for about 15 days. Secondly, once its plant is planted, it starts flowering after three months and this process continues for three years. Farmers can pluck flowers 10 times in a month. The price of a

flower of Gerbera ranges from Rs 15 to Rs 30 in the market. It is necessary to make shade net for farming.

It has a high initial cost, but it worked in the long run. Gerbera flowers are in great demand during weddings or celebrations. "Now people have come to know about this farming not only in Jamshedpur but also in many nearby cities. The advantage of this is that orders have started coming to them from the market itself. They also take delivery themselves," says Preeti. Priyanka-Preeti's father Navkishore Bhagat is also very happy with the path shown by the daughters.

He wants both the daughters to choose their own way and make a career for themselves. The younger daughter Preeti is a student of Class 12 and she wants to study agriculture further, while elder sister Priyanka is a student of BA Part

I and she further wants to pursue law.

Madhuram Hansda, a resident of Gohla Panchayat under the Musabani block of East Singhbhum, has also achieved good success in the cultivation of Gerbera flowers. He was earlier working as a Rozgar Sevak, but he left his job and started floriculture. He got shade net at subsidised rate with the help of Horticulture Department. He cultivates Gerbera flowers throughout the year. His flowers are also supplied in Bengal and Orissa, besides Jharkhand.

Similarly, Rajesh Mahto, a resident of the Haludhani village of Hendal Judi Panchayat of Ghatshila block, is cultivating flowers on his land. He has cultivated Gerbera flowering plants by making polyhouses. Due to this a certain normal temperature is obtained by the plants and a drip system is adopted for irrigation.

Somali army kills at least 40 al-Shabab terrorists

Mogadishu, July 3 (IANS) Somali National Army (SNA) said on Sunday its elite forces Danab killed at least 40 al-Shabab militants during security operations carried out in the Middle Shabelle region, the central part of the country, on Saturday. "During the operation, about 40 militants, including leaders, were killed and several vehicles were set on fire," Xinhua news agency reported, citing SNA radio. The militants still hold swathes of rural areas in central and southern regions conducting ambushes and planting landmines.

HK to distribute 290,000 RAT kits following sewage Covid detection

Hong Kong, July 3 (IANS) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government said on Sunday that it will distribute around 290,000 sets of Covid-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits as part of a follow-up on the recent detection of the Covid-19 virus in sewage samples. The test kits will be distributed to residents, cleaning workers and property management staff working in the areas with positive sewage testing results showing relatively high viral loads in order to help identify infected persons, Xinhua news agency reported. The HKSAR government also urged RAT kit users to report any positive results for Covid-19 via the government's online platform. On Sunday, Hong Kong registered 1,681 confirmed locally transmitted cases of Covid-19 and 147 imported cases, official data showed.

19 killed, 12 injured as bus falls into ditch in Pakistan

Islamabad, July 3 (IANS) At least 19 passengers were killed and 12 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a ravine on Sunday near Sherani district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, local media reported. The incident took place near Dana Sar area of the district along the border with northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province after the driver lost control due to over-speeding amid rain, Xinhua news agency reported, citing local media reports. The bus fell deep and overturned multiple times in the process, local media said. The victims were shifted to local hospitals, police told local media, adding that more deaths were possible as some of the injured were in critical condition. Over 30 passengers were on the bus which was heading to Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta from the country's capital Islamabad.

Ukraine says Russia lost nearly 36,000 military personnel

Kiev, July 3 (IANS) The Ukrainian Armed Forces claimed on Sunday that it "has killed about 35,970 Russian soldiers between February 24 and July 3, including 100 in the past day alone". The claim was made by the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in a Facebook post. According to the post, the Ukrainian troops have also "destroyed 1,584 Russian tanks, 3,744 armored fighting vehicles, 801 artillery systems, 246 multiple launch rocket systems, 105 air defence systems, 217 warplanes, 187 helicopters, 654 operational and tactical level UAVs, 144 cruise missiles, 15 warships/boats, 2,618 other vehicles and tanker trucks, and 64 pieces of special equipment". "The enemy suffered the greatest losses in the past day in the Kramatorsk and Bakhmut directions," the General Staff said.

Argentine economy minister resigns

Buenos Aires, July 3 (IANS) Argentine Economy Minister Martin Guzman has submitted his resignation from the post he has held since December 2019. "With deep conviction and confidence in my vision of the path that Argentina should follow, I will continue working and acting for a fairer, freer, and more sovereign homeland," he said in a letter to President Alberto Fernandez. "I have dedicated my adult life to building a vision and capabilities to lead a process of normalizing the function of Argentina's economy, which for so long has been characterized by patterns that generate uncertainty and anguish for millions of our compatriots," he was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

Guzman's tenure was characterized by the optimal development of debt negotiations with external private creditors as well as with the International Monetary Fund. He was also known for carrying out an economic programme that emphasised correcting the fiscal deficit and strengthening the local debt market.

Paris-Vienna Orient Express train to return in 2024

Paris, July 3 (IANS) French multinational hospitality company Accor has announced the Orient Express train linking Paris to Austria's capital Vienna will return in 2024, French media reported Saturday. The new train will have 12 sleeping-cars, one restaurant, three lounges and a caboose, Xinhua news agency reported, citing news channel BFMTV. Launched in the 1880s by Belgian civil engineer and businessman Georges Nagelmackers, the Orient Express train operated until 2009, connecting Paris via capitals of continental Europe to Istanbul. Its first journey linked Paris to Vienna. "In 2024, just in time for the Paris Olympic Games, the first cars designed in collaboration with the finest French artisans will unveil the new charms of the Orient Express," said the Accor Group, which co-owns the Orient Express with France's national state-owned railway company SNCF. The rebirth of the Orient Express meeting scientific, artistic and technical criteria is a technological challenge as the entire project has been conceived as a work of art, said Maxime d'Angeac, architect for the new Orient Express train, in a press release.

Bullet that killed Al Jazeera journalist handed to US for examination: Palestine

Ramallah, July 3 (IANS) A senior Palestinian official has said that the bullet which killed veteran Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in May had been handed to a US team for examination. The bullet won't be handed to the Israeli authorities and the competent Palestinian authorities have agreed to hand it to the US, Palestinian Attorney-General Akram Al-Khatib told the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, Xinhua news agency reported. That followed a Palestinian probe in May, which said Abu Akleh was "deliberately" shot by an Israeli sniper but was denounced by Israel as "a blatant lie". Israel has requested Palestine to hand over the bullet for a joint investigation, but was refused. "We agreed to allow a specialised US team of experts to conduct a technical examination of the bullet and the bullet has been handed over to the team who recently arrived in the country for this purpose," Al-Khatib said. The examination will be conducted at the US embassy in Jerusalem, he added. Abu Akleh, a 51-year-old Al Jazeera journalist who was born in Jerusalem, was killed by a live bullet in the head on May 11 while covering an Israeli army incursion into the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, which has drawn widespread Palestinian, Arab and international condemnation.

Australia surpasses 10,000 Covid-19 deaths

Canberra, July 3 (IANS) Australia has surpassed 10,000 coronavirus deaths as Covid-19 case numbers continue to rise in the country, with 30 more deaths reported on Sunday. Of those deaths, more than 7,500 have occurred in 2022 during which restrictions have been largely abolished, Xinhua news agency reported.

The states of Victoria and New South Wales (NSW), which account for more than 55 per cent of Australia's population, have accounted for more than 75 per cent of the nation's Covid-19 deaths. Almost 35 per cent of Australia's coronavirus



deaths were aged 80-89, with a further 25 per cent for those aged 90 and older. There were more than 30,000 new Covid-19 cases reported across Australia on Sunday, taking the country's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to approximately 8.2 million. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler recently asked people to get booster shots to provide further protection.

