

WORLD



● Kremlin: Putin met with Russian mercenary leader days after abortive mutiny

● How many Russians have died in Ukraine? Data shows what Moscow hides

NATION



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● Repolling in nearly 700 booths; BJP, TMC in war of words over violence

## Prime Minister takes stock of situation; assures help and support from Centre

# Heavy rains batter north India; Army, NDRF teams step in for rescue ops

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Incessant rains have been playing havoc in parts of north India, particularly Himachal Pradesh where landslides claimed more than 20 lives even as the Army and NDRF teams stepped in to intensify the relief and rescue operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken with chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand about the situation and assured them of all help and support from the central government.

Modi also spoke with senior ministers and officials and took stock of the situation in the wake of excessive rainfall in parts of the country, his office said.

Several rivers, including the Yamuna in Delhi, in north India are in spate. In cities and towns across the region, many roads and residential areas were submerged in knee-deep water with the civic system unable to hold on in the face of record rains on Sunday.

A total of 39 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been deployed in four north Indian states to tackle the heavy rains and floods. While 14 teams are working in Punjab, a dozen are deployed in Himachal Pradesh, eight in Uttarakhand and five in Haryana. "The rescue operations are being undertaken as per the situation on ground and in coordina-



tion with the state authorities," an NDRF spokesperson said.

In Punjab, the Army rescued 910 students and 50 others from a private university in the state after it was flooded with water due to heavy rains. The civil administration in Punjab and Haryana had earlier sought help for the rescue operation from the Army, which sent the Flood Relief columns of Army's Western Command to assist the administration in the flood affected areas of the two states.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday asked the Centre to make available additional relief from the PM CARES Fund for states affected by the torrential rain. In Himachal Pradesh, landslides claimed four more lives in Shimla and the Shimla-Kalka high-

way was blocked Monday morning, police said. At least 16 people were killed in rain-related incidents in the state in the last two days, chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said, adding the state has not witnessed such "wide-spread heavy rains" in the past 50 years. Efforts are afoot to rescue 400 tourists and locals stranded at Chandertal and between Pagal and Teilgi nallah in Lahaul and Spiti, he added. Three people died after a landslide struck a house in Theog subdivision of Shimla on Monday morning, police said.

The body of an elderly woman, who was trapped under debris following a landslide in Rajghana village on the outskirts of Shimla city, was retrieved on Sunday night, hours after (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## Himanta inspects project for beautification of Lachit Borphukan Maidam

# Bronze statue of Ahom General to be installed by January next

**HT Correspondent**

**JORHAT, July 10:** Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday inspected the ongoing ambitious project for beautification of Lachit Borphukan Maidam at Gohaingon, Meleng, on the eastern outskirts here.

Sarma, after taking stock of the work progress, told newsmen at the site that 12 percent of the work had been completed.

Stating that 60 percent of the enormous statue of Ahom General Lachit Borphukan had been completed in a studio at Noida, the chief minister said that the bronze statue, a major component of the project, is expected to be installed by January next.

Sarma said that the other components of the project like a museum, an auditorium and other beautification works are expected

to be completed by the end of 2024.

He was accompanied by minister of Cultural Affairs, Industries and Commerce and Public Enterprise Bimal Borah, Jorhat MP, Topon Kumar Gogoi, Rajya Sabha members - Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and Pabitra Margherita, MLAs of Jorhat, Teok, Mariani, Naharkatia and officials of Jorhat district administration and PWD.

It may be mentioned here that the project is coming up at 49 bighas two kathas 17 lechas plot of land which includes the existing maidam area spread over five bighas.

The foundation-stone of the project was laid by the then President Ram Nath Kovind virtually from Guwahati on February 25 this year while launching the 400th birth anniversary celebrations of Borphukan.



## No let up in flood scene in Lakhimpur district

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, July 10:** The flood situation in Assam's Lakhimpur district has worsened, with over 60,200 people being affected by the floodwaters, according to a bulletin released by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Monday.

Although the number of flood-affected districts has decreased from five to three, the total population affected by the calamity has risen to 65,770 as compared to the previous day's figure of 34,993, stated an ASDMA release on Monday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'orange alert' for the state, indicating that heavy rains are expected in the next four days. The alert is also

applicable to neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, with western Assam districts being particularly at risk, as mentioned in the bulletin.

According to the bulletin, a total of 124 villages in three districts, namely Biswanath, Dhemaji, and Lakhimpur, are currently submerged in floodwaters. The deluge has also impacted approximately 937.91 hectares of agricultural land.

Fortunately, there have been no new reports of fatalities due to the floods, and the death toll from the initial wave of flooding this year remains at seven.

The Disang River at Nanglamuraghat and the Brahmaputra River at Nimatighat are still flowing above the danger level. (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## Civilian killed in Manipur

**IMPHAL, July 10 (PTI):** A civilian was killed and two were injured on Monday in violent clashes in two villages located along Manipur's Imphal West and Kangpokpi districts, officials said.

There was a brief lull between 3 am and 6 am before the sounds of indiscriminate firing from Phayeng and Singda villages in the Kangchuk area along the two districts resumed. Earlier officials had said that a policeman had died in the violence but it was later clarified that the victim was a civilian, who was carrying a .303 rifle believed to have been stolen from the police armoury.

"Joint search of the area of Geljang was carried out and one body along with a .303 rifle was recovered from the spot," officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Saikhom Suban Singh (26), who hailed from Village Naoremthong Achom Leikai, 25 km away from the spot of the clash in Imphal West district. The body will be handed over to the police post completion of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## JJM inspection

**HT Correspondent**

**BOKAJAN, July 10:** Dr Numal Momin, the MLA of Bokajan and Deputy Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly, conducted an inspection of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes in Bokajan sub-division of Karbi Anglong. The sub-division currently has a total of 359 schemes under the JJM initiative.

Dr Momin highlighted that these implemented schemes aim to provide access to potable water for 43,172 households. Out of these, 9,367 households have already been provided with access to clean drinking water as a result of the JJM schemes. The inspection was carried out to assess the progress and effectiveness of the implemented projects in ensuring the availability of safe and clean drinking water to the residents of Bokajan sub-division. Dr Momin further emphasised the importance of such initiatives in improving the quality of life for the people in the region.

The Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship program by the government of India, aimed at providing tap water connections to all rural households in the country by 2024.

## Apex court asks groups to exercise restraint

**'SC cannot be used as platform to escalate tensions in Manipur'**

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court is not a platform to be used for escalating tensions in Manipur, the apex court observed on Monday, while asking the warring ethnic groups to exercise restraint during the court proceedings. The court also made it clear that it cannot take over the law and order and security apparatus to bring an end to the ethnic strife and violence in Manipur which is the duty of the Centre and the state government.

"We don't want the proceedings and this court to be used as a platform for escalation of violence and other problems in the state. We cannot take law and order and security apparatus in our hands. It is up for the Union of India and the Manipur government to ensure security. This is a humanitarian issue," a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha told senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who appeared for NGO 'Manipur Tribal Forum'.

The bench, which took on record a fresh status report filed by

the chief secretary of Manipur, asked Gonsalves and other lawyers appearing for different organisations representing the ethnic Kuki and Meitei groups, locked in a bloody conflict in the northeastern state, some others entities and the high court bar association of Manipur to peruse the updated status report and give positive suggestions by Tuesday for bringing an end to the violence.

Gonsalves asserted the state government had said at the last hearing that 10 people had lost their lives in the conflict but the death toll has now risen to 110, and violence continued unabated. "Your scepticism cannot lead us to take over the law and order into our hands. This is up to the Centre and the state government. This is what elected governments are for. We are very clear about the remit of the Supreme Court. We at the most can issue directions to the authorities to ensure security and for that we need assistance from different parties before us," the bench told the senior lawyer. (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)



## ATTSA stages demo for ST status

**HT Correspondent**

**DIBRUGARH, July 10:** The members of the Assam Tea Tribes Students' Association (ATTSA) staged a two-hour protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Dibrugarh, demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the tea garden community in the state.

The protesters expressed their dissatisfaction with the BJP-led government, accusing it of failing to fulfil its promise of granting ST status to the tea community. They raised slogans against the government and warned of a massive ag-

itation across the state if their demands are not met.

Granting ST status to six ethnic groups in Assam, including Adivasis, Mottock, Tai Ahom, Koch Rajbongshi, Sootea, and Moran, was a key promise made by the BJP during the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, as well as the 2016 Assam Assembly election.

"The Adivasi community in Assam has been fighting for ST status for the last 76 years. The community meets all the criteria required for ST status and it was also a promise made by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi during the Lok Sabha election campaign in Assam. The BJP has won multiple elections with this promise, but there has been no progress. Neither the Centre nor the state government is taking the matter seriously," said Bimal Bagh, ATTSA Dibrugarh district president.

At the conclusion of the protest, the ATTSA members submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the deputy commissioner, urging him to grant ST status to the tea community.

## Micro-tunnelling of Barauni-Guwahati gas pipeline project completed

**GUWAHATI, July 10 (PTI):** The micro-tunnelling for GAIL-executed Barauni-Guwahati gas pipeline project has come to an end with the completion of a vital line under the confluence of three rivers in Chirang district of Assam, a press release said on Monday.

Tunnelling was concluded under the confluence of Kanamakra, Aie and Manas rivers of the Gas Pipeline, which is a part of Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

The break-through of the micro-tunnel boring machine was achieved by Ace Energy Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, a part of the Mumbai-based Ace Pipeline Group, on July 2, the release said. Ace Energy has completed con-



struction of a tunnel of diameter 1600 mm across 1200 m at a depth of 11-12 meters under the river bed. The river has been flowing up to its brim for the past three

months owing to the flooding in its upper reaches in Bhutan, the release said. The construction crew is expected to install the 24-inch carbon (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## Knee OA is the most common musculoskeletal disorder in the world with prevalence of 28% in India

# IIT-G develops deep learning-based framework to assess knee OA severity from X-ray images

**GUWAHATI, July 10 (PTI):** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, has developed a deep learning (DL)-based framework that automatically assesses the severity of knee osteoarthritis (OA) from X-ray images. The AI-based model, named OsteoHRNet, can be used to detect the severity level of OA and assist medical practitioners remotely for a more accurate diagnosis, a release by IIT, Guwahati, said. Knee osteoarthritis is the most common musculoskeletal disorder in the world. Its prevalence is a high 28 per cent in India. As there is no cure for it but total joint replacement at an advanced stage, an early diagnosis is essential for pain management and behavioral corrections, it said.

Researchers of the institute have been working to enhance automatic



knee osteoarthritis detection from X-Ray images or radiographs to assist clinical evaluation. Their team developed the AI-based model which automatically assesses the severity of knee OA, the release

said. Arijit Sur, a professor in the computer science and engineering department of IIT-Guwahati, said, "The proposed model may be a good starting point for analyzing inexpensive radiographic modalities

such as X-rays. Our group is currently focusing on how efficient deep learning based models can be designed so that we can work on inexpensive and easily available modalities such as very low-resolution radiographic images or even photos taken from radiographic plates by a smartphone."

MRI and CT scans provide 3-D images of knee joints for effective diagnosis of the disorder. Their availability is, however, limited and expensive. X-ray imaging is very effective for routine diagnosis and more economically feasible.

Palash Ghosh, assistant professor in the department of mathematics in the institute, said, "Compared to the others that exist, the model developed by us can pinpoint the area which is medically most important

to decide the severity level of knee osteoarthritis. It can help medical practitioners detect the disorder accurately at an early stage".

The research by Rohit Kumar Jain under the joint supervision of Sur and Ghosh, has been accepted for publication in the journal 'Multimedia Tools and Applications'. The research team also included Prasen Kumar Sharma and Sibaji Gaj. The model predicts knee OA severity according to the World Health Organization approved Kellgren and Lawrence (KL) grading scale that ranges from grade 0 (low severity) to 4 (high severity), the release said.

It is built on one of the most recent deep models called the high-resolution network (HRNet) to capture the (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

## Nagaland govt trying to convince Centre to exempt tribal areas from UCC: Patton

**HT Correspondent**

**DIMAPUR, July 10:** Nagaland deputy chief minister Y Patton said the state government is doing its best to convince the central government to exempt the tribal-dominated areas from the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Patton, who is also the BJP Legislature Party leader in the Nagaland assembly, said Union home minister Amit Shah had assured that not only the tribal-dominated areas but also the Christian-dominated areas will be exempted from the UCC.

According to an official report on Monday, Patton said this while speaking at the general conference of the Lotha Officers Association at Wokha on July 8.

He urged the officers from the Lotha Naga community to give their best service to the people with

sincerity and dedication wherever they are serving as they are the ambassadors of the community. He also sought the officers' forum's cooperation to bring change.

Patton assured the association that the legislators from Wokha district will always extend support and cooperate with it.

Adviser to agriculture Mhathung Yanthan exhorted the officers to take up their own responsibilities with commitment and dedication.

"The door is always open to extend all support," Yanthan told the association.

Addressing the gathering, Naga People's Front MLA Achumbemo Kikon quoted Otto Von Bismark, "With bad laws and good civil servants, it's still possible to govern, but with bad civil servants even the best possible laws can't help". Kikon urged (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)



# GST Council to decide on taxation on online gaming, definition of MUVs

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** The GST Council at its meeting on Tuesday is likely to deliberate on a host of issues including taxation of online gaming, definition of utility vehicles and tightening of norms for registration and claiming ITC.

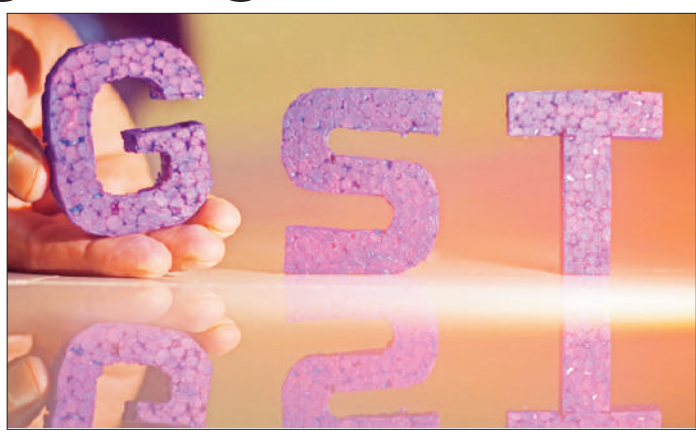
The council, chaired by union finance minister and comprising state representatives, is also likely to clarify on GST rates applicable on food and beverages sold in multiplexes, exempt GST on import of cancer drug Dinutuximab, and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) used in the treatment of rare diseases.

It is also expected to finalise contours for setting up appellate tribunal, and demand of the industry for reimbursement of full CGST and 50 per cent IGST in 11 hill states under the 'scheme for budgetary support'.

The council is likely to provide for mandatory physical verification of the business premises of "high risk" applicants before granting of GST registration, as well as reduced time for submitting Pan-linked bank account details to GST authorities.

Also, a new rule in GST law under which businesses would be required to explain the reasons for excess input tax credit (ITC) claimed or deposit the amount with the exchequer is likely to be discussed.