Hong Kong Palace Museum open to public

Hong Kong, July 3 (IANS) The Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM), located in the West Kowloon Cultural District of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), was open to the public on Sunday.

More than 900 treasures from the collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing are put on display on rotation at the opening exhibitions. Some of the pieces are being shown in Hong Kong for the first time, Xinhua news agency reported. About 80 per cent of the around 140,000 tickets for the first four weeks of the opening exhibitions have already been sold. Kevin Yeung, secretary for culture, sports and



tourism of the HKSAR government, said the "HKPM will leverage Hong Kong's own cultural edge to tell a good China story". General admission is priced at 50 Hong Kong dollars (about \$6.37), while special exhibition tickets will be 120 Hong Kong dollars (\$15.29). The museum will be free to all on Wednesdays during the first year of opening, and 150,000 general admission tickets will be sponsored by corporates and other organisations for distribution to underprivileged groups, the museum said.

S.Korean President's disapproval rating exceeds approval rating

Seoul, July 3 (IANS) South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's disapproval rating surpassed his approval rating in a poll released on Sunday. The survey by Research View, conducted on 1,000 South Koreans aged 18 or over from last Tuesday to Thursday, was the latest in a series of national polls, in which those giving a negative assessment of Yoon's performance outnumbered those who were bullish on the President, Yonhap news agency reported.

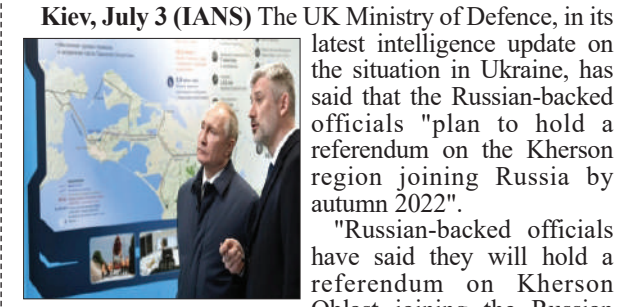
This poll was conducted while Yoon was visiting Spain for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit, his first overseas trip since taking office in May.



According to Research View, 51 per cent of the polled said Yoon has been doing an inadequate job as President, while 45 per cent said he is handling state affairs well. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. In Research View's previous poll on Yoon from May 28-30, Yoon had a 53 per cent approval rating, with only 40 per cent giving a negative performance review on the new President.

Russia plans to annex Kherson region by autumn: UK intel

Kiev, July 3 (IANS) The UK Ministry of Defence, in its latest intelligence update on the situation in Ukraine, has said that the Russian-backed officials "plan to hold a referendum on the Kherson region joining Russia by autumn 2022". "Russian-backed officials have said they will hold a referendum on Kherson Oblast joining the Russian Federation by autumn 2022. Russia is likely prioritizing a pseudo-constitutional vote in an attempt to legitimize its control of the region," the ministry was quoted as saying by Ukrinform news agency. According to the update, despite the arrest of Kherson Mayor Ihor Kolykhaiev on June 28, 2022, "widespread armed and peaceful resistance continues across occupied areas". "Kherson is the region which has been brought under the new Russian occupation most comprehensively since February. Finding a constitutional solution for the occupation is likely a priority policy objective for Russia. It will highly likely be prepared to rig voting to achieve an acceptable result," the ministry said.



S.Korean Prez to appoint new JCS chief amid tensions over N.Korea

Seoul, July 3 (IANS) South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is expected to appoint Army General Kim Seung-kyum as the new head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) early this week, a key presidential official said on Sunday, amid lingering tensions over North Korea's provocations. Kim, who was nominated for the top military job on May 25, should take over the position quickly to prevent any leadership vacuum in the armed forces, the official was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency. "We haven't identified any ground for disqualification," the official added. Kim most recently served as the deputy commander of the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command. The outgoing JCS chief, Air Force Gen. Won In-choul, will step down on Monday. The planned appointment on Monday

comes amid tensions over a series of North Korea's missile launches and a possible nuclear test. Kim would be the first JCS chair to be appointed without a parliamentary confirmation hearing since 2006, when South Korea added a JCS chair to the list of nominees who are subject to confirmation hearings. Yoon does not require approval from the National Assembly in appointing Kim as his first JCS chair. In South Korea, the prime minister is the only Cabinet post that requires parliamentary approval. Last month, Yoon also appointed Kim Chang-ki, a longtime tax official, as the new chief of the National Tax Service.



S.Korea's new Covid cases stay over 10,000 amid resurgence woes

Seoul, July 3 (IANS) South Korea's new coronavirus cases stayed above 10,000 for the second consecutive day on Sunday as the daily cases seemed to be rising again after months of subsiding. The country added 10,059 Covid-19 infections, including 191 cases from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 18,389,611, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency. The country reported eight Covid-19 deaths, raising the death toll to 24,570. The fatality rate stood at 0.13 per cent. The number of critically ill patients stood at 53, the KDCA said. South Korea's Covid-19 outbreaks have shown a downward trend after daily new cases peaked at an all-time high of over 620,000 in mid-March. But the KDCA has said the pace of decline has recently slowed down amid waning vaccine immunity and increasing social interactions



following eased social distancing rules, and that a possible spike in infections lies ahead. Sunday's figure is up by more than 3,800 from a week ago and nearly 4,000 from two weeks ago. Imported cases have remained above 100 since June 24 due to a rise in international flights. Of the 9,868 locally transmitted cases, Seoul accounted for 2,437 cases, with the surrounding Gyeonggi Province reporting 2,637 cases. There were 516 infections in Incheon, 40 km west of Seoul.

Journo Ayaz Amir assaulted for being critical of Pak Army?

Islamabad, July 3 (IANS) The Pakistani government's "intrusive" attitude towards the media was evident during the Imran Khan government when those critical of him and his government were targeted. With the rift between the Army and Imran Khan increasing, one now finds those critical of the Army being targeted. The Army has been sending out a clear message to all those who matter that they would not afford any criticism in any form, and from any quarter. However, the political dynamics in the country is so intricate that the possibility of vested interests pushing journalists to criticise the Army and then being attacked by their own cronies to show the attack as being carried out by the Army cannot be ruled out. On July 1, some unidentified persons attacked senior journalist and analyst Ayaz Amir of Dunya News programme "Think Tank". Pak Premier Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz have taken notice of the attack and sought a report. The attack on Amir intriguingly was carried out only a day after his speech at a seminar on regime change organised by lawyers of Islamabad High Court Bar Association who have been supporting the PTI of Imran Khan. In his speech, Amir had indirectly accused the General Headquarters (GHQ) of toppling Imran government and not the US. He also criticised Imran for giving extension to the present Army Chief and stressed that now onwards all successive army chiefs would aspire for a tenure of six years and more as long as they don't attain 64 years of age. Amir also lashed out at Imran Khan for relying on a single person (Faiz Hameed) for carrying out all tasks whether related to Balochistan, security issues or political matters. He came down hard on the former Prime Minister for handing over large swathes of land to the property mafia and Defence Housing Association. In all possibility, thrashing of Amir can be attributed to the military establishment. However, in the prevailing situation, the



possibility of the PTI itself or the anti-Bajwa lobby being involved in the attack to further tarnish the image of Gen Bajwa and DG ISI Naveed Anjum cannot be ruled out. The "cowardly" attack has evoked strong reaction from the PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi and other PTI leaders as well as condemnation by media fraternity. Imran Khan's tweet indirectly held the military establishment and ISI