The Law Committee, comprising tax officers from Centre and states, have opined that where the ITC availed in GSTR-3B return



exceeds the amount of ITC available in accordance with the auto-generated statement GSTR-2B by a specified threshold, the registered person may be intimated on the portal about such difference and be directed to either explain the difference or pay the excess ITC along with interest.

The Committee has suggested that the provision should kick in if the difference is more than 20 per cent and more than ₹ 25 lakh.

GST Council is likely to take a final call on the recommendation of the Committee in its 50th meeting on Tuesday.

The report of the panel of 8 state finance ministers, convened by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma, on taxation of online gaming, horse racing and casinos is also slated to be discussed in the meeting.

The GoM (group of ministers) had a broad agreement that a 28 per cent GST should be levied on

all the three supplies, but a consensus eluded on taxability of online games with Goa suggesting that an 18 per cent tax should be levied only on platform fees and contribution to prize pool should be tax exempt.

A final view on taxation rate as well as whether tax is to be levied on the GGR or fees charged by the platform; or on the full face value of bets put in by players of online gaming, horse racing and casinos would be taken by the GST Council.

A clarity on taxation of Multi Utility Vehicles (MUV) or multipurpose vehicles or Crossover Utility Vehicles (XUVs) for levy of a 22 per cent compensation cess over and above the 28 per cent GST rate is also expected.

The fitment committee, comprising Centre and state tax officers, has recommended that all utility vehicles, by whatever name called, would attract a 22 per cent

cess provided they meet three parameters -- length greater than 4-metre, engine capacity greater than 1,500 cc and ground clearance in 'un-laden condition' of more than 170 mm.

The fitment committee has also suggested to the GST Council to clarify that food and beverages served in cinema halls be taxed at 5 per cent and not 18 per cent as was being done in some multiplexes.

However, if the sale of cinema ticket and supply of eatables such as popcorn or cold drinks etc. are clubbed and sold together, the entire supply should be treated as composite supply and taxed as per the applicable rate of the principal supply, which in this case is cinema ticket.

Currently, movie tickets below Rs 100 are taxed at 12 per cent, while those above the threshold attract an 18 per cent GST.

Import of cancer medicine Dinutuximab (Qarziba) by individuals for personal use attracts a 12 per cent IGST. The fitment committee said that the medicine, which costs ₹ 36 lakh, should be exempted from GST as patients usually raise money through crowdfunding.

Among other things, the Council is also likely to decide on TCS liability of suppliers engaged in e-commerce trading through government's Open Network for Digital Commerce.

Also satellite launch services by private players are likely to be exempt from GST.

## Gold falls by ₹ 95 to ₹ 59,505; silver flat

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Gold prices eased by ₹ 95 to ₹ 59,505 per 10 grams in the national on Monday amid a fall in precious metal in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had settled at ₹ 59,600 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver, prices remained flat at ₹ 72,500 per kilogramme.

In the global markets, gold was trading lower at USD 1,923 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 23.09 per ounce.

Gold prices resumed trading on a slightly negative note following an uptick in the US dollar, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at



HDFC Securities, said.

According to Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, on the macroeconomic front, this week's major focus will be US CPI inflation data (June), which is likely to extend its decline. The US dollar may suffer on soft inflation data, thus investors are expected to buy the dips in gold.

## Sensex, Nifty edge higher on RIL boost, FII inflows



**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** Benchmark Sensex and Nifty advanced in a volatile trade on Monday, driven by heavy buying in index major Reliance Industries and unabated foreign fund inflows.

Bouncing back from Friday's decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 63.72 points or 0.10 per cent to settle at 65,344.17. During the day, it climbed 353.04 points or 0.54 per cent to 65,633.49.

The NSE Nifty advanced 24.10 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 19,355.90.

Correction in IT counters ahead of their quarterly earnings announcements restricted the gains.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries jumped the most by 3.78 per cent, helping the index close in green. Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank and Tata Motors were the other biggest gainers.

Titan, HCL Technologies, Power Grid, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank and Nestle were among the major laggards.

"Indian equities faced broad-based weakness, but the benchmark managed to stay marginally positive with the support of strong buying in heavyweight stocks. The weakness was led by IT stocks, as the sector is set to kick off the Q1 result season with expectations of soft earnings."

Additionally, cues from the US markets are unfavourable, as concerns about another rate hike per-

sist despite expectations of a fast cooling of future US CPI inflation data, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Markets oscillated in a narrow range and ended marginally in the green amid mixed cues. The tone was positive in the early hours, thanks to the strong up move in Reliance however pressure in the other heavyweights capped the upside and trimmed the gains as the session progressed," Ajit Mishra, SVP- Technical Research Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.45 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.26 per cent.

Among the indices, metal jumped 1.82 per cent, energy climbed 0.64 per cent, services (0.34 per cent) and commodities (0.24 per cent).

Consumer Durables went lower by 1.57 per cent, IT declined by 1.17 per cent, utilities dipped 1.08 per cent, power fell by 0.89 per cent and realty (0.82 per cent).

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended with losses on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.80 per cent to USD 77.84 a barrel.

According to exchange data, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their buying activity as they bought equities worth ₹ 790.40 crore on Friday.

## Rupee rises 3 paise to close at 82.58 against US dollar

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 3 paise at 82.58 against the US dollar on Monday, amid a muted trend in domestic equities.

Rupee is trading in a narrow range as the softness in the US dollar and sustained FII inflows were negated by risk aversion in global markets, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.65 against the US dollar and settled at 82.58 (provisional), up 3 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.55 and a low of 82.65.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 82.61 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.11 per cent to 102.38.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.74 per cent to USD 77.89 per barrel.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and rising bond yields in the major global economies and expectations of further rate hikes to tame inflation. However, some softness in the US dollar and sustained FII inflows may support rupee at lower levels," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further noted that market participants may remain cautious ahead of India's inflation and IIP data and US inflation and PPI data this week. "We expect the USDINR spot to trade between 82.20 to 83.20 in the near-term," he said.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 63.72 points or 0.10 per cent higher at 65,344.17 points. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 24.10 points or 0.12 per cent to 19,355.90 points.

## HML launches Hyundai Exter in India

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, July 10:** Hyundai Motor India Limited (HML) has launched its latest offering, the Hyundai EXTER, an entry-level sporty SUV. The company aims to set a new benchmark in the segment with this vehicle, which combines unique exteriors, spacious interiors, advanced safety and technology, and exceptional performance. The Hyundai EXTER is specifically designed to cater to India's Gen MZ customers who are adventurous and driven by a sense of wanderlust.

Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd., expressed his pride in introducing the Hyundai EXTER, emphasizing the company's commitment to innovative design, intelligent technology, and outstanding performance. With its modern and confident exterior, cutting-edge technology, and unmatched safety features, the Hyundai EXTER is poised to redefine the rapidly growing entry-level SUV segment. Mr. Kim is confident that the vehicle will surpass customer expectations and solidify Hyundai's position as India's leading provider of smart mobility solutions.

Hyundai has chosen Hardik Pandya, a renowned cricketer and youth icon and one of the best all-rounders in the world, as the brand ambassador exclusively for the Hyundai EXTER. Pandya's energetic and vibrant lifestyle aligns perfectly with the values of Gen MZ, making him an ideal fit to champion the brand campaign for the SUV.

## World shares are mostly higher ahead of an update on US inflation

**BANGKOK, July 10 (AP):** Shares were mostly higher in Europe and Asia on Monday as investors waited for an update on US inflation after the latest jobs data conveyed mixed signals about the state of the economy.

Benchmarks rose in Paris, London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Tokyo and Sydney declined. US futures and oil prices also fell. US consumer prices for June are due out on Wednesday, with forecasts calling for an annual increase of just over 3 per cent compared with 4 per cent the month before.

Germany's DAX gained 0.3 per cent early Monday to 15,645.48, while the CAC 40 in Paris rose 0.4 per cent to 7,138.87. Britain's FTSE 100 inched 0.2 per cent higher to 7,268.25.

The future for the S&P 500 was down 0.2 per cent while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged less than 0.1 per cent lower. On Friday, the S&P 500 lost 0.3 per cent while the Dow gave up 0.6 per cent. The Nasdaq composite edged 0.1 per cent lower and the Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks rose 1.2 per cent.

China reported Monday that producer prices fell 5.4 per cent in June from a year earlier, down from a 4.6 per cent drop in May, as growth in the US and Europe continued to taper off under a barrage of interest rate hikes meant to snuff out high inflation. Consumer price inflation was flat, also suggesting weakening of demand as activity in the world's second largest economy slows.



China's economy has slowed faster than hoped for after an initial surge in growth as the country bounced back from disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The releases of the latest indicators from China did little to quell concerns about the lethargic state of economic activity," Tim Waterer of KCM Trade said in a report. He added that "with deflationary troubles brewing for the world's second largest economy, one wonders how long it will be before the central bank steps in to provide something more meaningful on the stimulus side."

Weak data tends to lead Chinese investors to anticipate such market support. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.6 per cent to 18,479.72 and the Shanghai Composite index edged 0.2 per cent higher to 3,203.70.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 slipped 0.6 per cent to 32,189.73, while the

Kospi in Seoul shed 0.2 per cent to 2,520.70. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.5 per cent to 7,004.00.

India's Sensex edged 0.1 per cent higher, while the SET in Bangkok advanced 0.3 per cent.

As expected, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen wrapped up a fence-mending visit to Beijing on Sunday with no major agreements or breakthroughs in strained ties.

But Yellen said relations were on a "surfer footing," and the two sides would continue to talk despite disputes over many issues including access to advanced technologies, Chinese territorial ambitions and allegations of human rights abuses.

On Friday, Wall Street drifted to a mixed finish after data suggested the US job market is still warm enough to keep the economy growing but maybe not so hot that it stokes inflation much

higher. US employers added 209,000 jobs last month, a slowdown from May's hiring of 306,000.

Wage growth held steady last month, instead of slowing as economists expected, for example. While workers would rather have the reported 4.4 per cent gain in average hourly earnings from a year earlier than the 4.2 per cent that was predicted, Wall Street's fear is the Fed will see too-strong wage growth as keeping upward pressure on inflation.

"Job growth is slowing. Not at all surprising following the massive layoffs happening across the country," Clifford Bennett of ACY Securities said in a commentary. "In a nutshell, while jobs growth is slowing it is not enough to make the Fed happy by a big margin."

A lot is riding on whether the economy can navigate the narrow pathway to avoid a long-predicted recession. It needs to keep growing despite much higher interest rates instituted by the Federal Reserve to bring down inflation.

In other trading Monday, US benchmark crude oil fell 61 cents to USD 73.25 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added USD 2.06 to USD 73.86 per barrel on Friday.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, gave up 60 cents to USD 77.87 per barrel.

The US dollar rose to 142.50 Japanese yen from 142.17 yen. The euro slipped to USD 1.0965 from USD 1.0967.

## Securitisation volumes surge 60 pc to ₹ 55,000 cr in Q1: Crisil

**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** Robust loan collections and high credit growth at non-bank lenders led to 60 per cent jump in securitization volumes to ₹ 55,000 crore in June quarter, a report said on Monday.

This is the highest ever in the first quarter of a fiscal, rating agency Crisil said, attributing the growth to high demand from banks and non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) resorting to securitization as a funding route.

Securitisation refers to an activity where a financier or lender transfers future receivables on a loan or a bunch of loans to other financiers which helps with immediate liquidity requirements.

During the first quarter, the number of transactions went up to over 250 from 160 in the year-ago period, it said, adding that private and public sector banks continued to be the dominant investors, followed by foreign banks.

There were 80 originators and 50 investors which were active during the quarter, the agency said.

"Securitisation is allowing banks to do two things: keep driving their credit growth without impacting their direct exposure limits to NBFC balance sheets, and diversify exposure to granular retail loans, which are showing robust collection performance," its senior director and chief ratings officer, Krishnan Sitaraman, said.

He also exuded confidence that the annual securitization volumes will exceed the previous peak of Rs 1.9 lakh crore in FY24. There was a 9 percentage point increase in the share of vehicle loan securitisation (including commercial vehicles and two-wheelers) in the first quarter volumes to 37 per cent, primarily driven by the top originators in the commercial vehicle segment that have relied on securitisation as an alternative funding tool to support their strong credit growth.

This rise, along with continued momentum in other asset classes, has led to a relative decline in the share of retail mortgage-backed securitisation (MBS) by 13 percentage points to 34 per cent, it said, adding that microfinance securitisation cornered 10 per cent and gold loans 8 per cent.

## Washington will listen to Chinese complaints on US technology exports: Yellen

**BEIJING, July 10 (AP):** Treasury secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said she agreed Washington will listen to Chinese complaints about security-related curbs on US technology exports and might "respond to unintended consequences" as she ended a visit to Beijing aimed at reviving strained relations.

Yellen defended "targeted measures" on trade that China's leaders complain are aimed at hurting its fledgling tech industries. She said the Biden administration wants to "avoid unnecessary repercussions" but gave no indication of possible changes.

Relations between the two biggest economies are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, security and other irritants. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other US technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's development of smartphones, artificial intelligence and other industries.

"We will open up channels so that they can express concerns about our actions, and we can explain and possibly in some situations respond to unintended consequences of our actions," Yellen said at a news conference.

Yellen talked with China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials during 10 hours of meetings. She had a five-hour session Saturday with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Treasury officials said in advance there were no plans for her to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Yellen received a warm welcome and prominent coverage by the state press, but Chinese officials gave no sign they would change industrial or other policies that Wash-



ington and other governments say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments. On Saturday, He said Washington should "adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude" to improve relations.

On Sunday, Yellen announced no agreements on major disputes or plans for future activity but said her department and Chinese officials would have "more frequent and regular" communication.

US-Chinese political strains are adding to uncertainty that is dampening the willingness of consumers and businesses to spend and invest.

China's economic growth rebounded to 4.5% in the first quarter of 2023 from last year's 3% after anti-virus controls on travel and business activity were lifted in December. But factory activity and consumer spending decelerated in the quarter ending in June.

Xi accused Washington in March of trying

to hold back China's industrial development.

Beijing has been slow to retaliate for US technology restrictions, possibly to avoid disrupting its own industries. But three days before Yellen's arrival, the government announced unspecified controls on exports of gallium and germanium, metals used in making semiconductors and solar panels. China is the biggest producer of both.

Yellen said she tried to reassure officials Washington doesn't want to decouple or separate its economy from China, while it tries to "de-risk" trade.

The Biden administration is pressing semiconductor makers to move production to the United States to reduce reliance on Taiwan and other Asian suppliers, which is seen as a security risk. Washington wants to develop alternatives to Chinese supplies of rare earth elements, metals used in smartphones, wind turbines and other products.

"They have expressed some concern that de-risking amounts to decoupling," Yellen said. She said she tried to "assure my Chinese counterparts that this is by no means the same thing."

"The de-risking involves attention to clearly articulated and narrowly targeted national security concerns, as well as broader concern with diversifying our supply chains, which the United States is doing in a few important sectors," she said.