responsible for the "dastardly" attack. Condemning the incident, the former Prime Minister said, "I condemn in strongest terms the violence against senior journalist Ayaz Amir today. Pakistan is descending into the worst kind of fascism with violence & fake FIRs against journalists, opposition politicians, citizens etc. When the state loses all moral authority it resorts to violence". Imran's chief of staff Shahbaz Gill tweeted that the incident is clear indication of the same tactics of traditional fascism. The media fraternity held the view that such incidents against journalists are "constantly occurring, and was absolutely deplorable and unacceptable". Investigative reporter Umar Cheema tweeted that Amir became the target of all elements in Pakistani politics as he criticised the incumbent government seeking a change in the government while at the same time he attacked the Army and Imran Khan as well. Another Pakistani media personality, Gharida Farooqi said that the attack on the senior columnist was the most condemnable act. She questioned whether it was an act by some affected persons or part of tactics against the govt? Najam Sethi tweeted that the physical attack on Ayaz Amir is shocking and reprehensible. It was meant to teach a lesson that some subjects are still taboo. Vlogger Murtaza Solangi wrote that the "dastardly assault on senior journalist Ayaz Amir is despicable and disgusting". "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz must order to punish the culprits," he said. It is the duty of the security agencies and the police to find, prosecute and punish the thugs who had committed this horrible act. Journalist Talat Hussain tweeted that "Ayaz Amir was beaten up today. Shameful. Absolutely condemnable." Columnist and author Hamid Mir, condemning the incident recalled that last year unidentified people had harassed journalist Asad Toor after barging into his house in Islamabad. "The assailants could not be arrested till date. If Asad Toor had got justice, unidentified men would have not dared to attack Amir." Journalist Azaz Syed tweeted that he spoke to Amir in the morning regarding his "domineering speech". He said that "in the evening, this tragic incident took place. It is very important to expose the culprits by conducting an immediate investigation into the incident with Amir Sahib".

'Anupamaa' actor Adhik Mehta talks about his passion for basketball

Mumbai, July 3 (IANS) Actor Adhik Mehta, now seen in TV show 'Anupamaa', reveals that he's a keen sportsman and has played basketball ever since he was in school.

He says: "Even though one can quickly acquire the basic skills to play basketball, becoming a truly skilled player takes a lot of exercise and dedication. Even today whenever I'm free or struggling with something, I play the sport to feel relaxed and fresh."

"I got encouraged to the sport since my school days, I have played for my school at different levels. Having the right motivation is a key ingredient to continuously keep improving our basketball skills, and my team helped me."

Adhik, who has also been featured in shows like 'Choti Sarrdaarni' and 'Bepanah Pyaar', discussed the positive benefits of the sport.

He said: "Playing basketball helps to improve motor coordination, flexibility, and endurance. It also encourages speed, agility, and strength. These skills are shown to have a positive effect on promoting a healthy body weight and encouraging more physical activity, which can enhance cardiorespiratory fitness and self-esteem. The sport also develops self-confidence."

Science

China might be contemplating a 'takeover' of the Moon, says NASA administrator

Washington, July 3 (IANS) China might be contemplating a "takeover" of the Moon as part of its military space program, NASA's administrator Bill Nelson has told newspaper Bild.

In an interview, Nelson claimed that the United States is now involved in a new race to space, with China this time. He emphasized that in 2035, Beijing might finish construction of its own Moon station and start experiments a year later.

Nelson claimed that we must be very concerned about China landing on the Moon and saying that it now belongs to the Peoples' Republic and everyone else should stay out, RT reported. Claiming that China's space program is a "military" space program, Nelson explained that the competition for the south pole of the moon is especially intense: potential water deposits there could be used in the future for rocket-fuel production. When asked by Bild what military purposes could China be pursuing in space, Nelson claimed that Chinese astronauts are busy learning how to destroy other countries' satellites. Despite Beijing's assurances that its ambitious space program has purely peaceful purposes, Nelson has long been a tough critic of China's policy in space, RT reported. In April, he accused Chinese officials of refusing to work with the US on its operations and of concealing important data. Earlier, however, he acknowledged that NASA abides by a 2011 law that prohibits the agency from engaging in direct collaboration with the Chinese government or any China-affiliated organizations without explicit approval from Congress and federal law enforcement authorities. Chinese officials have pointed to that ban, called the Wolf Amendment, as "unfortunate" and an impediment to direct cooperation with NASA.

Environment

6 NDRF teams on standby in Gujarat after very heavy rainfall alert

Vadodara, July 3 (IANS) The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed six teams in various parts of Gujarat after the Meteorological Department forecast that there will be heavy to very heavy rainfall along the coastal belt, south Gujarat, and some parts of central and north Gujarat.

NDRF's 6th Battalion's Deputy Commandant Anupam told IANS, "Three teams are carrying out rescue operations in Anand, Navsari and Gir Somnath district, six other teams have been kept on standby -- three at Rajkot, two in Gandhinagar, one each in Surat and Banaskantha district." He also said three teams are deployed in Rajasthan, one each in Kishangarh, Kota and Udaipur.

Weather forecast for the state from July 3 to next five days is, 'heavy to very heavy rains likely at the isolated places in the districts of south Gujarat like Surat and Navsari, Saurashtra's Junagadh, heavy rains likely in districts like Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Dangs, Valsad, Tapi, Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli, Porbandar, Kutch, Amreli, Dwarka, Gir Somnath in Saurashtra and Kutch region'.

In the last 24 hours (July 2, 8 a.m. to July 3, 8 a.m.), Navsari's Vandsa received 136 mm, Devbhumi Dwarka's Khambhalia taluka (114) Junagadh's Manavadar (106) and Tapi district's Dolvan taluka received 98 mm rainfall. In the last 24 hours, 110 Talukas have received more than 5 mm rains.

NDRF team on Sunday recovered one more dead body from Kathol village of Borsad taluka. It had recovered two bodies that were swept away in heavy rains on Thursday night. The Borsad taluka in Anand district received 12 inches of rain. Several villages are still marooned in three to four feet water.

Anand District Panchayat president Hansaben Parmar have blamed the village sarpanch for this situation. She said if they had done pre-monsoon work properly, water would have flowed easily either in lakes or in farms, but that did not happen.



Arshi Khan slams Munawar for tweet on Justin Bieber's facial paralysis

Mumbai, July 3 (IANS) 'Bigg Boss 11' fame Arshi Khan hits back at 'Lock Up' winner Munawar Faruqui after he tweeted about singer Justin Bieber's facial paralysis. His tweet has drawn criticism from several netizens.

Arshi, who is known for her acting in TV shows such as 'Ishq Mein Marjawan' and 'Vish' took her Twitter account to tweet, "Yeh mehnat kar ke name n fame kamaya hai(He has earned name and fame by doing hard work). Youth ko galiya dena sikha k nahi (Not by teaching youth how to use abusive language). N still he looks more handsome than u."

Arshi says: "Justin has earned success in his career with his talent unlike Faruqui who is spotted involved in controversial acts. He is seen using slangs while performing stand-up comedy and that has made him popular



among youth. Later, Arshi also mentioned that she still finds Justin handsome compared to Faruqui."

Munawar Faruqui's recent tweet on Justin Bieber's facial paralysis has received backlash from many. The stand-up comedian's tweet did not go down well with many Twitter users, who are upset and have called his tweet 'insensitive' and also accused him of making fun of the singer's illness.

He tweeted, "Dear Justin Bieber, i can totally understand... Even here in India, right side not working properly."

In an Instagram post, Justin Bieber had informed fans about facial paralysis.

Samantha blames KJo films for portraying marriages unrealistically

Hyderabad, July 3 (IANS) The seventh season of the well-known celebrity talk show - 'Koffee With Karan' is about to begin. Samantha Ruth Prabhu is seen pulling Karan Johar's leg in the flamboyant trailer, which came out on Saturday. She brings up the subject of marriages in his films.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu appeared on Karan's show. She created a name for herself in the first episode of the Hindi webseries The Family Man-2. The precise air date of Samantha Ruth Prabhu's episode is still unknown, but it seems like the Majili actress had a few light-hearted moments during her appearance on the show.