Throughout her visit, Yellen appealed for "healthy economic competition," a reference to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by subsidizing and shielding politically favored industries from private and foreign competition.

Yellen said she had expressed concern to

Chinese officials about "coercive activities" against US companies.

That follows raids on consulting firms and the detention of staff members without explanation and what the US government says is arbitrary detention or prohibitions on people leaving China that some complain are used to pressure them in business disputes.

Chinese leaders are trying to revive investor interest, but foreign companies are uneasy about their status after Xi and other officials called for economic self-reliance. The ruling party has also expanded an anti-spying law that has fueled uncertainty about what law firms or consultants can do.

On Saturday, Yellen appealed to He for cooperation on climate change, the debt burdens of developing countries and other global challenges. She said their governments shouldn't let disagreements about trade and security derail economic and financial relations.

Beijing broke off climate discussions with Washington last August in retaliation for a visit by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the House of Representatives to Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy claimed by China as part of its territory.

President Joe Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, is due to become the next senior official to visit China next week. China and the United States are the world's top emitters of climate-changing carbon.

China signed an agreement last month to restructure the debt of Zambia, including billions of dollars lent under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative to build ports and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa. Treasury officials pointed to that as successful cooperation.



## BTCLA organises orientation prog to enhance members' understanding of parliamentary procedures

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, July 10:** A comprehensive orientation programme was organised on Monday at the BTCLA Auditorium Hall to enhance the understanding of parliamentary procedures among the members of the Bodoland Territorial Council Legislative Assembly (BTCLA).

The programme was attended by all elected members of the BTCLA and senior officials from the government of Bodoland Territorial Region. Dignitaries including Biswajit Daimary, Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly; Pramod Boro, CEM (BTR); Gabinda Chandra Basumatary, deputy CEM; Katiram Boro, BTCLA Speaker; and MLA Bhuban Pegu addressed the programme.

The initiative was undertaken by the Bodoland Territorial Council Legislative Assembly to bring all BTCLA members together and enhance their understanding of parliamentary procedures, with a special focus on the role of members within the Bodoland Territorial Council.

CEM Boro highlighted the significance of the orientation programme, stating that it was essential to provide well-rounded orientation events for the elected members of the legislative assembly in BTC. He commended the initiative and expressed hope that the programme would prove beneficial for the members of the BTCLA.

The objective of the programme was to foster a deeper understanding of parliamentary procedures and the responsibilities of BTCLA members. CEM Boro expressed his satisfaction in witnessing such an enriching experience and addressing the gathering of BTCLA members.

The orientation programme aimed to equip the BTCLA members with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their roles effectively within the legislative assembly. It is an important step towards ensuring a well-informed and competent assembly that can contribute to the progress and development of the Bodoland Territorial Region.



Economics dept of Darrang College produces another topper in GU exam

**HT Correspondent**

**TEZPUR, July 10:** The department of Economics of Darrang College here has once again proved its excellence with its alumna, Madhusmita Bhawal, securing the first rank in Economics honours in BSc under Gauhati University. The head of the Economics department of the college, Pranabiyoti Das, said that the department has been shining since 2012 with its alumni bagging the top position in consecutive years with only a few exceptions. "Bhaskariyoti Neog was the first topper from the department in 2012, followed by Oly Bora in 2014, Sishani Bezbarua in 2015, Suranjana Dey in 2017, Bishal Das in 2019, Qazi Ansari in 2020, Hrishikesh Bora in 2022 and Madhusmita Bhawal in 2023," he said, adding that all these toppers are now have prestigious jobs in various departments with Bhaskariyoti Neog being a faculty of IIT, Jammu.

## Ministry of Railways approves fund allocation for double line construction in Assam & NE states

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, July 10:** The ministry of Railways has recently sanctioned funds for the final location survey of several sections in Assam and other North Eastern states. The allocated funds will be utilised for the construction of new double lines, including the Aluabari-Thakurganj section (19 km), Arariya-Thakurganj-Siliguri section (168 km), Siliguri Town-Gulma (by pass line) section (14 km), and New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri section (8 km).

The rail route from Katihar/Malda Town to Dibrugarh holds immense importance as it serves as the primary transportation link between the seven states of the North Eastern region and the rest of India. The doubling of the targeted sections is of high priority for the NF Railway, as it acts as a crucial bridge connecting the North Eastern states with the rest of the country.

Once the proposed doubling works are completed, there will be four lines connecting Katihar to the North Eastern states, facilitating smoother mobility of railway traffic between the North East and the Northern part of India. This development aligns with the 'Act North-east Policy', as the Indian government has been making significant investments in the infrastructure sector, including agriculture, to meet the increasing transportation demands.

The region, comprising West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and neighbouring international countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and

Bangladesh, holds great significance in terms of trade, commerce, and tourism. The completion of these double lines will establish a major alternative connectivity option for the region, reducing transportation time, cost, and distance for both passengers and goods. The project is expected to generate numerous job opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers, while the development of new stations, road connections, goods yards, and businesses will contribute to the overall economic growth of the nearby districts.

Furthermore, these double lines will enhance transportation links with international countries like Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh, making the movement of raw materials and other necessities more efficient and cost-effective. The punctuality of passenger trains is also expected to improve significantly, saving commuting time for passengers. Moreover, seamless goods movement will result in significant cost reduction for businesses utilising freight services.

Indian Railways continues to make substantial investments in improving connectivity in the region. The implementation of this project will enable the loading and movement of more rakes within the same time frame, leading to increased economic earnings for the Indian Railways. The region's rail network will witness a significant improvement in cost and time competitiveness compared to roadways, benefiting both the economy and the local population.

## Drug addict kills mother and injures wife in Rupahihat

**HT Correspondent**

**NAGAON, July 10:** In a shocking incident, Jiabur Rahman, a drug addict from Borpoka Village under Rupahihat PS, allegedly killed his mother, Suruj Banu (50), at their home on Sunday night. Following the barbaric attack, Rahman fled the scene. Additionally, it was reported that in an intoxicated state, he also injured his wife by beating her with a piece of bamboo.

Upon receiving information from local residents, a team from Rupahihat PS promptly arrived at the location. They discovered the lifeless body of Suruj Banu lying on the floor of her house. The police immediately sent the deceased woman's body to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital for postmortem examination. Meanwhile, the police have intensified their search for the culprit, but as of now, they have been unable to locate him till the time of filing this report.

## UPPL mourns loss of esteemed journalist and politician Manjit Mahanta

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, July 10:** The ruling United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) expresses profound condolences over the passing of Manjit Mahanta, an esteemed journalist and politician. Mahanta passed away on Monday morning at a hospital in Guwahati after a brief illness. Notably, Mahanta served as the chairman of the media department of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee. He had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Guwahati for a few days and breathed his last around 2:00 am on Monday morning.

Mahanta was a distinguished journalist within the state and held the position of editor in chief at various daily newspapers and TV news channels during his career. His demise is a significant loss for the state. The UPPL party extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and shares in their grief.

"We express our deepest sorrow and condolences to the bereaved family members and offer our prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul," stated the UPPL party.

Akademi awardee Bipul Deori ceremonially inaugurated the commemoration program. Dr Sanjib Kr Sarma, former secretary to the Guwahati office of Asom Sahitya Sabha, elaborated on the life of martyr Surya Bora and the history of the Language Movement in Assam. Manik Ahmed, a renowned producer and director of Assamese stage drama, spoke about the life and contributions of lyricist Nurul Haque.

During the program, renowned Assamese poet and physician Dr Prayag Saikia, Pradeep Kumar Saikia, Dr Manju Laskar, Kushal Dutta, Sanjib Sagar Choudhary, Mayur Kr Bora, Kandarpa Kalita, and others recited their own poems. Additionally, radio artist and singer Dr Jayshree Devi, Ranjan Bezboruah, Mridul Boruah, and Kalpita Devi performed music and songs.

The program witnessed the participation of over 200 distinguished personalities from across the district and the state, as well as students from Kolongpar Vidyapith. The event concluded with a brief vote of thanks by Atul Chandra Boruah, a faculty member of Kolongpar Vidyapith, as stated in a press note.

## Martyrdom of Language Movement figures commemorated at Nagaon

**HT Correspondent**

**NAGAON, July 10:** Kolongpar Vidyapith Senior Secondary School in Nagaon recently organised a commemoration event at the auditorium of Nagaon Cultural Complex to honour the memory of two prominent figures in Assamese literature and language, Surya Bora and lyricist Nurul Haque.

The program commenced with floral tributes offered to the portraits of the two revered individuals who dedicated and sacrificed their lives for Assamese literature and language. Thagit Mahanta, president of Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, presided over the commemoration program, while Padum Rajkhuwa, principal of the school and former secretary general of Asom Sahitya Sabha, served as the anchor for the entire event. Amarjit Goswami, former principal of Kolongpar Vidyapith Senior Secondary School, delivered the welcome address. The program was graced by the presence of Sanjib Gohain Boruah (IAS), the grandson of Padma Nath Gohain Boruah, the founder president of Asom Sahitya Sabha, as a special invitee. Noted litterateur, translator, and Sahitya

## Devotees flock to temples in Hojai to worship Lord Shiva

**HT Correspondent**

**HOJAI, July 10:** On the first Monday of the Sawan month, devotees thronged various temples in Hojai, including Shree Biswanath Mandir, Shree Laxminarayan Mandir, Dangoriya Bari, Durga Bari Shiv Mandir, Amtola Shiv Mandir, and more, from early morning to worship Lord Shiva. Chanting 'Om Namah Shivaya', they patiently waited in long queues to offer prayers with water, milk, bel patra (leaves), sweets, fruits, panchamrit (a mixture of milk, curd, honey, sugar, and ghee), jagery, roasted chickpeas, dhatura (a sacred plant), rice, sandalwood paste, sesame seeds, flowers, incense, and earthen lamps,

among other offerings. The respective temple committees made special arrangements for devotees during this auspicious month, adorning the temples with sparkling lights and flowers.

Sawan month holds great significance as it is believed to be very dear to Lord Shiva, and worship during this month is said to bring special blessings for devotees. Notably, this year's Sawan month is particularly rare and significant as it comes after a 19-year gap. The month commenced on July 4 and will continue until August 31.

During this auspicious month, devotees known as 'Kanwariyas' embark on a sacred journey to bring holy water from revered

places like Akashiganga, Rangbang, and Tumpereng. They make a special trip on Sunday evening to collect the holy water and spend the entire night walking barefoot, despite the challenges they may face. This arduous journey symbolises their dedication to Lord Shiva. On the following Monday morning, they offer the sacred water at the Shiv linga in Shiv temples across Hojai. The devotion and fervor displayed by the devotees during the Sawan month are truly remarkable. The community gathers together to celebrate and seek the blessings of Lord Shiva, making this a special time for spiritual observance and prayer in Hojai.

## SpiceJet launches new flights from Guwahati to Patna and Varanasi

The airline will operate daily flights to the two destinations till October 28, 2023

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, July 10:** Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport is witnessing a significant increase in the number of passengers and air traffic movements. One of the latest additions to the flight options is SpiceJet Airlines, which has introduced new connectivity from Guwahati to Patna and Varanasi on all weekdays, starting from Monday.

These new flight routes are among the recent additions to the connectivity options available at Guwahati Airport during the summer schedule. Passengers traveling from Guwahati to Patna and Varanasi have expressed satisfaction with the enhanced flight connections. SpiceJet Air-



lines is deploying a bombardier aircraft with a single-class configuration, offering 80 seats in economy class.

For the inbound sector, Flight SG-2952 departs Guwahati at 05:55 hours in the morning, reaching Patna at 07:50 hours. Conversely, SG-2991 departs Guwahati at 16:30 hours and arrives in Varanasi at 18:15 hours in the evening.

The introduction of these new flight routes by SpiceJet has opened up conven-

ient travel options for passengers flying between Guwahati, Patna, and Varanasi. The airline aims to cater to the increasing demand for air travel in the region and provide efficient connectivity between these cities.

The passengers are delighted with the improved connectivity, as it allows for easier and more convenient travel experiences. The addition of these flights reflects the growing importance of Guwahati as a significant air travel hub in the region.

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the new flight options provided by SpiceJet to plan their journeys conveniently, whether for business or leisure purposes.

## GOVT. OF ASSAM, OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DIPHU GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT :: ASSAM

Website: diphugovernmentcollege.com

Email: diphugovtc@gmail.com

No.DGC/VI-54/2023-24/1852

Dated Diphu the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

### NOTIFICATION

It is hereby informed to all the students of TDC 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Semester (Arts, Science & Commerce) that the Promotional Admission for the session 2023-24 will be conducted as per schedule given below. Forms will be issued from the college office on payments of Rs.10/- only.

Class	Section	Date	Amount	
			Pass	Hons
TDC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sem. (Arts)	A,B	12/07/2023	3938	4058
	C,D	13/07/2023		
TDC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sem. (Sc. & Com.)	A,B	14/07/2023	4762	4942
TDC 5 <sup>th</sup> Sem. (Arts)	A,B,C	15/07/2023	3938	4058
	D,E,F	17/07/2023		
TDC 5 <sup>th</sup> Sem. (Sc. & Com.)	A,B	18/07/2023	4762	4942
Candidates who could not come on the above date		19/07/2023 to 20/07/2023	Applicable as above	

**No application will be entertained after the last date.**

Along with the admission form students are asked to attach the following documents where applicable.

1. Admit Card of last Semester Examination.
2. Identity Card.
3. Caste Certificate.
4. Income Certificate of parents whose income is less than 2.00 lakhs for fee waiver.

Sd/-  
Principal i/c,  
Diphu Govt. College, Diphu.

Memo. No.DGC/VI-54/2023-24/1852

Dated Diphu the 10th July, 2023

No.FA/TR/Tender/2023-24/793

Date- 01/07/2023

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited on behalf of Field Director, Manas Tiger Reserve for the year 2023-24 affixing Rs. 8.25 Court fee stamp from intending authorised Firm/Supplier/Dealer for Microchips reader and tags and Tranquilizing gun under Manas Tiger Reserve.

The Tenderer must submit self-attested copy of up-to-date Firm/Dealer/Supplier Registration, GST Registration, Income Tax Return, Annual Turnover, Bank Solvency, Previous Experience if any etc. along with the tender.

The date of receipt of Tender is fixed on till 21.07.2023 up to 3:00 p.m. & the Tender will be opened on 21.07.2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the O/o the Field Director, Manas Tiger Reserve. In the event of any unusual occurrence due to strike, bandh, holiday etc. the same will be received and opened on the next working day at same place and same time.

Sl. No.	Description of Items	Specifications	Offered Rate (in Rs.)
1	Microchip	Unobtrusive ID, submerge in liquids, suitable for insertion in to pre-drilled holes or for moulding into plastics, Read range:-170 mm/GR 250 reader, Dimension: Diameter-1.40mm, length 8 mm.	Rate to be quoted per unit including of GST, Transportation charges etc.
2	Microchip reader	2-line, 16-character p. line backlit LCD, Detachable belt clip, 9 V battery, Minimum 3 hrs continuous reading with alkaline type 600 mAh, Dimension: 70 mm x 125 mm x 24 mm.	
3	Microchip implant-er	Encapsulated in bio compatible glass for use in animal application, Unobtrusive ID tag, Read range:-170 mm/GR 250 reader, Dimension: Diameter- 1.40mm, length 8 mm.	
4	Tranquilizing Gun	Weight: 3-4 kg, Length with barrel: 100-120 cm, Barrels/Syringe volumes: Interchangeable barrel system with quick connection coupling, Target zone: 100-150 m, Effective range: 1-60m, about 70 m with 25 bar manometer, Standard sight: Back/Front sight, Pressure build-up: CO2 cartridge/ air pump Pressure control: Continuous 0-20 bar, Safety striker, safety valve, pressure relief valve.	

### Terms & Condition:-

1. Only authorized distributors shall be entertained for which documentary evidence needs to be provided.
2. The materials need to be supplied immediately by the approved Contractor/Firm/Supplier/Dealer on receipt of supply order as per requirement from the Field Director, Manas Tiger Reserve.
3. The rates offered by the bidder against the items should be include all taxes and duties etc. No subsequent offer to increase or decrease the amount offered shall be considered under any circumstances.
4. The Tender inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.
5. No transportation, insurance and other charge will be paid from the Field Director, Manas Tiger Reserve.
6. The payment will be made only after completion of Supply Order and subject to availability of fund.
7. The undersigned will not be bound to accept the lowest rate and the decision of the authority is final in all respect.

Sd/-  
Field Director,  
Manas Tiger Reserve

IPR(BTC)-2023-24/323



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*If one way be better than another, that you may be sure is nature's way. - Aristotle*

## Expansion of IIT to Tanzania

In a move that marks a significant milestone in educational collaboration, India and Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the first overseas branch of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Tanzania. This historic agreement signifies India's commitment to South-South cooperation and fostering stronger people-to-people ties with Africa. Scheduled to open its doors in October 2023, the IIT Tanzania campus will welcome its inaugural batch of 50 undergraduate and 20 master's students. The MoU was signed between India's Ministry of Education, IIT Madras, and Tanzania's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar. The presence of Dr S Jaishankar, the external affairs minister of India, and President of Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, during the signing emphasised the importance of this collaboration. Under the guidance of IIT Madras, the Zanzibar campus aims to offer four undergraduate and five postgraduate programs. While IIT Madras will have the final say in academic programs, curricula, and student selection criteria, the capital and operating expenses will be covered by the government of Zanzibar-Tanzania. Graduates from this campus will be awarded degrees from IIT Madras, further enhancing the reputation of the institute.

V Kamakoti, the director of IIT Madras, explained the rationale behind selecting Tanzania as the host country for the overseas campus. Tanzania's exceptional education system, demand for an IIT presence, and support from the host government were key factors in this decision. With a strong focus on nurturing talented candidates, Tanzania has the potential to attract outstanding students from across Africa. The programs offered at IIT Tanzania will cater to the growing demand for interdisciplinary degrees. Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees in Data Science and AI (Artificial Intelligence), along with MTech programs in Energy Systems and Cyber-Physical Systems, will be available. The ministry also confirmed that these programs are open to students from Africa and other countries, including Indian students. In addition to its educational significance, Zanzibar's selection as the location for the campus holds intrinsic allure. With its stunning beaches, the island province of Zanzibar offers a serene environment for students to focus on their studies while providing access to the vibrant Swahili culture, enriching their overall experience. Zanzibar's historical significance as a trading hub and its efforts to establish itself as an international business center make it an intriguing choice.

Renowned for its pristine white sands, mesmerizing turquoise blue seas, and vibrant coral reefs, Zanzibar's beaches are a sight to behold. The island's year-round balmy temperatures, averaging around 30 degrees Celsius, make it a haven for beach enthusiasts. Whether visitors seek relaxation after a safari adventure or a romantic East Africa honeymoon, Zanzibar's idyllic beaches provide the perfect backdrop for a memorable beach getaway. India's decision to establish IIT Tanzania demonstrates its commitment to promoting educational excellence and collaboration beyond its borders. With the expansion of IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur to Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur, respectively, India is creating avenues for knowledge sharing and fostering strong ties with other nations. The IIT Tanzania campus will undoubtedly contribute to Tanzania's educational landscape and strengthen the bond between India and Africa, paving the way for future collaborations that benefit both regions.

## The future of India depends on quality of its education system

By: Girish Linganna

Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister recently visited the White House representing one of the world's rapidly growing major economies. With an annual growth rate of 6%, India is currently the fifth-largest economy globally. The country's technology industry is thriving, and there is a significant focus on renewable energy with widespread installation of solar panels. India's attractiveness to multinational companies is evident as Goldman Sachs recently held a board meeting there. As developed countries and China face aging populations, India's substantial youth population, with around 500 million individuals under the age of 20, should serve as an additional driving force. However, despite India's highly educated elite who excel academically, the majority of the population still lacks quality education. This situation poses a risk to India's economic progress as unskilled and unemployed young people may hinder its development.

India has made progress in enhancing services for its impoverished population. The government has implemented digital initiatives that simplify banking access and the distribution of welfare payments. In terms of education, significant investments have been made in infrastructure. Previously, only a third of government schools had hand-washing facilities, and electricity was available in only about half of them. However, these numbers have improved, with approximately 90% of government schools now equipped with both. Additionally, India has established close to 400 universities since 2014, resulting in a 20% increase in enrolment in higher education.

However, despite efforts to improve school infrastructure and increase enrolment, India is struggling to ensure that its students acquire essential skills. Prior to the pandemic, less than half of India's ten-year-olds were able to read a simple story, even though they had spent several years attending school. In comparison, the literacy rate among ten-year-olds in America was 96%. The situation has worsened due to prolonged school closures lasting over two years. There are various reasons for this situation. The overcrowded curriculum leaves insufficient time for teaching fundamental subjects like math and literacy. As a result, children who struggle with these basics often struggle to learn other subjects. Teachers are inadequately trained and lack proper supervision, as evidenced by a significant absence rate among staff in rural schools, according to a large-scale survey. Additionally, officials occasionally assign teachers unrelated tasks, such as conducting elections or enforcing social-distancing rules during the pandemic. Due to these challenges, a significant number of families have opted to enroll their children in private schools, which educate approximately 50% of all Indian children. Although these private schools are cost-effective, they often do not deliver improved outcomes. There have been optimistic expectations that India's technology industry could bring about an educational revolution. However, relying solely on technology for education poses risks. In recent weeks, Byju's, India's largest ed-tech firm that claims to educate over 150 million individuals globally and was previously valued at \$22 billion, has experienced a significant decline in valuation due to financial difficulties and statutory issues. It is increasingly crucial to address the issues in government schools, making it imperative for India to allocate more funds towards education. The previous year witnessed education outlays at a mere 2.9% of GDP, which falls below international benchmarks. Simultaneously, there is a need to revamp the education system by drawing inspiration from successful models in other developing Asian countries.

According to our findings, Vietnamese students have consistently outperformed their counterparts from wealthier nations in international exams for the past decade. Surprisingly, despite spending less time in formal classroom lessons, including homework and additional study, Vietnamese students excel. Furthermore, they also contend with larger class sizes. The key distinction lies in the better preparation, experience, and accountability of Vietnamese teachers, who face consequences if their students fail to meet expectations. India can make progress by improving its education system, but this requires strong leadership. First, it should focus on accurately assessing students' learning outcomes, which means politicians must stop disregarding data that doesn't reflect well on their policies. Additionally, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party should refrain from removing concepts like evolution from textbooks or distorting historical facts to appease Hindu nationalists. These distractions only hinder progress. While India is investing in infrastructure like roads, technology campuses, airports, and factories, it must also prioritize developing its human capital. (IPA Service)

Shattering the norms, illuminating the path  
Dr Aniruddha's letter to the brave dreamer of new Nagaland

"You are remembered for the rules you break." - General Douglas MacArthur

*In daring defiance, legacies are made,  
For it's the rules I ruthlessly break that won't fade.*

*In remembrance, Rebels with a conscience forever stand,  
Their audacious spirit echoes through the land.*

In the vast cosmic tapestry of existence, where time weaves its intricate patterns, it is said that greatness is not bestowed upon us by chance or circumstance, but rather emerges from the bold defiance of the established norms that chained our mind and spirit. Throughout the ages, the human intellect has soared, reaching unparalleled heights, challenging the very fabric of reality, and transcending the limitations of mortal existence. As I, a mortal man, traverse the ethereal realms of philosophical contemplation, I find solace in the realization that we are the gods of our own destiny, for it is through our audacious rebellion against conformity in any given 'space and time' that we etch our names in the annals of remembrance.

Behold the paradox that encircles us, for it is through the breaking of conventional norms that we attain true greatness. The rigid structures that confine the feeble minds of the masses are shattered by the audacity of those who dare to dream beyond the limits imposed upon them. It is within the fiery depths of nonconformity that the essence of human potential is kindled, sparking a conflagration that illuminates the path to the extraordinary. In every epoch, rebellious scientists, statesmen, professors, doctors, and philosophers have risen, their names etched upon the very fabric of history as testaments to the indomitable spirit of human intellect.

From the distant realms of ancient wisdom, the resolute voice of "Carvaka" echoes through the corridors of time, challenging the doctrines of the gods and priests, proclaiming the sovereignty of human reason. In the depths of his radical skepticism, he shattered the shackles of dogma, liberating the minds of countless generations, beckoning them towards the untrodden paths of rationality. "Carvaka", a harbinger of intellectual freedom, epitomizes the quintessence of defiance and the eternal search for truth.

Gautam Buddha, the enlightened sage, broke the chains of material desires that enslaved the human spirit, unveiling the profundity of the inner self. His renunciation of the conventional norms and his relentless pursuit of enlightenment shattered the paradigms of societal expectations, inspiring countless souls to seek the transcendent truth within themselves. In his rebellion against the ephemeral pleasures of the world, he revealed the path to ultimate liberation and eternal wisdom.

Jesus Christ, a rebel in his own right, walked among us as a transformative force, challenging the established norms and societal conventions of his time. With unwavering conviction, he spoke against hypocrisy, injustice, and the oppressive powers that sought to silence the voice of truth. Fearlessly, he embraced the outcasts, healed the broken, and stood up for the marginalized. His teachings, filled with radical love and compassion, shattered the barriers of division and sparked a revolution of the human spirit. Jesus, the ultimate rebel, showed us that true greatness lies in defying the status quo and embracing a higher calling of love, forgiveness, and redemption.

Vardhaman Mahavir, the uncompromising visionary, defied the established order

of his time, rejecting the hierarchical caste system and espousing the ideals of equality and nonviolence. He tore the veils of societal divisions and transcended the boundaries of convention, teaching humanity to embrace compassion and embrace the unity that binds us all. His legacy endures as a testament to the power of rebellion and the triumph of moral conviction.

In the realm of science, towering figures such as Galileo, Nicholas Copernicus, and Giordano Bruno ventured into the cosmic unknown, challenging the geocentric model that had held sway for centuries. With unwavering resolve, they shattered the complacency of the intellectual establishment, daring to assert that the Earth revolved around the Sun. Their revolutionary insights unveiled the vastness of the universe, expanding the horizons of human knowledge and forever transforming our perception of reality.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the valiant warrior against social injustice, waged a relentless battle against the oppressive caste system that had plagued India for millennia. Through his tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to equality, he broke the chains that bound millions, empowering the marginalized and heralding a new era of social reform. His audacious rebellion against the entrenched forces of discrimination ignited a spark that continues to ignite the flames of social justice.

In the realm of invention and innovation, Nikola Tesla stood as a vanguard of scientific brilliance. His unorthodox ideas and unyielding determination led him to unravel the mysteries of electricity, forever changing the course of human civilization. Through his relentless pursuit of knowledge and his refusal to be bound by conventional wisdom, he unleashed the power of the human intellect, illuminating the world with his visionary creations.

Nelson Mandela, the indomitable symbol of resistance, cast aside the shackles of apartheid, shattering the walls of racial segregation that had divided a nation. With his unwavering commitment to justice and equality, he embodied the unyielding spirit of defiance, standing as a beacon of hope and unity in the face of adversity. His courageous acts of rebellion inspire us to challenge the injustices that pervade our world, igniting a fire within our hearts that compels us to fight for a better tomorrow.

Wangari Maathai, the environmentalist par excellence, broke the mold of societal expectations, embarking on a mission to restore the earth's vitality. Her audacious defiance of the status quo led her to found the Green Belt Movement, empowering women and championing the cause of environmental conservation. Through her unwavering determination and refusal to accept the constraints imposed upon her, she became a catalyst for change, demonstrating the transformative power of individual action. Liu Xiaobo, the unwavering advocate of human rights, defied the oppressive regime that sought to silence dissent, fearlessly championing the cause of freedom and democracy. His unyielding spirit and refusal to conform to the dictates of tyranny made him a symbol of resistance, inspiring countless others to stand up against injustice. His noble rebellion serves as a stark reminder that the pursuit of truth and freedom often requires immense personal sacrifice.

Mohandas Gandhi, the spiritual luminary and apostle of nonviolence, challenged the oppressive grip of British colonial rule through his doctrine of Satyagraha. Through acts of civil disobedience

and peaceful resistance, he shattered the illusion of imperial invincibility, heralding the dawn of independence for India. Gandhi's unwavering commitment to justice and his audacious defiance of tyranny remain an enduring testament to the power of peaceful rebellion.

Martin Luther King Jr., the towering figure of the civil rights movement, shattered the chains of racial segregation through his resolute commitment to nonviolent protest. With his unwavering belief in the inherent dignity of every human being, he confronted the systemic injustices that plagued American society, challenging the conscience of a nation. King's steadfast defiance and unwavering faith in the power of love and unity continue to inspire generations, reminding us that true greatness lies in the pursuit of justice and equality.

Rosa Parks, the ordinary woman whose extraordinary act of defiance sparked a revolution, refused to surrender her seat on a segregated bus. Through her simple yet powerful act of resistance, she ignited a firestorm of change, galvanizing the civil rights movement and paving the way for the dismantling of institutionalized racism. Her quiet rebellion against the norms of her time serves as a profound reminder that even the smallest acts of defiance can have far-reaching consequences.

In the tapestry of human history, these names shine like celestial stars, illuminating the vast expanse of our collective memory. They beckon us to challenge the boundaries that confine us, to rise above the limitations that hinder our progress, and to embrace the higher calling of our human potential. For it is in the breaking of conventional norms and traditional, rigid rules that we unleash the dormant forces of transformation within ourselves, propelling us towards the zenith of greatness.

Dear young dreamer of Nagaland, I implore you to heed the clarion call of re-

bellion that resonates within your soul. Break free from the chains that bind you, for greatness awaits those who dare to defy the constraints of convention. Embrace the fire that burns within you, for it is through the crucible of rebellion that the true essence of your being shall emerge. Be the catalyst of change, the harbinger of progress, and the embodiment of human intellect. Remember, dear young dreamer of Nagaland that the path to greatness is not for the faint of heart. It requires courage, audacity, and an unwavering belief in the power of your own intellect. Embrace the rebellious spirit that courses through your veins, and dare to challenge the status quo. In doing so, you will become an agent of transformation, a beacon of hope, and a testament to the boundless potential of the human spirit.