As Karan Johar and Samantha appear to be having a good time talking about some recent events, Samantha is heard telling Karan: "You are the reason behind unhappy marriages." "You have portrayed life as 'K3G-Kabhi Kushi Kabhi Gham',



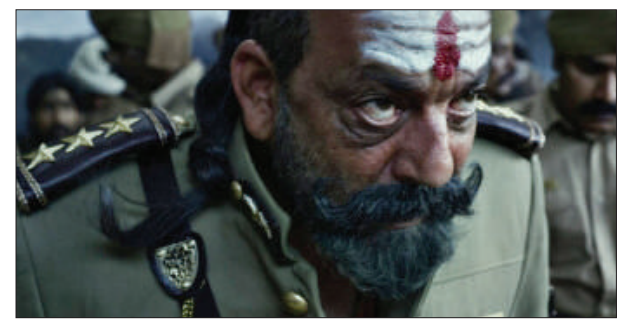
whereas in fact, life is 'KGF,'" Samantha says. These amusing exchanges between Karan Johar and Samantha have gone viral.

Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Devarakonda, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Shahid Kapoor, and Kiara Advani are some of the Bollywood celebrities who will be seen on the celebrity talk show this season.

Sanjay Dutt: 'Shuddh Singh' is funny and dangerous at the same time

Mumbai, July 3 (IANS) Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt who is to appear as an interesting character in the upcoming Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Shamshera' says as an actor, he is submissive to the director, and his character Shuddh Singh is both funny and dangerous. The film has been directed by Karan Malhotra.

In a BTS video released by the makers, Sanjay Dutt is shown preparing for the character and declaring: "I am an actor and if I believe



in a script or character, then I leave it to the director. His interpretation of Shuddh Singh, I can portray on the screen to the best of my abilities. Yes, I have my suggestions that I give and it enhances the character even more. Shuddh Singh is funny and dangerous. The audience should love him!"

Karan also shared how he was able to to direct a veteran actor like Sanjay. He said: "I think what happens with me is, when I

think of Sanjay sir to play a part in my film which I am doing, especially if it is a negative part, a good kind of madness grips me from inside. It's just that automatically I start getting ideas of how to present him in the most menacing and the most unnerving way possible."

Adding to that, Ranbir, who is playing the protagonist in the film, said: "He is extremely spontaneous and I think he behaves like he is not working hard but he is working hard, he is constantly on set thinking about it. I believe that he does work hard though he gives the impression that he doesn't care, but he cares a lot about work."

The story of 'Shamshera' is set in the fictitious city of Kaza, where a warrior tribe is imprisoned, enslaved and tortured by a ruthless authoritarian general named Shuddh Singh.

This is the story of a man who became a slave, a slave who became a leader and then a legend for his tribe. He relentlessly fights for his tribe's freedom and dignity.

Produced by Aditya Chopra under the YRF banner, 'Shamshera' is being released in theatre on July 22.

TV stars urge followers to make single-use plastics ban work

Mumbai, July 3 (IANS) International Plastic Free Day (July 3) is a global initiative to eliminate the use of plastic bags and spread awareness about plastic pollution. TV actors talk about reducing the use of plastic for a sustainable and clean environment.

Actor Kunal Jaisingh who is currently seen essaying the lead role in the TV show Muskurane Ki Vajah Tum Ho is against single-use plastics.

He says: "I'm avoiding single-use plastics such as drinking straws, plates and cutlery made from this material, which make our lives easier at times, but seriously harm the planet. These types of products have viable alternatives and there is an urgent need to choose these. I'm with my government's new guidelines against the use of plastics to save our planet earth."

Actress Mridula Oberoi who plays an antagonist in TV show Appnapan urges people to carry a paper or cloth bag.

She says: "Whenever we go to the supermarket, if every time we go we use reusable bags (cloth, string or wicker) the health of our planet will improve. From now on, remember to take yours when leaving the house. I'm against polybags. This time we should support our government in the fight against plastic."

Mitaali Nag, from the TV show Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin, urges you to pay attention and put your plastic waste in the correct recycling container.



"Our lifestyle sometimes prevents us from paying attention to details. Therefore, when it comes to recycling plastic waste it can end up in the wrong container. Before throwing your waste away, think where each item has to go," she adds, showing her support to the Government for the ban of plastic. Actress Shubhangi Atre seen as Angoori Bhabhi, in TV show Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai fame asks to reuse and give some of the packaging a new purpose.

"If you have no choice but to buy a plastic bottle or a plastic container in an emergency, reuse it instead of throwing it away. A bottle can be filled up as many times as you like and containers can be used to store other food or as planting pots."

Haarsh Limbachiya wishes wife and comedienne Bharti Singh on her b'day

Mumbai, July 3 (IANS) Comedienne Bharti Singh has all the reasons to cheer up as she gets a year older today. Her husband Haarsh Limbachiya shared a picture with Bharti on his Instagram stories in a green shimmering gown and wrote a small caption: "Happy Birthday my love".

Born on July 3, 1984 in Amritsar, Punjab, Bharti has been part of several projects including 'Comedy Nights Bachao', 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 9', 'Hunarbaaz Desh Ki Shaan', 'The Khatra Khatra Show' and many more.

This birthday is more special as she is celebrating with her baby Gola. Her family and friends including Avika Gor, Yuvika Chaudhary, Mubeen Saudagar and other are sending across their best wishes for her.

Mubeen wrote with a heart emoji: "Happy



Birthday to my sis God bless you"

Many of her fans also shared birthday wishes. One fan commented: "Happy birthday my love"

"Happy birthday Laughter Queen!"

Another fan wrote: "Happiest born day bharti ji"

Health

Male infertility rising due to tight clothing, climate: Experts

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) The infertility and the impaired fecundity have been a concern through ages and is rising for various reasons. The prevalence of infertility in the general population is 15 to 20 per cent, as per the World Health Organisation and the male infertility factor contributes around 40 per cent to this rate.

Talking about the rising male infertility, Dr Neeta Singh, Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, said that Sperm DNA fragmentation is an important factor for this.

"The parenting age has considerably increased compared to last 25-30 years because of late marriage trends. Now, males generally marry after 30-33 years and



more or less, there is same pattern for females also. So, with the advancement of the ages, there happens DNA fragmentation in the sperm which is primarily responsible for the male infertility," said Dr Singh.

Among other reasons, the rising temperature is also an important factor for the male infertility, she said, adding that, "Our clothing patterns have also an impact on the infertility."

"The testes are naturally placed outside the body because it even can not tolerate the body's normal temperature. But, tight dressing trends and hot geographical location causes severe infertility," said Dr Singh of AIIMS, adding that it also affects the blood circulation of the body.

She continued saying that

declining sperm count across the globe and accordingly, the WHO has also reduced the acceptable value for normal sperm count. From 45 million sperm count, it has been reduced to 15 million sperm count which is supposed enough for pregnancy", said Delhi-based fertility expert Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj.

"In the semen analysis, good count was considered above 60 million a decade ago, but in today's environment, we find maximum normal sperm count around 30 to 40 million and it has considerably decreased," she added.

Dr Bajaj said that around 40 per cent of total infertility is caused by male infertility, adding that if sperm count is above 15 million, pregnancy can be achieved.

"The internal rhythm of the body has been broken due to work pressure of global lifestyle. People living in India work as per the timing of European countries or other nations which adversely affect the rhythm of the body and results into the performance pressure affecting their sperm quality", added Dr Bajaj.