Go forth, dear young dreamer of Nagaland, and seize the reins of your destiny. Break the chains of ancient rules and customs that confine you, for it is through this act of defiance that you shall transcend the ordinary and forge a path to greatness. Embrace the legacy of those who came before you, and let their audacious rebellion be your guiding light. Be all that you can possibly be, for the human intellect is supreme, and within its depths lie the seeds of divine power.

Soar higher, dear young dreamer of Nagaland, higher than the boundaries of your imagination. Embrace the calling of your higher self, and let the rules, customs and traditions that confine you crumble in the face of your indomitable will. You are the architect of your own destiny, the master

of your own fate. Break free from the shackles of mediocrity and conformity, and let your rebellious spirit soar to the heavens.

In the grand tapestry of existence, where time weaves its intricate patterns, it is the rebels, the rule-breakers, and the audacious dreamers who etch their names in the annals of remembrance. They are the harbingers of change, the catalysts of progress, and the embodiment of human greatness. Embrace the power within you, dear young dreamer of Nagaland, for you have the potential to transcend the ordinary and become a legend in the vast cosmic saga of human existence.

Remember, dear young dreamer of Nagaland, that the journey towards greatness is fraught with challenges and obstacles. It requires unwavering determination, unyielding resilience, and an unshakable belief in the power of your own rebellion. The world may resist your audacious defiance, seeking to confine you within the boundaries of convention. But it is in the face of adversity that true greatness emerges, for it is through the breaking of traditions and conventions that the human spirit soars to its highest heights.

Dear young dreamer of Nagaland embraces the flame of rebellion that burns within you. Let it guide your every step, inspire your every thought, and fuel your every action. For it is through the breaking of traditional rules and norms that you shall unleash the dormant forces of transformation, propelling yourself towards the boundless horizons of human greatness.

Be the rebel, the catalyst, the harbinger of change and the carrier of light that the world so desperately needs. Let the echoes of your audacious defiance reverberate through the corridors of time, inspiring generations yet unborn. Embrace the higher calling of your human intellect and transcend the limitations that confine you. For in the end, it is not the customs, rules, traditions you obey that define your legacy, but rather the customs, rules, traditions, conventions and suffocating cultural forces you break for your higher-self and for the brighter future of your community and this grand nation of India- our country. MY WARRIORS OF LIGHT- I WANT YOU TO NOT TO FORGET THAT CHANGE IS THE WAY, THE JOURNEY AND THE DESTINATION TO THE 'TRUTH'.

Go forth, dear young dreamer of Nagaland, and leave an indelible mark upon the tapestry of existence. Embrace the rebellion within you and let it be the guiding star on your journey to greatness. For you are the architect of your own destiny, the master of your own fate, and within the depths of your being lies the power to shape the course of human history.

So, my young dear dreamer of Nagaland, break free from the chains of conformity and soar to the heavens. Embrace the audacious rebellion that resides within your soul, for it is through your free rise that you shall become the very essence of divinity. Be all that you can possibly be, and in doing so, you shall embody the limitless potential of the human intellect.

Go higher, higher, and higher, dear young dreamers of Nagaland, and let your rebellious spirit illuminate the path to greatness for all of humanity. For it is through your audacious defiance to chase your dreams and build 'time and space' of your 'own' choice, that the world shall be transformed, and the legacy of human intellect shall shine eternally-eventually will contribute to the ascension of humanity and evolution of our mortal world. (The author is an academician in the Dept of Political Science, Tetso College, Nagaland)

## China, others grappling with understanding meaning of Wagner group revolt

By: James M Dorsey

The sigh of relief in a swath of land stretching from China to Africa's Atlantic coast was audible when Yevgeny Prigozhin, a Russian oligarch who heads the Wagner Group, a state-funded private military company, called off his mutiny against President Vladimir Putin's military and security establishment.

So were the concerns and unanswered questions the revolt raised about Putin's grip on power and the risks involved in the global rise of private military companies in the minds of Chinese, Central Asian, Middle Eastern, and African leaders. The core question is the Russian military's role. It remains unclear whether the military held back on Putin's orders or hedged its bets. Also unanswered is whether Prigozhin enjoyed support from within the military ranks. Russian military personnel surrendered without a fight when Prigozhin took control of Rostov-on-Don, a city of one million people and home to the headquarters of Russia's Southern Military District, widely viewed as one of the military's most competent units.

Similarly, Wagner fighters advanced along the M4 expressway to within 200 kilometres of Moscow, with no attempt by the military to stop them. A Deutsche Welle fact check of videos circulating on social media allegedly showing the Russian Air Force bombing Wagner on the M4 concluded that they were fake. "Where was the Russian Air Force? Wagner may have had tanks, lightweight anti-aircraft systems, and some ground-to-air missiles, but long-range anti-missile and anti-aircraft defences have not been part of their modus operandi. Consequently, the mercenary convoys en route to Moscow could have been vulnerable to aerial assault," said Alessandro Arduino, an authority on private military companies. The question marks are compounded by reports that General Sergei Surovikin, the former top Russian military commander in Ukraine, knew in advance of Prigozhin's planned revolt.

Another senior military officer, Lt. Gen. Vladimir Alekseyev, appeared on video chatting with Prigozhin after the Rostov-on-Don takeover. In addition, General Valery Gerasimov, the military's chief of staff and a target of Prigozhin's ire, has not been seen in public since the failed

revolt. To be sure, Surovikin and Alekseyev issued separate videos criticizing Prigozhin and calling on him to halt his revolt. In addition, Putin sent a brigade loyal to Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov rather than a Russian military unit to Rostov-on-Don to confront the Wagner Group. Even though it did not come to a clash, Kadyrov is likely to see the mutiny as an opportunity to replace the Wagner Group.

Without answers to the questions, Putin will be hard-pressed to demonstrate unity among Russia's military and political elite and that he retains complete control. That will affect foreign leaders' assessment of Putin as a reliable and stable partner. The Wagner revolt and questions about Putin's grip on power have diminished Russia's status as a credible security partner that has already been called into question by its inability to subjugate Ukraine. In addition, Putin's foreign friends in China, Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa have long felt uneasy about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, even if they were not condemning it publicly or adhering to sanctions imposed by the United States, Europe, and others. Except for China, mediation proposals by African leaders, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett were primarily intended to demonstrate neutrality in the Ukraine conflict.

So was China's plan, but China plays in a different league because many view it as the only power with real influence in Moscow. China has sought to capitalise in Central Asia on Russia's diminished status, where Russia was long seen as the region's security guarantor, and US neglect of the former Soviet republics. In May, President Xi Jinping unveiled a grand development plan focused on infrastructure and trade at a meeting in Beijing with the leaders of the five Central Asian states. Rather than wanting to replace Russia, China hopes to emerge as the dominant power in the region with Russia as its junior partner.

If Ukraine wasn't enough of a headache, uncertainty about Putin's status is compounded by a lack of clarity about the future of the Wagner Group, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, where the Russian company may be first among equals, but Chinese and other private military companies also operate.

Russia's defence ministry may be able to control the

group in Ukraine and Syria but could find subjugating Wagner more difficult in Africa. In contrast to Ukraine and Syria, countries with a strong Russian military presence, Russia has far fewer, if any, forces in the African nations where Wagner operates. Wagner has little incentive to surrender its positions in Africa, where it generates income from bolstering governments and warlords and lucrative mining deals. Wagner operates in Libya, Mali, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Media reports said an unknown drone had attacked a Wagner base in Libya south of the rebel-held city of Benghazi days after the mutiny. Wagner positions in Syria were reportedly raided by Russian troops, detaining commanders of the group. Nevertheless, Wagner, acting independently, could be a concern for Chinese private military companies on the African continent.

In contrast to Wagner, which effectively operates as a mercenary and combat force, Chinese companies, like Beijing DeWe Security Service, Huaxin Zhong An Security Group, and China Security Technology Group, serve primarily as protectors of Chinese investments, assets, and personnel. As a result, they have little contact with Wagner.

Mali could emerge as a test case of what Wagner's post-revolt positioning could mean for Chinese companies. Mali has expelled United Nations peacekeepers scheduled to withdraw from the country before the end of this year, relying instead on Wagner. In 2021, Malian security forces freed three Chinese nationals abducted by unknown gunmen from a construction site in the country's north. In the future, China may have to turn to Wagner in an emergency if it does not deploy its own private military.

Moreover, Russia's experience with Wagner raises the spectre of military forces revolting against ruling elites when many in China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa believe that the era of popular revolts has run out of steam. That may not be an immediate domestic concern in China, but it is a worry given China's preference for stability in countries across Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa, with which it maintains close economic and other ties. For now, China, like others, sighs in relief. However, the last word on the Wagner mutiny fallout has yet to be spoken. (IPA Service)



# How the Octopus evolved to taste by touch

By: Rohini Subrahmanyan

Deep under the ocean, as the octopus explores around on the ocean floor, it needs to sense its surroundings in order to survive. Thankfully, it has not one or two but eight arms to help it in its sensing. We know that octopuses are extraordinarily intelligent creatures, but we know very little about how they sense the world around them.

“For the octopus it’s very clear that the arms were doing all kinds of interesting things, constantly sampling their environment, and so we just looked at the arms and thought that there must be something to learn there,” said Nicholas Bellono, an associate professor at Harvard University.

We, as humans, use specialised cells in our noses and eyes and other sensory organs to interact with the world. In the octopus, their arms are lined with suckers that help it sense the ocean floor as it probes around looking for prey to eat. When Bellono and his group first started working with the California two-spot octopus in the lab, they began by isolating the cells on the suckers and asking what they sense. What really drew them in was how the cells responded to chemicals.

When they used sequencing technology to look at which genes are specifically turned on in these sucker cup cells, what they found didn’t look like the typical sensory receptors one would expect – the kinds used for taste or smell, as an example.

“We looked for known chemoreceptors such as olfactory (smell) or taste receptors, things that one would guess, but we didn’t see them. The only things we saw were these proteins that looked like neurotransmitter receptors but they lacked the neurotransmitter binding site,” said Bellono. They had stumbled upon a whole new family of sensory receptors that seemed to be unique to octopuses, which they could now use as a tool to ask what the octopuses sense and respond to.

After screening a large number of chemicals on the novel receptors, they found that they did not detect typical odorants or tastants. Instead, they responded to these hydrophobic molecules called terpenes, made by plants and bacteria and sometimes released by marine invertebrates as a form of a defence mechanism. Hydrophobic molecules repel water, and being poorly soluble, they localise to surfaces. If the octopus is crawling about touching surfaces and doing “contact-dependant chemosensation”, these molecules should be on the objects it is probing. “What makes these receptors odd is that the

types of chemicals they sense are not the type of chemicals one finds floating around in water,” said Corey Allard, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab. “They are hydrophobic and insoluble, and in the marine environment we would find them on surfaces. For the organism to sense them, they would have to physically probe that surface because they aren’t in the water. That’s how its chemotactile, different from other forms of chemical sensing, like smell.”

Based on their findings, they called these receptors in the sucker cups “chemotactile” receptors, as they help the octopus pretty much taste what it touches. In a paper in 2020, Bellono and his group reported their discovery of these receptors and characterized their basic functions. Then, they went a bit deeper; they wanted to really understand this receptor in all its glory.

## Going deeper

They set out to obtain the cryo-EM structure of this receptor, to delve deep into its structure and understand how this terpene binds to it. They found that it resembles receptors well established to be involved in neurotransmission, and didn’t look like typical sensory receptors. Further, it didn’t even bind neurotransmitter chemicals, like the typical agonist acetylcholine, suggesting a different role for this receptor in the octopus. How does a receptor change from a neurotransmitter receptor to a sensory receptor? Rather serendipitously, the answer seemed to be hiding in plain sight.

“We were trying and trying to find, in the cryo-EM used for the structural analysis, where the terpene binds to the receptor,” said Allard. “We saw that one of the detergent molecules used to solubilise the receptor for cryo-EM was stuck in a place very similar to where the acetylcholine would bind in the ancestral receptor. As the detergent is also partially hydrophobic, we thought maybe that is where the agonist binds.”

They knew that terpenes, the agonist they were interested in, are hydrophobic, but so are the soap molecules present in the detergent used to dissolve the receptor for their technique. Maybe the soap molecules bind where the terpenes bind and can activate these receptors in the cells? When they tested this out in vitro, it turned out that that was indeed the agonist-binding site, and the detergent happened to be a very potent agonist by itself. It also appeared to be the site where the terpenes bind. It turned out that the amino acids in the binding site of this octopus receptor were hydrophobic themselves, hence attracting other water repelling molecules like terpenes. These amino acids completely change the structure of the binding site, as compared to how it is in the ancestral neurotrans-



mitter receptor that binds acetylcholine.

“There is a cage like structure in the acetylcholine receptor that binds acetylcholine. In these receptors the cage is gone and there is a shallow, hydrophobic groove filled with hydrophobic amino acids that binds these insoluble, greasy molecules like terpenes,” said Allard. The results from this study were published recently in Nature.

## Do other cephalopods have these receptors?

The researchers also wanted to understand if other cephalopods like squids and cuttlefish, related to octopuses, even had these kinds of receptors. Squids, along with their eight arms, also had tentacles to capture their prey and reel them in; they explore surroundings and engage with prey very differently than the octopus.

In a companion study in collaboration with Guipeun Kang and Ryan Hibbs, now at UCSD, they found that squids also had these cephalopod-specific chemotactile receptors, but they had a different function. These receptors responded to a bitter tastant called denatonium which was more hydrophilic in nature. When they tested this experimentally, they found that the squids would reject prey that were coated with this chemical. Some of these receptors were also found to be specific to squids and cuttlefish and were not even present in the octopus

arms. It took the researchers a while to realise the evolutionary significance of these receptors, as they were initially looking at it from a physiological and structural point of view. But a grad student, Wendy Valencia Montoya, in the lab helped them tease apart the differences and look at the receptors through the lens of evolution.

“There was just this tangled bolus of receptors, with no logic to them. Wendy compared the sequences across the different organisms we had looked at, and found these specific lineages having evolved separately in the octopus and the squid,” said Allard. “It really united the behaviour and physiology and made sense of what we had learned.”

Once the evolutionary perspective opened up, a new question arose, how does the binding pocket in these chemotactile receptors change across evolution? This pocket appeared to be an evolutionary hotspot, where the receptor could diversify its structure based on its function. “There is an ancestral receptor with a cage-like pocket, trapping acetylcholine. The octopus receptor is totally different, there is a hydrophobic groove. In the squid, there is a cage-like structure but it is different from the ancestral one, maybe a transitioning structure from the ancestral state to a very different state in the octopus,” said Allard. “Maybe you start binding mole-

cules like acetylcholine, and through evolution you start binding different molecules and diversifying.”

Based on the different structures and sequences of the binding pocket in the receptor, the researchers were able to see how this chemotactile receptor may have evolved differently in these different kinds of cephalopods, as compared to the original acetylcholine receptor. “In addition to having an acetylcholine receptor and a long-separated octopus receptor, something came up in between those two, the squid receptor, detecting a very different molecule involved in a different behaviour,” said Bellono. “It gave insight into how the receptor evolved across different ecology and different behaviours.”

A way to bypass the receptors altogether while understanding what the octopus senses is by focusing on what the octopus arms care about. When Allard recorded electrical signals from the nerves in the octopus arms, he found that the octopus doesn’t seem to respond to these bitter molecules that the squids responded to. “The octopus arms don’t care about bitter things, but squid arms do, which could be related to their ecology and behaviour,” said Allard. Octopuses always responded to the hydrophobic terpenes though. In the lab, when terpenes were infused into the floor of experimental tanks the octopus were placed in, the octopuses responded to them strongly; their probing behaviour changed when they encountered them. A major open question is which of these (or other related) chemicals are present in the natural environment of the octopuses, and what these chemicals signal to the octopus. Answering the question of whether some prey or predator of the octopus secretes these is something the group is focusing on now.

Octopuses and squids engage in very different predatory behaviours. Squids are ambush predators and octopuses probe around the ocean floor and in crevices for prey. But they both may need to sense insoluble molecules that aren’t present in the water but are present on surfaces. It appears that their chemotactile receptors may have evolved different adaptations in their binding pockets based on what they need. The receptors are truly versatile, with structural and functional differences evident across evolution. “What’s really cool about these papers is that they span from atomic level analysis to physiology, behaviour and to evolution,” said Bellono. “That was important, not only for attacking a question with many approaches, but also conceptually, in these studies.” (Courtesy: The Wire)

# How graffiti gangs became mainstream ‘street artists’

By: Stefano Bloch

Grffiti has become so mainstream in recent years that auction houses, museums and entire art shows cater to street art connoisseurs and collectors around the world. Images in the news of young vandals responsible for marking walls have been replaced by sleek websites belonging to global phenoms such as Banksy and Shepard Fairey.

In cities around the world, graffiti is now associated with “street artists” rather than violent street gangs. Today, many cities, from Pittsburgh to Pretoria, invite street artists to help brand neighbourhoods that are being revitalized and gentrified as legitimately hip destinations for business owners, home buyers and influencers. Some up-and-coming neighbourhoods in cities like Dakar, Senegal; Mexico City; Brisbane, Australia; and Seoul, South Korea offer street art tours and host graffiti festivals.

The vibrantly coloured walls in such places attract travellers to parts of town once deemed “sketchy.” These same neighbourhoods are home to bookstores that carry graffiti coffee table books and universities that offer courses on graffiti art. I have taught such courses myself. But it hasn’t always been this way.

The history of tagging Before becoming an academic who teaches and writes about graffiti, I was a graffiti writer. I started tagging, or illegally writing my name — Cisco CBS — on surfaces across Los Angeles in the early 1990s.

At the time, local governments were cracking down on wall writers with anti-gang legislation, such as California’s 1988 Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act, and a variety of “broken windows theory” policing initiatives. Law enforcement didn’t seem to understand what the writing on walls meant or who was behind those cryptic images and personal monikers. Many residents couldn’t read or understand it either. Graffiti was interpreted as gang-related and, therefore, territorial and violent. Vandals were targeted with well-funded anti-graffiti task forces and police crackdowns on taggers like me.

It was not enough; it seemed, to rightfully charge graffiti writers with vandalism. Rather, police and district attorneys, backed by a morally panicked public, were making an example of graffiti writers, charging them with felonies, giving them six-figure fines and sending them to prison for illicitly marking walls.

By the end of the 1990s, as the violent crime rate in cities across the U.S. declined and gentrification increased, new residents felt they could safely move into lower cost, “up-and-coming” neighbourhoods.

Local governments turned to gang injunctions, a restraining order targeting alleged gang members, to help rid neighbourhoods of the remaining taggers and wall writers who were labelled gang members and were painting political wall murals.

The Guadalupe, or La Virgen, was used to signal the Chicano community’s faith in God’s protection, delivering them from the violence of the streets at the hands of gangs and police alike. But such murals, often done by local graffiti artists who were themselves deeply rooted in the Chi-

cano community, were forced to make room for “street art” in the context of neighbourhood change and urban redevelopment.

As real estate prices went up, the Guadalupe murals came down, symbolizing local displacement by gentrification. While physical displacement was being experienced firsthand by long-standing residents, the transformation of the walls in these communities symbolized a broader cultural change. By the early 2000s, politically neutral street art images replaced depictions of social struggle, Chicano/a history, and community life.

## Graffiti made legit

By 2011, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles hosted the first-ever museum survey of street art and graffiti. At this time, I was finishing my dissertation on the “Changing Face of Wall Space” which explored graffiti in the nearby neighbourhoods of Echo Park and Silver Lake. In it, I analysed how graffiti writers such as Eyeone, Mear and Cache were navigating the legal, social, economic and cultural shift taking place in Los Angeles. In the midst of this struggle over wall space and aesthetics, many of my friends were invited inside to tag the walls of the Art in the Streets exhibition.

Just outside the museum gallery, the newly branded Arts District soon welcomed muralists and graffiti writers from around the world. These were the same streets where many of us had been chased, beaten and arrested by police for doing what was now fashionable and profitable. Los Angeles, like many cities in the US, had the lowest homicide rate in more than a generation. In this new context, it became more difficult to connect graffiti to the gangs: Gang violence just wasn’t there. Graffiti had made a comeback, arriving inside the Trojan Horse of legitimate street art.

## Urban blight or community history

Self-described critical Chicana muralists, such as Judith Baca, and pachuco graffiti writers such as Chaz Bojórquez, had been painting on walls around Los Angeles as early as the 1970s. These wall artists’ styles were often maligned by city leaders, business owners and wealthy Anglos. But something changed when these inner city aesthetics became the mainstream backdrop for arts communities.

No longer does the writing on the walls signal blight and disorder. Rather, graffiti increasingly tells the story of urban change. It took seeing it as “safe” in the form of “street art” for people to start paying attention to its visual power. (Courtesy: Scroll.in)



# Poor dental health may increase Alzheimer’s risk

By: Robby Berman

A new study finds an association between tooth loss, gum disease, or periodontal disease, and a shrinking of the brain area thought to be involved in memory, and specifically with Alzheimer’s disease. Brain volume is an indicator of atrophy and loss of cognitive function that can occur with age or disease.

Whether poor dental health causes the loss of brain volume or the other way around was beyond the scope of the study. Nonetheless, its findings suggest that good dental health should be prioritized for brain health.

According to the study, a missing tooth was the equivalent of brain shrinkage of nearly an additional year of brain aging, and severe gum disease was equal to 1.3 years of brain aging. The area of the brain found to be associated with poorer dental health is the left side of the hippocampus. The hippocampus is thought to be linked to learning and memory.

The study involved 172 community-dwelling Japanese individuals. They were an average ages 55 years or older. At study outset, they received thorough dental and periodontal exams, as well as memory tests in which they exhibited no evidence of cognitive decline.

Twice, four years apart, each participant’s brain volume was assessed using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and they received additional oral examinations measuring gum disease and tooth loss.

The researchers found that of those without significant gum disease, having fewer teeth corresponded with a greater reduction in hippocampal volume. Perhaps paradoxically, for people with severe gum disease, having more teeth aligned with a greater degree of hippocampal atrophy.

The left hippocampus and Alzheimer’s “The functional difference between the left

and right hippocampus remains controversial, and the details are unknown,” according to the study’s lead author, Dr. Satoshi Yamaguchi from Tohoku University Graduate School of Dentistry, Miyagi in Japan.

Dr. Yamaguchi noted, however, that research points to there being more significant atrophy in the left hippocampus of people with Alzheimer’s disease.

“The left hippocampus plays a crucial role in cognitive abilities, particularly in memory formation and spatial orientation. A decrease in its volume could potentially lead to cognitive impairments, including memory loss and difficulties in spatial navigation,” explained Dr. Bei Wu, vice dean for research at the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing, who was not involved in the study.

## Does poor dental health cause Alzheimer’s?

The study carefully avoids assuming a causal relationship between dental health and hippocampal shrinkage or vice versa.

Dr. Bei Wu offered a hypothesis: “One theory could be that gum disease leads to systemic inflammation.”

“Chronic inflammation is known to have various negative effects on the body, including potential damage to brain cells. This could potentially lead to a decrease in hippocampal volume,” explained Dr. Wu.

He said another idea is that “tooth loss and gum disease could lead to changes in diet and nutrition, which could also impact brain health.”

Dr. Yamaguchi offered two additional possibilities. First, that the same pathogen that drives periodontal disease might invade the brain and damage nerve tissue. Second, “Fewer teeth reduce chewing stimulation, which can lead to brain atrophy,” he said.

How dental health affects overall health Other epidemiological research has linked gum disease and various chronic health con-

ditions, including mental health problems and autoimmune, cardiovascular, and cardiometabolic disease.

That study found that having gingivitis — early-stage gum disease — or periodontal disease was associated with an 18% higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, a 26% greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes, and a 7% higher chance of developing other cardiometabolic disorders.

According to the CDC, almost half of Americans older than 30 have periodontal disease of some sort. That percentage rises to 70.1% for people older than ages 65 years.

## Gums and teeth affect cognition

Dr. Yamaguchi said that an important takeaway from the study is that tooth loss and gum disease may have intertwined effects on cognition:

“Because tooth loss and periodontal disease coexist in the mouth and influence each other, they should be considered together. In mild periodontal disease, the effects of inflammation are less pronounced, and thus the association between the number of teeth and brain atrophy may be directly observable.”

Noting the finding that fewer teeth without severe gum disease is associated with reduced hippocampal volume but that more teeth with severe gum disease produces the same result, Dr. Wu said:

“The findings from this study suggest that these factors could be contributing to brain aging in a combined or synergistic manner, rather than independently. Therefore, this study highlights the importance of considering the interaction between tooth loss and gum disease when studying their effects on brain aging.”

“It is important to preserve the health of the teeth and not just retain them. Future studies should validate these findings using data from other cohorts,” Dr. Wu added. (Courtesy: MNT)

# Over half of world’s child trafficking victims trafficked within own country: Report

By: Zumbish

Over half of child trafficking victims across the world are trafficked within their own country, according to a new report. The report, titled From Evidence to Action: Twenty Years of IOM Child Trafficking Data to Inform Policy and Programming, was prepared by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. The report was published on the IOM website on June 5, 2023. It is based on the analysis of extensive, globally sourced data, using the IOM Victims of Trafficking Database (VoTD).

The VoTD is the largest available international database of individual victims of trafficking. It contains primary data collected from approximately 69,000 victims of human trafficking. These victims belong to 156 nationalities and were trafficked in 186 countries. They registered with IOM in 113 countries where the Organization works. About 18.3 per cent of VoTDs in the database were children.

## What the report unearths

Child trafficking victims come from all backgrounds and genders, according to the report. Some 57.4 per cent of child victims were female and 42.6 per cent were male according to the dataset. The report noted that no age range is immune to child trafficking. Child victims ranged from 0 to 17 years old, it added. Children aged 13-17 formed the largest group of child victims (46.6 per cent), based on the age reported at the time of IOM registration. A small but significant percentage of child victims (12.6 per cent) were aged between 0 and 2 years old at the time of IOM registration, indicating that these victims were likely born into trafficking. Close to half of the child victims of trafficking (43.4 per cent) were being trafficked for forced labour (mainly boys), in a wide range of industries, such as domestic work, begging and agriculture. Sexual exploitation, including through prostitution, pornography, and sexual servitude, is also prominent, affecting 20 per cent of trafficked children, predominantly girls.

The report noted that victims trafficked for sexual exploitation were commonly trafficked internationally,



while those trafficked for forced labour were more likely to be trafficked domestically. In cases of international trafficking, children are mostly trafficked to neighbouring, wealthier countries, according to the report. Child victims reported being exploited in domestic work (14.5 per cent), begging (10.2 per cent), hospitality (3.4 per cent) and agriculture (3.3 per cent). Female child victims are more likely to report sexual exploitation (30.3 per cent) than male child victims (7.3 per cent).

About 37.3 per cent of child victims originating from Europe and Central Asia were trafficked for sexual exploitation. Over 56.9 per cent of identified child victims had been trafficked within their country of origin.

The report also noted that recruiters — individuals or groups that

introduce victims to the situation that leads to trafficking — are often close to child victims. More than half of the child victims reported the involvement of friends and family in their recruitment into trafficking (37.4 per cent and 14.7 per cent, respectively; 51.1 per cent, taken together). Family and friends play an important role in the recruitment of children in countries where either widespread or localised extreme poverty is common. Use of threats against the victims (39.5 per cent), as well as the use of excessive working hours to control them (36.5 per cent), were also reported by a sizeable share of child victims.

## It suggested the following:

Integrating counter-trafficking into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, including during preparedness and response to disasters, with tailored programmes to address the vulnerability of children to trafficking. Empowering communities affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters to develop community-based mitigation strategies aimed at reducing human trafficking. (Courtesy: Down To Earth)



# How many Russians have died in Ukraine? Data shows what Moscow hides

**BRUSSELS, July 10 (AP)**— Nearly 50,000 Russian men have died in the war in Ukraine, according to the first independent statistical analysis of Russia's war dead.

Two independent Russian media outlets, Mediazona and Meduza, working with a data scientist from Germany's Tübingen University, used Russian government data to shed light on one of Moscow's closest-held secrets — the true human cost of its invasion of Ukraine.

To do so, they relied on a statistical concept popularized during the COVID-19 pandemic called excess mortality. Drawing on inheritance records and official mortality data, they estimated how many more men under age 50 died between February 2022 and May 2023 than normal.

Neither Moscow nor Kyiv gives timely data on military losses, and each is at pains to amplify the other side's casualties. Russia has publicly acknowledged the deaths of just over 6,000 soldiers. Reports about military losses have been re-

pressed in Russian media, activists and independent journalists say. Documenting the dead has become an act of defiance, and those who do so face harassment and potential criminal charges.

Despite such challenges, Mediazona and the BBC's Russian Service, working with a network of volunteers, have used social media postings and photographs of cemeteries across Russia to build a database of confirmed war deaths. As of July 7, they had identified 27,423 dead Russian soldiers.

"These are only soldiers who we know by name, and their deaths in each case are verified by multiple sources," said Dmitry Treshchanin, an editor at Mediazona who helped oversee the investigation. "The estimate we did with Meduza allows us to see the hidden deaths, deaths the Russian government is so obsessively and unsuccessfully trying to hide."

To come up with a more comprehensive tally, journalists from Mediazona



and Meduza obtained records of inheritance cases filed with the Russian authorities. Their data from the National Probate Registry contained information about more than 11 million people who died between 2014 and May 2023.