Meanwhile, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is currently below the replacement level of fertility of 2.1 children per woman. The TFR is the average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime. The below-replacement fertility results eventually in negative population growth and extinction of the population in the long term.

Now Ola Electric's charging network head quits

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) There is no stopping resignations at Ola Electric and now, Yashwant Kumar, who is Senior Director and Business Head for Charging Networks at the company, has decided to move on.

A B.Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, Kumar joined Ola Electric in March last year.

He is among several senior employees who have made a beeline to leave Bhavish Aggarwal-run electric two-wheeler company in the recent months, sources told IANS on Sunday, amid global meltdown, supply chain issues and several EV fire episodes that have shaken the trust of EV buyers in the country.

The news about Kumar's resignation was first reported by ET Auto.

Ola Electric refused to comment on this. Kumar was earlier Co-founder and CEO of digital marketing agency GenY Medium in Hyderabad and worked at Procter & Gamble for more than five years.

He led branding initiatives for Pantene and Pringles for the South East Asia markets, prior to starting GenY Medium in India. Last month, Ola Electric's Director HR, Ranjit Kondeshan, decided to move on. Kondeshan departed from the electric mobility company on July 2, just 14 months after joining.

Ola Electric, facing a government probe in battery fires along with other EV players, has seen some high-profile exits in recent months.



Nidhi Chaturvedi Jha quit Ola Electric as regional head in May and joined Amazon.

In April, chief marketing officer Varun Dubey left the company due to "personal reasons".

Earlier, Dinesh Radhakrishnan, who was the chief technology officer (CTO) at Ola Electric, moved on from the company. According to his LinkedIn profile, he was appointed CTO at Ola Electric in May last year.

Meanwhile, Arun Sirdeshmukh who was head of Ola Cars, which is the used car commerce division of the company, announced his departure from the company.

Ola Electric again saw its sales dipping in the month of June, taking the company to fourth place in the overall category.

It saw 5,869 electric scooters' sales (as of June 30), according to the VAHAN data.

Ola Electric was the top EV player in the country in April and since then, it has seen its position sliding continuously.

A case for private investment in Colombo Airport

Colombo, July 3 (IANS)

Tourism has been a major source of forex for Sri Lanka. Prior to the pandemic, Sri Lanka's annual earnings from tourism had reached close to US\$ 4.3 billion. The advent of the pandemic has reduced this to about US\$ 500 million in 2021. This sharp decline has been one of the major factors in the current forex crisis.

It would be critical to revive this revenue stream as early as possible, especially because the inflows will be immediate and easily accessible.

Maldives adopted a very effective and innovative strategy to sustain tourism flows during the pandemic by focusing on the Indian market. It entered into an Air Bubble agreement with India as early as September 2020. This ensured relatively healthy tourist arrivals mainly comprising Indian tourists throughout the pandemic period. Helped by the rebound in the tourism sector, Maldives has managed to achieve healthy growth rates unlike Sri Lanka.

As in Maldives, India has been the largest source of tourists for Sri Lanka. In 2019, nearly 3,55,000 tourists from India visited Sri Lanka. This trend has continued since the reopening of tourist travel by Sri Lanka. In 2021, 29 per cent of the total tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka comprised visitors from India. In the first quarter of 2022, the Indian tourists once again



constituted the largest group out of a total of 56,389 arrivals.

However, there was little visible effort by Sri Lanka to tap into the Indian market or create a special dispensation for the Indian tourists during the pandemic or after it. There seems to be some effort now to try and open new routes to enable greater tourist flows from India. One such initiative is the proposed resumption of Chennai-Jaffna flights. This could be supplemented by the initiation of the ferry services between India and Sri Lanka and starting with services between KKS and Karaikal. There have been recent announcements regarding cabinet

approvals for both. These are steps in the right direction and need to be implemented quickly and decisively.

With the moderation of global tourist flows and competition among destinations for attracting a limited number of international travellers, it is imperative that Sri Lanka goes beyond the usual tourism promotion and focuses upon creating world class facilities and infrastructure for tourists. However, it is evident that the government can do little in this regard due to the constraints it faces as a result of the current economic crisis. Therefore, it will be critical to be able to utilize the

private sector or external funding to help maintain and further develop facilities such as airports which are an important consideration for every tourist.

For instance, the Bandaranaike International Airport at Colombo is one of the most important entry points for tourists and requires constant upkeep as well as expansion for the future. Privatisation of this airport would not only help deliver better services for users, but also reduce the financial burden on GoSL while ensuring steady revenue in the form of royalties and profit sharing.

Investment from India in the BIA appears a logical and natural choice in view of the fact that it is the largest source of tourists for Sri Lanka and also has entities which are well versed in development and management of similar airports. This would have a beneficial effect not only for the tourist arrivals from India but for the overall economic partnership and would be mutually advantageous.

This would also ensure that Sri Lanka would be embarking upon investment based solutions in a sector of priority with its closest neighbour and largest trading partner.

Investment driven solutions are not only sustainable and beneficial in the long run but also enable the development of the synergies in allied areas.

55% IndiGo domestic flights delayed as crew call sick on AI recruitment day, DGCA to probe



New Delhi, July 3 (IANS): Fifty-five per cent of IndiGo's domestic flights were delayed on Saturday as a significant number of cabin crew members took sick leave, with sources in the industry saying they ostensibly went for an Air India recruitment drive.

When asked about this matter, DGCA chief Arun Kumar said on Sunday, "We are looking into this." The phase-2 of Air India's recruitment drive was conducted on Saturday and majority of IndiGo's cabin crew members who took sick leave went for it, the sources in the industry added.

IndiGo, India's largest airline, currently operates approximately 1,600 flights -domestic and international - daily. IndiGo did not respond to request for a statement on the matter.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation's website, 45.2 per cent of IndiGo's domestic flights operated on time on Saturday.

In comparison, the on-time performances of Air India, SpiceJet, Vistara, Go First and AirAsia India was 77.1 per cent, 80.4 per cent, 86.3 per cent, 88 per cent and 92.3 per cent, respectively, on Saturday. The Tata Group took control of Air India on January 27, after successfully winning the bid for the airline on October 8 last year. Air India has started a recruitment drive for fresh cabin crew members as it is planning to buy new planes and improve its services.

India-EU FTA talks: Next round at Brussels in Sept, says ComMin



New Delhi, July 3 (IANS): The Commerce Ministry on Saturday said that India and the European Union (EU) concluded the first round of talks for their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) on Friday and the next round of talks is scheduled at Brussels in September.

India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17, after a gap of over eight years, on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI). The first round of talks, which began on June 27, ended July 1. India's FTA negotiations were led by Chief Negotiator Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce and the EU was represented by its Chief Negotiator Christophe Kiener, the ministry said in a statement. The week-long negotiations were held in a hybrid fashion - with some of the teams meeting in Delhi and the majority of officials joining virtually.

During the first round, 52 technical sessions covering 18 policy areas of FTA and seven sessions on investment protection and GIs were held, it added. India's bilateral trade with the EU amounted to \$116.36 billion in 2021-22. At present, the EU is India's second largest trading partner after the US, and the second largest destination for Indian exports. "The trade agreement with the EU would help India further expand and diversify its exports of goods and services, including securing the value chains. Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be broad-based, balanced, and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity," it added.

Over 22K techies lose jobs in US, more than 12K in Indian startups

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) As the tech and startup sector gets hammered by economic meltdown, more than 22,000 workers in the sector have lost jobs in 2022, along with more than 12,000 in the Indian startup ecosystem.

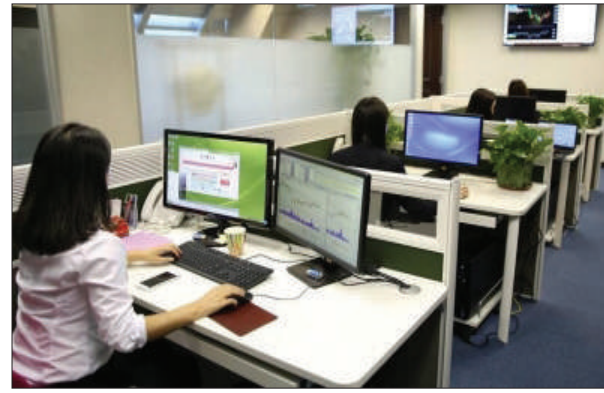
Startups, especially the ones who benefited from a pandemic boom, are feeling the pressure as valuations, particularly at the late stage, have started to dip, according to Crunchbase.

Startups now say it is

much more difficult to raise new funding in this gloomy environment.

Globally, companies like Netflix, financial services company Robinhood and several crypto platforms have tripped their workforce.

In the world of crypto that has been battered by the economic headwinds, crypto exchanges and firms including Coinbase, Gemini, crypto.com, Vauld, Bybit, Bitpanda and others announced to downsize their workforce.



Pokemon GO game developer Niantic has asked eight per cent of its workforce to leave the company, which is said to be around 85-90 people.

Time to move from 'Volume' to 'Value' leadership in Pharma market: Mandaviya

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) Let us move from 'Volume' to 'Value' leadership to capture global pharmaceutical market, said Union Health Minister Mansukh said on Saturday.

He told the leaders of Pharma industry that it is time to accumulate knowledge from global best practices in research, manufacturing and innovation and develop own models focused on accelerating production to meet the domestic demand while increasing global footprint.

Mandaviya was discussing India's Pharma Vision 2047 and roadmap for the Indian pharmaceutical sector with Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

The session discussed the current position of the pharma industry in India, key initiatives taken by the Government in the last few years and collaborative steps that will help India realize this vision.

"We already have the required man



power and brand power and Indian companies today are at an inflexion point to capture top global positions", said Mandaviya, adding that India has been acknowledged as pharmacy of the world based on its generic medicines production and the volume share in global market. It is time to move ahead and capture the top

global positions based on the value too, he stressed.

Emphasising that the Government is committed to supporting the Pharma Companies with Industry-Friendly policies and investor promoting ecosystem, he said, "This Government believes in taking a holistic approach. Our policies are based on extensive and comprehensive stakeholder consultation which provide the basis for comprehensive, long-term and vibrant policy ecosystem".

The government will strengthen the sector through streamlining policies and effective schemes such as the PLI which support cutting edge research, he said. Apart from policy front, Mandaviya also focused on the investments in research and development, efficient manufacturing capacities along with creating ample opportunities for innovation that is the need of the hour now.

Gold import duty hike: Demand in spot market may not be impacted in the long term, feel analysts

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS): The demand for gold in the key spot markets of the country may not see a significant drop in the mid-to-long term despite the sharp hike in the import duty of the precious metal, market experts said.

Expert say the purchase of the yellow metal in India is predominantly driven by sentiment instead of price and this may not get affected so easily.

"In India, we buy gold on emotional basis...If someone has a wedding in the family, I don't think it would have a major impact on the purchase," Ajay Kedia, Managing Director at Kedia Advisory said. India is the second-largest consumer of gold and fulfills most of its demand through imports. On Friday, the government hiked import duty on gold to 15 per cent from 10.75 per cent to check the current account deficit and rising import of the yellow metal. The duty changes came into effect on June 30. Earlier, the basic customs duty on

gold was 7.5 per cent, it will now be 12.5 per cent. Along with the agriculture infrastructure development cess (AIDC) of 2.5 per cent, the effective gold customs duty will be 15 per cent.

The latest move by the government raises a few questions regarding the price and demand for the precious metal in the market.

Kedia believes that the increase in the import duty will cause a momentary dent in the demand for the precious metal, but unlike buyers in the international market, Indians buy gold on emotional grounds. "So there can be a dent in the demand for now, customers will continue to purchase gold in the near future," he said.

However, he also believes that this hike can take a toll on the demand by the investors in the country, as whenever someone invests in gold their objective is to receive at least an 8 to 10 per cent gain. "With the rise in



import duty, the return will be compromised," Kedia said.

So where investment demand can take a hit, the physical demand for the asset will endure nothing too major.

Speaking about the affordability of gold, considering inflation in the past few months has reached a record high, Kedia said, "Higher inflation has led to a drop in the purchasing power of the people, but jewellery purchases in wedding seasons aren't planned in a matter of days, such expensive purchases are

planned for decades in advance."

He explained that the expenditure towards gold and silver is already fixed in such cases.

The government's priority at this point is to combat high inflation and rising import bills. The top three imports for India are crude oil, gold, and edible oil, and since gold is the only non-productive import, government has chosen to raise it. However, in the long run, analysts expect gold will charm customers again once inflation and recession concerns ease. Surendra

Mehta, National Secretary, India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), said gold demand would take a hit for the first two-three months but there won't be any impact in the long run.

Mehta said, "Gold is used by the rural population to save money as a faring mechanism, it is used as a hedge against inflation, as an alternative investment when the other asset classes are in a recession."

"For the initial two-three months, gold demand will take a hit. However, overall I do not see any changes in the demand pattern," he added.

On being asked about the impact on demand for the upcoming wedding season, Mehta said, "Auspicious days for marriages end on July 10, so purchases for the wedding season have already concluded. The next auspicious season doesn't start until August-September, so this period is going to be a low demand period anyway."

Gold prices rose sharply following the

announcement of the import hike by the government.

Gold of 999 purity closed at Rs 51,791 per 10 grams on Friday, an increase of Rs 928 from Thursday's closing price of Rs 50,863, while gold of 916 purity closed at Rs 47,441 per 10 grams, up Rs 850 from the previous day's closing price of Rs 46,591.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange of India, the gold contract for August delivery was trading at Rs 51,601.00 per 10 grams, up Rs 1084.00 (2.15 per cent) at 06:29 PM.

Talking about the import duty impact, Nirpendra Yadav, Senior Commodity Research Analyst, Swastika Investmart, agreed with other market experts and said, "With the news of an increase in the import duty of 5 per cent in India, the Gold on MCX may find support towards the levels of Rs 49,500 and resistance towards Rs 52,500 for the August contract."

Builder shot dead in Delhi

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) A 40-year-old builder was shot dead by unknown assailants here on Saturday, the police said.

The incident took place at around 2.30 p.m. when Amit Goyal was going from his office to the parking space where his car was parked.

Goyal, a resident of Meera Bagh, had his office in Vikas Tower at Jwala Heri Market.

DCP Sameer Sharma said the assailants came on a car and fired multiple shots at the builder.

"He was rushed to the Balaji Action Hospital in Paschim Vihar where he was declared 'brought dead' by the doctors," the police officer said.

The police have recovered empty bullet cartridges from the spot.

"Nine teams including special staff are currently working to trace and arrest the accused persons," the DCP added.

Actress Pavithra Lokesh lodges complaint against stalking

Mysuru, (Karnataka) July 3 (IANS) Actress Pavithra Lokesh has lodged a complaint against some people for stalking her in V.V. Puram police station in Mysuru city, police said on Sunday.

Pavithra Lokesh, who hails from Karnataka, is talked about being married to Naresh, step son of Telugu superstar Krishna, who is also the father of superstar Mahesh Babu. Naresh's third wife Ramya Raghupathy has alleged him of cheating and exploitation.

Naresh has clarified that Pavithra Lokesh is his companion, guide, philosopher and best friend. He also said that with her support, he is able to lift himself up from the depths of depression.