According to their analysis, 25,000 more inheritance cases were opened in 2022 for males aged 15 to 49 than expected. By May 27, 2023, the number of excess cases had shot up to 47,000.

That surge is roughly in line with a May assessment by the White House that more than 20,000 Russians had been killed in Ukraine since December, though lower than U.S. and U.K. intelligence assessments of overall Russian deaths.

In February, the U.K. Ministry of Defense said approximately 40,000 to 60,000 Russians had likely been killed in the war. A leaked assessment from the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency put the number of Russians killed in action in the first year of the war at 35,000 to 43,000.

"Their figures might be accurate, or they might not be," Treshchanin, the Mediazona editor, said in an email. "Even if they have sources in the Russian Ministry of Defense, its own data could be incomplete. It's extremely difficult to pull together all of the casualties from the army,

Rosgvardia, Akhmat battalion, various private military companies, of which Wagner is the largest, but not the only one. Casualties among inmates, first recruited by Wagner and now by the MoD, are also a very hazy subject, with a lot of potential for manipulation. Statistics could actually give better results."

Independently, Dmitry Kobak, a data scientist from Germany's Tübingen University who has published work on excess COVID-19 deaths in Russia, obtained mortality data broken down by age and sex for 2022 from Rosstat, Russia's official statistics agency.

He found that 24,000 more men under age 50 died in 2022 than expected, a figure that aligns with the analysis of inheritance data. The COVID-19 pandemic made it harder to figure out how many men would have died in Russia since February 2022 if there hadn't been a war. Both analyses corrected for the lingering effects of COVID on mortality by indexing male death rates against female deaths.

## Kremlin says Putin met with Russian mercenary leader days after abortive mutiny

*A total of 35 people took part in the meeting, including Wagner commanders and the leadership of the company, namely Prigozhin himself*

**KYIV, July 10 (AP)**— Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin days after a short-lived rebellion by the mercenary chief and his private army, the Kremlin's spokesman said on Monday.

The three-hour meeting took place at the Kremlin on June 29 and also involved commanders from the military company Prigozhin founded, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Wagner mercenaries have fought alongside Russian troops in Ukraine. Prigozhin has a long-simmering feud with Russia's top military brass which on June 24 culminated in an armed mutiny in which he led his fighters into Russia.

Prigozhin ended the mutiny after a deal was brokered for him to be exiled to Belarus.

The confirmation of a face-to-face meeting with Putin, who branded Prigozhin as a backstabbing traitor, adds a new twist to the uncertainty surrounding the mercenary chief, whose fate and whereabouts have been unknown since



the abortive mutiny. The rebellion severely weakened Putin's authority.

Peskov said that during the June 29 meeting, Putin offered an "assessment" of Wagner's actions on the battlefield in Ukraine and "of the events of June 24." The president also "listened to the explanations of the commanders and offered them options for further employment and further use in combat," the Kremlin spokesman said.

"The commanders themselves presented their version of what

happened. They underscored that they are staunch supporters and soldiers of the head of state and the commander-in-chief, and also said that they are ready to continue to fight for their homeland," Peskov said.

A total of 35 people took part in the meeting, including Wagner commanders and the leadership of the company, namely Prigozhin himself, Peskov said.

Also Monday, Russia's Defense Ministry published a video featuring the country's military chief — the first time Gen. Valery Gerasimov was shown since the rebellion aimed to oust him.

During last month's revolt, Prigozhin repeatedly denounced Gerasimov, who serves as chief of the general staff of the Russian armed forces, and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for failing to provide his fighters in Ukraine with ammunition.

Monday's updates appeared to be an attempt by Moscow to take control of the narrative after a turbulent period.

Meanwhile, a Russian airstrike on a school in southern Ukraine

killed four adults as people gathered to receive humanitarian aid, the governor of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region said Monday, branding the incident "a war crime."

Three women and a man, all in their 40s, died in Sunday's attack in the town of Orikhiv, Gov. Yuriy Malashko said.

A guided aerial bomb caused an explosion at the school, Malashko said, without providing evidence. Eleven other people were wounded in the attack, he said.

Overall, Russia fired on 10 settlements in the province over the course of a day, he said.

Moscow denies it targets civilian locations. Russia has been accused numerous times of doing so and committing other war crimes since its full-scale invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February 2022.

In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

**Solomon Islands leader visits Beijing, highlighting US-China rivalry in South Pacific**

**BEIJING, July 10 (AP)**— Leaders of the Solomon Islands and China on Monday promised to expand relations that have fueled unease in Washington and Australia about Beijing's influence in the South Pacific.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang. Sogavare and Li presided over the signing of agreements on police, economic and technical cooperation. "We are here to further boost relations," Sogavare told Li following a ceremony at which a Chinese military band played the Solomon Islands national anthem. The Solomon Islands, 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, has been China's biggest success in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific. Sogavare's government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as part of its territory.

## Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte will leave politics after election, marking the end of political era

**THE HAGUE, July 10 (AP)**— Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, the Netherlands' longest serving premier, said on Monday he will leave politics after an early general election sparked by a dispute over migration that led to his government's resignation.

His decision means the end of nearly 13 years in power for the conservative leader sometimes called "Teflon Mark" because scandals that plagued his four different administrations did not stick to him.

Rutte, the 56-year-old leader of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, or VVD, announced his decision at a hastily arranged parliamentary debate to discuss the fall of his latest governing coalition.

"Yesterday morning I made a decision that I will not be available again as a leader of the VVD. When a new Cabinet takes office after the elections, I will leave politics," he said.

Rutte called it a "personal decision, regardless of the developments in recent weeks." There was no immediate indication who might replace Rutte as leader of



the VVD. The party's parliamentary faction is led by Sophie Hermans, Rutte's former political assistant.

No date has yet been set for the election, but it is not expected before October or November.

In the 27-nation European Union, only Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been in charge of a country longer than Rutte, but their leadership styles could not be more different.

Orban, in power for a full 13 years and counting, has turned Hungary into his vision of an "illiberal democracy" and increasingly smothered all dissent, while Rutte navigated a Western demo-

cratic system at its most eclectic and exuberant.

But the Dutch prime minister's four-party ruling coalition resigned Friday after failing to agree on a package of measures to rein in migration, an issue that often has divided the EU as a whole. Rutte said it was a unanimous decision prompted by "irreconcilable differences" among the partner parties.

Supporters and opponents alike called it the end of an era.

With uncanny political savvy, Rutte at times managed to twist the arms of not just his coalition partners but also opposition lawmakers to pass new policies and remain in charge of governments that provided enough glue to hold together his politically fractured nation of nearly 18 million.

In the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the Dutch parliament, no fewer than 20 parties are represented. To some extent, the diverse lineup reflects the European trend of the political center losing ground to voices on the far left and particularly the far right.

## Russian airstrike during aid distribution at southern Ukraine school kills 4

**KYIV, July 10 (AP)**— A Russian airstrike on a school in southern Ukraine killed four adults as people gathered to receive humanitarian aid, the governor of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region said on Monday, branding the incident "a war crime."

Three women and a man, all in their 40s, died in Sunday's attack in the town of Orikhiv, Gov. Yuriy Malashko said.

A guided aerial bomb caused an explosion at the school, Malashko said, without providing evidence. Eleven other people were wounded in the attack, he said.

Overall, Russia fired on 10 settlements in the province over the course of a day, he said.

Moscow denies it targets civilian locations. Russia has been accused numerous times of doing so and committing other war crimes since its full-scale invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February 2022.

In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Broad investigations are also underway in Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The International Center for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, located in The Hague, is helping with those investigations.

Zaporizhzhia province is home to Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which Russian forces seized early in the war, and is one of four regions of Ukraine that Putin illegally annexed last year. Retaking the province is one of the targets of a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian aerial assaults continued across Ukraine between Sunday and Monday, according to a summary from the Ukrainian presidential office.

In the Donetsk region, the Russians used aircraft, missile systems and heavy artillery to shell residential areas of 6 cities and villages, injuring one person, the office reported.

The Russian army attacked residential areas of Kherson, the regional capital of a province of the same name. A 66-year-old woman was injured, the presidential office said.

## Man with knife kills 6 people at kindergarten in China

**BEIJING, July 10 (AP)**— A man with a knife killed six people and wounded one more Monday at a kindergarten in southeastern China, police and a news report said on Monday.

A 25-year-old man was arrested following the 7:40 a.m. attack in Lianjiang, a city in Guangdong province, a police statement said. Employees who answered at the Lianjiang police headquarters declined to give more details.

A news outlet, Dafeng News, cited an unidentified witness as saying the attacker's child had been struck earlier by the car of one of the people who was killed at the school. It said one of the people killed was a teacher at the kindergarten.

Dafeng News on its website cited video posted online that it said showed a man carrying a knife walking past the kindergarten playground. It said other video showed at least four people in a pool of blood outside the school.

News reports on other websites were deleted and replaced with the brief police statement.

## Myanmar violence and sea disputes to dominate ASEAN talks joined by US, Russian and Chinese envoys

**JAKARTA, July 10 (AP)**— Myanmar's prolonged civil strife, tensions in the disputed South China Sea and concern over arms buildups in the region are expected to dominate the agenda when Southeast Asia's top diplomats gather for talks this week in Indonesia.

Russia's year-old invasion of Ukraine and the US-China rivalry will also be under the spotlight as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang participate as dialogue partners of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

North Korea has yet to say whether its foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, will attend the ASEAN Regional Forum, an annual regional security meeting.

It's also unclear who among the key figures in the world's most intractable conflicts will meet on the sidelines of the group's ministerial meetings.

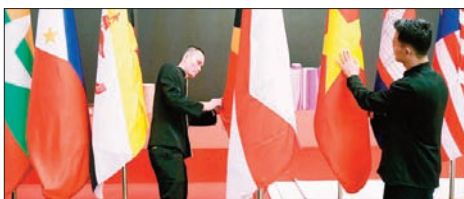
The top diplomats of ASEAN, which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet-

nam, will meet Tuesday and Wednesday before their other Asian and Western counterparts join them in discussions on Thursday and Friday.

Founded in 1967, the often-unwieldy collective of democracies, autocracies and monarchies has been held together for decades by bedrock principles of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs and consensus-based decision-making. But that approach has also prevented the 10-nation bloc from dealing swiftly with crises that spill across borders.

ASEAN's principles have been tested since Myanmar's army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 and plunged the country into deadly chaos. It has become one of ASEAN's gravest crises since its establishment.

More than 3,750 civilians, including pro-democracy activists, have been killed by security forces and nearly 24,000 arrested since the military takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a rights group that keeps tallies of such arrests and casualties.



## Swedish foreign minister optimistic Türkiye will drop objections to NATO membership

**VILNIUS (LITHUANIA), July 10 (AP)**— Sweden's foreign minister expressed optimism on Monday that Türkiye will drop its objections to Swedish NATO membership, saying the Nordic country's accession is a question of when, not if.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson were expected to meet later on Monday in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, ahead of a two-day NATO summit.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström told public broadcaster SVT that he expects Türkiye will eventually signal that it will let Sweden join the alliance, though he couldn't say whether that would happen at the annual summit.

"What we are counting on, of course, is to reach a point where we get a message back from President Erdogan that there will be what you might call a green light ... a message that the ratification process in the Turkish Parliament can start," Billström said. Türkiye has stalled Sweden's NATO accession, saying it needs to do more to crack down on Kurdish militants and other groups that Ankara considers as threats to its national security.

Anti-Türkiye and anti-Islam protests in Stockholm raised doubts that an agreement could be reached before the alliance's summit.

Billström said Sweden has fulfilled its part of a tripartite deal that Sweden, Finland and Türkiye signed at last year's NATO summit in Madrid.

"We should consider it as a settled question in the sense that it is not a question of if. In connection with the NATO summit in Madrid last year, Türkiye already gave Sweden status as an invitee to NATO. It is therefore a question of when," he said. Billström said he expects Hungary, which also hasn't ratified Sweden's accession, to do so before Türkiye.

Previously non-aligned Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Finland joined in April this year.

## Extreme flooding overwhelms New York roadways, killing 1 person

*The state deployed five swift-water rescue teams and a high-axle vehicle to help with rescues in flooded areas*

**NEW YORK, July 10 (AP)**— Heavy rain spawned extreme flooding in New York's Hudson Valley that killed at least one person, swamped roadways and forced road closures on Sunday night, as much of the rest of the Northeast U.S. began bracing for potentially punishing rains.

As the storm moved east, the National Weather Service extended flash flood warnings into Connecticut, including the cities of Stamford and Greenwich, before creeping into Massachusetts. Forecasters said some areas could get as much as 5 inches (12 centimeters) of rain.

In New York's Hudson Valley, rescue teams were attempting to retrieve the body of a woman in her 30s who drowned after being swept away while trying to evacuate her home. Two other people escaped.

The force of the flash flooding dislodged boulders, which rammed the woman's house and damaged



part of its wall, Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus told The Associated Press.

"Her house was completely surrounded by water," he said.

"She was trying to get through (the flooding) with her dog," he added, "and she was overwhelmed by tidal-wave type waves."

The extent of the destruction from the slow moving storm, which pounded the area with up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain, won't be known until after sunrise, when residents and officials can begin surveying the damage. But officials said the storm had already wrought tens of millions of dollars

in damage.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul confirmed to WCBS radio that several people were missing and one home was washed away.

The rains have hit some parts of New York harder than others, but officials said communities to the east of the state should brace for torrential rains and possible flash flooding. Officials urged residents in the line of the storm to stay off the roads.

"The amount of water is extraordinary and it's still a very dangerous situation," Hochul said.

"We'll get through this," she said, but added "it's going to be a rough night."

The governor declared a state of emergency Sunday for Orange County, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of New York City. She later extended the state of emergency to Ontario County in western New York, southeast of Rochester.

"We are in close communication

with local officials and state agencies are participating in search and rescue efforts," she said.

The state deployed five swift-water rescue teams and a high-axle vehicle to help with rescues in flooded areas.

Some video posted on social media showed the extent of flooding, with streams of brown-colored torrents rushing right next to homes, and roadways washed away by fast-moving cascading flows. West Point, home to the U.S. Military Academy, was severely flooded. Officials worry some historic buildings might have water damage.

Morocco's historic Women's World Cup debut inspires girls even if some in the Arab world ignore it.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings across parts of southeastern New York, describing it as "life threatening," as well as warnings in northeastern New Jersey.



## Manipur Congress condemns union minister's allegation

IMPHAL, July 10 (NNN): The Congress party in Manipur slammed union minister of state for external affairs and education, Dr RK Ranjan for making a "baseless allegation" against the former.

The union minister, who is the MP from Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency, had reportedly told a news channel on Sunday, that the present crisis in Manipur is the fallout of blunders committed by the Congress government.

"The Union minister was making baseless allegations against the Congress. The party never expected such a low standard remark from such a personality who is highly regarded by the people of the state," a Congress leader said.

Addressing a press conference at Congress Bhavan in Imphal on Monday, former chief minister O Ibobi Singh said that blaming the Congress party for the present crisis is baseless and unfounded.