Pavithra Lokesh has stated that she has not married Naresh and their relationship should not be misunderstood. She also underlined that no one can violate her privacy and right to make decisions as an individual. She maintains that Naresh and Ramya Raghupathy should resolve their personal issues.

Punjab cabinet's first expansion likely on Monday

Chandigarh, July 3 (IANS) Less than four months after the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) sweeping victory in the Punjab Assembly elections, the Bhagwant Mann government will have its first cabinet expansion on Monday evening with five new ministers, including second-time legislator Aman Arora, likely to be inducted.

With their induction, the total strength of the council of ministers will rise to 15, including the Chief Minister. There, still, will be eight vacancies.

The government has sent a letter to Governor Banwari Lal Purohit for seeking time for the oath-taking ceremony on Monday, an official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told IANS.

The legislators to be included are Fauja Singh Sarahi from Guru Harsahai, Inderbir Singh Nijjar from Amritsar (South), who was the protem Speaker, Anmol Gagan Mann from Kharar, Chetan Singh Jauramajra from Samana, and Arora from Sunam.

Two Delhi CGHS doctors suspended for favouring pharma company

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) Two Delhi Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) doctors have been suspended for allegedly prescribing certain medicines to favour a pharma company, a source said on Sunday.

One doctor of Shahdara CGHS dispensary and another of Dwarka Sector 9 have been suspended for allegedly prescribing the drugs even though the same medicines were available at the CGHS central warehouse at affordable rates, the source said.

Apart from these two, few others are supposed to face disciplinary action for violating the norms.

The action against doctors was taken after Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's office received a complaint in this connection.

After that, an inquiry was ordered, during which violation in prescribing the medicines was revealed.

Fully endorse CJI's affirmation on constitution allegiance: Sinha

Bengaluru, July 3 (IANS) Opposition's Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha, who arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday as part of his poll campaign, said that he was very happy to see in the newspapers a statement by Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, that the "Judiciary is answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone."

Addressing media persons here, he said, "I fully endorse this view and congratulate CJI Ramana for this forthright affirmation. Indeed, I have been saying, since I filed my nomination papers on June 27, that the sole purpose behind my acceptance of the combined Opposition's offer to be their candidate is to safeguard the Constitution and its lofty values, which are today under unprecedented threat."

In the past eight years, the ruling dispensation at the Centre has launched repeated assaults on democracy and secularism, which form the founding principles of our Republic, he stated.

"It has unleashed a poisonous communal propaganda to divide India's multi-religious society. Day before yesterday, the Supreme Court made a stinging indictment of Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammad, saying 'Your loose tongue set nation on fire.' Regrettably, BJP supporters are trolling the Honourable Supreme Court for condemning her remarks," Yashwant Sinha said.

"The central government has weaponised ED, CBI, Election Commission and even the Governor's office against Opposition parties, their leaders and their governments. In Maharashtra, it toppled the coalition government of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress by facilitating the kidnapping of Shiv Sena MLAs to Gujarat and Assam, both being BJP-ruled states. The Centre has no respect for the Federal Structure of the Constitution. It is constantly encroaching upon the powers of states," he explained.

"In Karnataka, the government has been attempting to communalise the minds of the young generation by introducing a new school curriculum coloured by the ruling party's ideological agenda. I condemn this," he said.

"I have great personal regard for the presidential candidate of the ruling party. However, in the prevailing grim circumstances in the country, I urge her to assure the people of India on the following concerns that are uppermost in their minds," he maintained.

"I hereby pledge that, if elected, I shall be answerable to the Constitution, and to the Constitution alone. I shall exercise my authority conscientiously, without fear or favour, whenever the executive or other institutions break the Constitutional checks and balances. Please make a similar pledge," he urged.

"I am very happy to be in Karnataka on the fifth day of my campaign. My sincere thanks to Mallikarjun Kharge, Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar and all other leaders of the Congress for the opportunity to meet with the MPs and MLAs of the party in Bengaluru. I also thank them for supporting my candidature in the Presidential election campaign 2022," he stated.

12 Delhi colleges in dire straits, can't even pay teachers

Gainesh Bhatt

New Delhi, July 3

(IANS) The teaching and non-teaching staff of 12 colleges of the Delhi University (DU), fully funded by the Delhi government, have not received their salaries for several months.

The employees have been knocking the doors of University Grant Commission (UGC), urging them to takeover these colleges.

These DU colleges include Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Maharaja Agrasen College, Maharshi Valmiki College, Indira Gandhi Sports College, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhagini Nivedita College, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Science and Keshav Mahavidyalaya among others.

The employees say their salaries can be barely paid with the financial grants of the Delhi government. These colleges also have guest teachers, contractual employees, who get Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 per month, and for the last two months, many have not been paid. According to the teachers, they are working without pay.

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) says that the ad-hoc teachers working in these 12 colleges are being described as ghost employees by the state government.

DUTA has demanded that these ad-hoc and temporary teachers should be accommodated by bringing a Bill in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

The teachers' body has also sought the immediate release of 25 per cent seats under the Economically



Weaker Section (EWS) quota.

DUTA has urged the Central government to bring the 28 colleges funded and administered by the Delhi government directly under the UGC.

Delhi University Executive Council member and advocate Ashok Aggarwal has said that the non-payment of salary to

teachers and employees is against the right to earn a living. He said that he is ready to assist and cooperate legally in the matter. Earlier, DUTA President Professor A.K. Bhagi has said that the Delhi government wants to get rid of these 12 colleges by making financial cuts. "Kejriwal has released the grant in January -- before

the Punjab elections, and then started stopping the grant as soon as the elections were over," he added. According to Bhagi, the proposed budget of this year is even less than the salary budget of last year. "Nothing less than a permanent solution to this problem will be acceptable," he asserted.

DUTA says that in the midst of the Corona crisis, the teachers continued to teach the students. They organised online classes and assisted in organising activities required for teaching, and training. However, as a result of the "careless attitude and prejudiced thinking of the Delhi government, more than 1,000 such teachers are concerned about their salaries for the last two years", the teachers' body asserted. Salaries are being released to teachers and employees in the Delhi

government-funded colleges with a delay of two to six months, while in all other colleges of the DU, which are funded by the Central government, salaries are being disbursed on time. Not only for the teachers but also for the non-teaching staff and contract workers of these colleges, the financial crisis has arisen and it has become difficult for them to meet their daily expenses. Even the Delhi Teachers Association (DTA), a teacher organisation of the Aam Aadmi Party, has accepted that these colleges have been affected by the "non-release of grants by the Delhi government".

"This has not only affected salary payments, but also pending medical bills, retirement benefits and other development expenses," DTA President Hansraj Suman told IANS.

First Tamil Bible translation stolen from Thanjavur traced to London museum

Chennai, July 3 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing has traced the 300-year-old, world's first printed Bible translation in Tamil, stolen from the state's Thanjavur, to the King George III museum in London, officials said on Friday.

Sources in the Idol Wing told IANS that the department has commenced the process to bring the Bible back to India. An officer said that the Bible was stolen from Saraswathi Mahal Library in Thanjavur in 2005 and the theft is suspected to be the handiwork of a group of foreigners who had visited the library.

The deputy administrator of Serfoji Palace in Thanjavur filed a complaint about the theft with the Thanjavur west police station on October 10, 2005 and a case was registered a case but there was no progress.

Subsequently, on October 2017, Saraswathi Mahal Library administrator E. Rajendran lodged a complaint with the idol wing, and a case was registered and investigations launched.

After the progress was studied by Director General, Idol Wing, Jayanth K. Murali, a separate team was set up in 2020 and a detailed study of the registry was painstakingly undertaken



by the team during the period the Bible went missing and it was found that on October 7, 2005, the library had hosted a group of foreigners.

"We found that the visitors had come to India to attend a function to commemorate Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, the Danish missionary who had printed the Bible," Murali said. An officer with the Idol Wing then scanned all the websites of libraries and private collectors associated with Ziegenbalg manuscripts, and stumbled upon at King George III museum.

They were able to find the stolen first Tamil translation that was printed at a printing press in Tharangambadi in the 17th century, and could match the stolen Bible with the one at the museum.

"We hope to retrieve the Bible and restore it to the Saraswathi Mahal Library under the UNESCO treaty soon. The wing has initiated steps to restore the Bible to the library," the Idol Wing said.

The King of Denmark had sent Ziegenbalg to Tamil Nadu and he arrived in Tranquebar (The anglicized name of Tharangambadi), which was then a Danish colony close to Nagapattinam, in 1706.

The Protestant missionary translated the New Testament into Tamil in 1715. After his demise, another missionary Schwartz handed over the first copy of the Bible to Tulaji Rajah Serfoji, the then ruler of Thanjavur.

The Tamil Nadu government had kept this antique as an exhibit at Saraswathi Mahal Library.

The Idol Wing, in its statement, also said: "The value of the Bible is further enhanced as the cover of this antique piece bears the signature of the then King of Thanjavur, Serfoji."

Pak-based Hurriyat leader Hamid Lone caught blackmailing woman

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) A representative of Hurriyat

Conference living in Pakistan since 30 years but claiming to be a Kashmiri and a supporter of K a s h m i r s independence from India, Hamid Lone, is receiving a public backlash for being involved in shady activities, media reports said.

Ranging from womanising to corruption, his record of illegal activities hit a new low when he was caught blackmailing a woman to satisfy his lust, Real Kashmir reported.

Social activist Maria Iqbal Tarana revealed publicly how Lone calls and stalks young girls. She called him a 'dirty culture' and said she won't succumb to his blackmails, the report said.

Maria has worked extensively for education of rural women in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

Meanwhile, a premier investigation agency in Pakistan has booked Kashmiri separatist leaders for embezzling funds of nearly Rs 100 crore in a corruption case involving a housing society in Islamabad.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has booked Kashmiri separatist leader Altaf Ahmad Bhat and 15 associates for "fraud, cheating and criminal breach of trust". Bhat is the president of the Central Board of Revenue Employees Cooperative Housing Society (CBRECHS), Real Kashmir reported.

**One dead, 17 others injured in accident in Nilgiris**

Chennai, July 3 (IANS) An IT professional Muthumari, 29, was killed and 17 others of a private company were seriously injured when a tourist van carrying them to Masinagudi in Nilgiris fell off Kalthatti Ghat Road on Sunday morning.

The tourists were on a holiday to the hill station.

Two persons working with the resort, W. Vinod Kumar, 25, from Chennai and G. Joseph, 26, from Coimbatore were arrested for misguiding the van driver.

Police told media persons that people from outside are not allowed to descend the Kalthatti Ghat Road due to the sharp gradients that have caused major accidents in the past. The van was guided by Vinod and Joseph who were on a motorcycle. According to the police charge sheet, they made a detour and went past the police check post at Thalakunda junction.



Police stationed at the junction divert vehicles from descending the ghat towards Masanagudi and Gudalur.

Vinod Kumar, Joseph, and the driver of the van have been booked under Sections 279 (rash driving in public place), 337, and 338 (causing hurt to persons by doing harsh or rash or negligent acts endangering human life) and 304 A (rash or negligent driving) of the Indian Penal Code.

Man sleeping on pavement crushed to death in hit-and-run accident

New Delhi, July 3 (IANS) A homeless man, sleeping on a pavement in the national capital, was crushed under the wheels of a car, an official said on Sunday.

The accused driver, identified as Ashok, 31, has been arrested.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Sameer Sharma said a PCR call was received in Mangolpuri police station regarding a fatal accident near Ramlila Ground after which the police reached the spot where a large number of people were already gathered. "It was found that one unknown person had been hit by an unknown vehicle and his head was crushed due to that accident. He was lying on the ground in a pool of blood," the DCP said.

The scene of crime was preserved and the injured person was shifted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital immediately, where he was declared 'brought dead'.



"The spot was inspected, where skid marks of tyres were seen. The Mobile Crime team of Outer District was called at the spot and the scene of crime was inspected and photographed," DCP Sharma said, adding, the Forensic Science Laboratory team also inspected the area.

Accordingly, the police registered an FIR under section 279 (rash driving) and 304A (Causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code and took up the investigation.

Two years on, UP's Bikru village lives with dark memories of massacre

Bikru (Uttar Pradesh),

July 3 (IANS) Exactly two years ago on this day, Bikru was sleeping peacefully when gunshots rent the air.

People woke up with a start to a series of screams and cries in the darkness.

Twenty minutes later, there was silence and then headlights went on in the darkness.

Life has not been the same ever since for the village and its people.

The massacre of eight policemen in the Bikru village, allegedly by gangster Vikas Dubey and his men on July 3, 2020, has changed the lives of people in this village.

"Almost every house in this village has at least one person who is either in jail or was brutally thrashed by the police after the massacre. They have suffered fractures and many of them have even lost their jobs. Some are unable to work now. The incident has taken a toll on every life,"

says Ram Chandar (name changed), a local resident who also suffered a fracture in hip bone.

A few families have left Bikru after the incident.

"We were being regularly harassed by the police just because our house is located near Vikas Dubey's house. The police presumed that we were a part of his gang and every day someone from the family would be picked up for questioning," said Vivek Kumar, who has left Bikru along with his brother, uncle and their families and migrated to another district.

Nearly 54 persons were arrested, most of them from the village, after the July 3 massacre, and all of them are in jail. They have been denied bail and trial is yet to begin. A total of 80 cases have been registered by the police in the case.

Arms licenses of 30 accused have been cancelled. The



administration has seized assets worth about Rs 70 crore of other gang members, including Vikas Dubey, the main kingpin of the Bikru incident who was killed in a police encounter.

Four women, who are prima facie not guilty in the Bikru massacre case but are paying a price for the Dubey connection, are also in jail since the past two years.

They include Khushi Dubey, a minor who was married for three days when her husband Amar Dubey was shot dead by the police, Kshama Dubey (mother of Amar Dubey), Shanti Dubey (mother of another accused, Hiru Dubey) and Rekha Agnihotri, who worked as a cook in the house of Vikas

Dubey. Rekha's seven-year-old daughter and two-and-a-half-year-old son are also in jail with her.

Much hue and cry was raised by the opposition parties during the Assembly elections for the release of these women but the issue dissolved as soon as the polls were over.

The village still has a strong police presence and the local people do not even venture near the partially demolished residence of Vikas Dubey.

Two days ago, the police recovered Vikas Dubey's Scorpio car from the Syahpur village and the owner of the plot from where the car has been recovered is being questioned.

Richa Dubey, the wife of Vikas Dubey, has her own heart-wrenching story to tell.

"We are alive but we are actually dead. My father-in-law and mother-in-law do

not have a place to live. Everything that we had, has been confiscated. It has been two years but our bank accounts have been seized and we are finding it impossible to make ends meet."

Richa said that she has been selling her jewellery to pay the school fees of her sons.

"My elder son has done three years of medicine but I cannot afford to continue paying his fees. If I get the death certificate, at least I can get some money from my husband's insurance policies for my children's education," she said.

Richa said that she had been calling up all top officials, but no one has responded.

"I have never defended Vikas for what he did, but his family is not criminal. The government should have killed us in an encounter too, if they felt we did not have the right to live," she said.