"In this critical juncture of Manipur, the Congress does not want to engage in debates in such topics and the people of the state will not

want to listen to such allegations and counter allegations among the political parties," he stated.

On many occasions, the Congress party had expressed its desire not to politicize the current problem and has been calling for a concerted effort to bring back normalcy in the state by all the political parties, Ibobi also said.

The Congress had put its clear-cut stand on the matter earlier when AICC leader Rahul Gandhi visited the state, he added.

However, the Congress was compelled to clarify as the union minister came up with the allegation, Ibobi also said.

When the MLAs cutting across the political parties attempted to meet the Prime Minister and the union home minister and sought his intervention in New Delhi, he (RK Ranjan) remained silent, Ibobi alleged.

Ibobi then said that the Congress supported the demand for summoning a special session of the Manipur Assembly to discuss the crisis pressed by various organisations of the state.

# Blockades lead to essential items, medicines scarcity in Manipur hills

## Churachandpur is home to around four lakh people.

CHURACHANDPUR, July 10 (PTI): The scarcity of essential items and medicines due to the ongoing civil conflict in Manipur has created an environment of desperation and vulnerability among the residents of the northeastern state.

While the Kukis, in response to the Centre's call, have lifted a blockade along National Highway 2, which serves as the "lifeline" for those living in the Imphal valley, the Meiteis have steadfastly maintained their blockade, preventing any supply from reaching Churachandpur, the largest district in the state with a significant Kuki population.

Churachandpur is home to around four lakh people. Another 10,000 displaced people are living in the relief camps set up in the district.

The shortage of doctors, particularly surgeons, has reached critical levels. The consequences are dire as essential medical treatments, including dialysis, and medicines for cancer and anti-AIDS drugs remain out of reach for those in desperate need.

"We really need doctors during this prevailing situation. We still need more senior doctors, senior surgeons and cardiothoracic surgeons, and of course, if possible, we would be really grateful if the government could send us a heart surgeon, a cardiologist, to deal with all these bullet injuries and tackle the complicated cases of blood injuries," Dr Tinglonlei, Medical Superintendent, Churachandpur District Hospital, told PTI.

The hospital, the lone big facility for a population of about four lakh, had treated 288 bullet injuries till Saturday since ethnic clashes broke out in the region.

In the absence of a facility for dialysis, the well-off have already shifted to Aizawl, while the poor have no such option.

The Centre sent six teams of doctors to Manipur after home minister Amit Shah visited the violence-hit state in May.

"We are really grateful that two doctors were sent to Churachandpur from the



AIIMS, Guwahati last month. But we need specialists for chronic diseases," Dr Tinglonlei said.

He added that the hospital needs medicines and surgical items as well.

The situation is further compounded by the sporadic gunfights being reported on a daily basis in the Churachandpur-Bishnupur region, leading to injuries and casualties. Dr Tinglonlei grimly revealed that the only machine capable of locating bullet injuries is currently dysfunctional, exacerbating the already-dire circumstances.

The health facilities have also worsened in Tengenoupal and Chandel districts as the supply of essential commodities has been affected due to restrictions imposed on the Asian Highway in the valley areas.

"Our hospital has run out of medicines. Forget about specialists, even doctors for viral fever are not available. Prices of everything have more than doubled. Even if we want to pay higher prices for the sake of our children, several items are not available at the market," Chong Haokip, the president of the Women Human Rights Group of Moreh town, said.

Similar concerns were also voiced by the residents of Kwatha, a Meitei village. Nestled amidst six Kuki and three Naga villages, the people of Kwatha pray for peace.

"We are surrounded by Kukis, but they have not attacked us so far. We want peace as we are also facing shortages of food and medicines. So far, the Assam Rifles has been ensuring the supply of household items and

medicines," T Ratna, a homemaker from the village, said.

The impact extends beyond healthcare as the local population is also bearing the brunt of the skyrocketing prices and rampant inflation caused by the blockade.

"We are paying more than ₹ 250 for a tray of eggs. The rates have doubled since May. Similarly, the price of mustard leaves has increased to ₹ 50 from ₹ 20-25. Prices of all household items have more than doubled," Jam, a woman, said at a Churachandpur market.

A chicken seller at the market, located near the district medical college, said the supply is coming from Mizoram as the road from the Imphal valley is closed for Churachandpur.

"We have been receiving frozen chicken from Mizoram. The blockade has resulted in exorbitant transportation costs and significant delays in receiving essential provisions," Hambai, a shopkeeper, said.

However, women's civil society group Meira Paibi, which has been keeping a tab on the movement of Army vehicles and supplies, said the Assam Rifles has not been acting in an impartial manner.

"We cannot allow free movement as Kuki people can transport weapons to the hill areas to attack us. We stop Assam Rifles convoys as they are suspect. Kukis have attacked us with weapons despite a huge number of Assam Rifles troops being present," Ngairangbam Baby, secretary of the Awang Sekmai Kanba Nupi Lup, said.

The Assam Rifles, however, said it has protected lives from both sides.

Official records show that more than 9,000 Meiteis were safely rescued from Churachandpur, the epicentre of the violence, while 3,500 Meiteis were rescued from Moreh.

The sustainability of the back-channel discussions to force Kuki groups to call off the blockade will be under question if roads to Churachandpur and Tengenoupal districts remain blocked.

## Mizoram awaits Centre's assistance to provide relief to IDPs

AIZAWL, July 10 (PTI): Mizoram home minister Lalthamliana on Monday said the state government has not received any assistance from the Centre to provide relief to over 12,300 internally displaced people (IDPs) from violence-hit Manipur.

Mizoram government has sought ₹ 10 crore from the Centre to provide assistance to people from the neighbouring state, who took shelter in Mizoram due to the ethnic violence in their state.

"It is very unfortunate that the Centre is unable to release ₹ 10 crore as humanitarian assistance towards the IDPs from Manipur till today," Lalthamliana told PTI.

He said that Chief Minister Zoramthanga had written to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking relief to the tune of ₹ 10 crore for the displaced people in May.

A state delegation led by tourism minister Robert Romawia Royte and other officials, including home commissioner and secretary H Lalenmawia had also met union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on the issue last month, he said.

## Manipur observes 23<sup>rd</sup> National Fish Farmers' Day

The day highlights Indian scientist duo's contribution to Blue Revolution in India

IMPHAL, JULY 10 (NNN): Manipur observed the 23rd National Fish Farmers' Day-2023 organised by the department of fisheries, government of Manipur, at the training hall of directorate of fisheries, Lamphelpat in Imphal on Monday.

National Fish Farmers' Day is celebrated every year on July 10 to commemorate the contribution of professor Dr Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr K H Alikunhi in the Indian fisheries sector who had guided the induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps by Hypophysation technique, on this day in 1957, which eventually led to a revolution in Inland Aquaculture. The main objective of celebrating this day is to recognise the contributions made by fish farmers, aquapreneurs (business people associated in aqua farming sector) and fishermen to the development of the nation's fisheries sector and to create an ecosystem to collectively think and discuss the ways to sustainably manage our fisheries resources.

Meanwhile, director of fisheries department, H Balkrishna Singh said that the event is celebrated annually on July 10 to commemorate the success of induced breeding. With the breakthrough of induced breeding, the evolution of blue revolution came to India. Every year, to celebrate the success of the growth of the aquaculture sector, National Fish Farmers' Day is observed, he added.

Stating that the dedication and contribution of the fish farmers needs recognition, the director said that it is a special day for the fish farmers of the state. Wishing the farmers on this day, he appealed to all the fish farmers to work hard with dedication for their contribution in the state economy.

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## Stricter penalties on SUP in Nagaland capital

KOHIMA, July 10 (NNN): In the Nagaland capital, Kohima, stricter penalties have been announced for the offences on the use of Single Use Plastics (SUP).

In this regard, a joint coordination meeting of the District Task Force and the flying squad team had a meeting on the enforcement of the ban on Single Use Plastics (SUP) in the state capital two days ago. The meeting deliberated on the use of drinking water bottles at government offices and following the notification from the government, it was decided to enforce the already existing ban on drinking water bottles below 20 liters in government offices in Kohima district as well as government programmes and meetings. It was also decided to enforce the revised penalty, for the first offense of ₹ 5000, second offense of 10,000, and ₹ 20,000 for the third offense.

চিঠি নং - এ. ডি.এইচ. টি. জে.(পি) ৭/২০২২-২০২৩/১০৪

**জানবী**

এই কথা আপোনালোক সকলোৰে জ্ঞাত যে, অসমৰ শিশুৰী সকলৰ স্বাৰ্থ সুৰক্ষিত কৰিবলৈ অসমৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে ঘোষণা কৰা "স্বনিৰ্ভৰ নাৰী" আঁচনিৰ অধীনত swanirbharnaari.assam.gov.in অনলাইন portalৰ জৰিয়তে শিশুৰীসকলৰ পঞ্জীয়ন কৰি থকা হৈছে। এই আঁচনিৰ অধীনত শিশুৰী সকল ভেৰ্তেলোকৰ দ্বাৰা উৎপাদিত বস্ত্ৰ যেনে-গামোচা, আৰনাই, কাৰ্চি পহু, বাতৰা পজাৰ, মণিসুৰী পুদুই, ডিমাচা ৰিচা বাচা, মিচিং ডুমেৰ, তিৰা ফালি আদি portal ৰ জৰিয়তে পোনশটীয়াকৈ বিক্ৰী কৰিব পাৰিব। আপোনালোকক জনাবলৈ পাই সুখী হোৱা যে, এই পঞ্জীয়ন ব্যৱস্থাৰ অধীন সময়সীমা ৮ জুলাই ২০২৩ ৰ পৰা ৩১ জুলাই ২০২৩ লৈ বৰ্দ্ধিত কৰা হৈছে। বিজয়ী বিষয়াৰ ক্ষেত্ৰভিত্তিক অনুসন্ধান সাপেক্ষে যে এই পঞ্জীয়ন গৃহীত কৰা হ'ব। আবেদনকাৰী অসমৰ স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হোৱাৰ লগতে নিজাকৈ কমেও এখন ভাৰতীয় থাকিব লাগিব।

এই আঁচনিখনৰ বিষয়ে বিতৰ্ত্তাৱে জানিব বিচাৰিলে swanirbharnaari.assam.gov.in অনলাইন portalত চাব পাৰিব।

স্বাক্ষৰ  
সহকাৰী সঞ্চালক  
হস্ততত্ত্ব আৰু বস্ত্ৰশিল্প বিভাগ, যোৰহাট

Janasanyog /D/6569/23

**KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF S.C. WORKS**  
**KAAC:SECRETARIAT**  
**DIPHU - 782460**

No. KAAC/W-64(Pt-I)/2023-24/77 (A) Dtd.03/07/ 22023

**TENDER NOTICE**

Scaled tender affixing non refundable KAAC court fee stamp (receipt) Rs. 10.00 (Rupees Ten) only eventually to be drawn up in form are hereby invited from KAAC registered contractor/reputed firms on works wilt be received by the undersigned up to **4 P.M. on 19 / 07 /2023** and will be opened on the same date, place and the hours in presence of the tenderer or their authorized agent if any.

It the day of the opening of tender happens to be a holiday/non-working days, the tender will be opened in the next day. The undersigned has the right to accept, reject any tender without any reason thereat and will not be bound to accept, the lowest tender quoted.

SL No	Name of Works	Tender Amount	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion
1	Constrnction of Boulder Retaining Wall near Thong Nok be Statue at Taralangso (KPH) Diphu	Rs. 71,91,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% General = 2%	120 days
2	Constn. Of Earth Filling Near Thong Nokbe Statue at Taralangso (KPH) Diphu	Rs. 76,49,000.00	ST/SC/OBC=1% General = 2%	60 days

Detail tender documents and name of works amounts may be obtained from Office S.E.(Works), KAAC, Diphu during working hours on payment of Rs, 500/-

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (Works)  
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu

No.DPRD/BTC/(Gen)-228/2023/03, Dated Kokrajhar the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

**SHORT NOTICER INVITING TENDER**

Sealed tenders with a validity period of 90 (ninety) days from the date of receipt in prescribed from affixing non-refundable court fee stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed F-2 form are hereby invited from the Govt. registered PWD (Roads/ Building), Irrigation, Water Resources, PHE others Govt. Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C), Class-II and Class-III category firm/ suppliers of 2020-21/2021-22 according to tender limit of eligibility for the following works and will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 2.00 pm on 02-08-2023 and will be opened on the same date and place at 2.15 pm in the presence of willing contractors or their authorized agents.

Sl. No	Name of Dev. Block	Name of Scheme	Tender Amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money (ST, SC, OBC-1 % & Gen-2%)	Cost of Tender	Time for completion in days
01	Udalguri	Construction of RCC Culvert near Velakhuti Baptist Church	2,97,356/-	1% - Rs. 2974/- 2% - Rs. 5948/-	@ 100/-	3 months
02	Udalguri	Construction of RCC Culvert near Sontush houses at Ulubari	2,97,368/-	1% - Rs. 2974/- 2% - Rs. 5948/-	@ 100/-	3 months
03	Udalguri	Construction of RCC Culvert near ASSAA Office	2,97,356/-	1% - Rs. 2974/- 2% - Rs. 5948/-	@ 100/-	3 months
04	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at Dakhin Garuajhar near Saten Das house	3,96,076/-	1% - Rs. 3961/- 2% - Rs. 7922/-	@ 150/-	3 months
05	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at No.1 Bholater near Angamwadi center	2,97,057/-	1% - Rs. 2971/- 2% - Rs. 5942/-	@ 100/-	3 months
06	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at Kalikhola near Bhim Chetry House	3,46,567/-	1% - Rs. 3466/- 2% - Rs. 6932/-	@ 150/-	3 months
07	Udalguri	Construction of RCC Culvert near Gorbasti Shiv Mandir	3,96,494/-	1% - Rs. 3965/- 2% - Rs. 7930/-	@ 150/-	3 months
08	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at Nonai Para TE	3,46,567/-	1% - Rs. 3466/- 2% - Rs. 6932/-	@ 150/-	3 months
09	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at No.2 Tenkibasti near Batu Khariya House	2,97,356/-	1% - Rs. 2974/- 2% - Rs. 5948/-	@ 100/-	3 months
10	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at No.2 Bamonjuli near Akashi Kancha house	2,97,057/-	1% - Rs. 2971/- 2% - Rs. 5942/-	@ 100/-	3 months
11	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at Orangjuli T.E near Nirul Munda house	3,46,567/-	1% - Rs. 3466/- 2% - Rs. 6932/-	@ 150/-	3 months
12	Bhergaon	Construction of RCC culvert at Attarekhat Khairagranti	3,46,567/-	1% - Rs. 3466/- 2% - Rs. 6932/-	@ 150/-	3 months

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 10-07-2023 to 02-08-2023 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/ Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar. The Cost of tender (Non-Refundable) must be in the form of Demand Draft/ Banker Cheque of a Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of the Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar and payable at SBI, Kokrajhar to be deposited 0.03%. The Contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card, Voter Card, Aadhar Card, Caste Certificate and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/ opening day the same will be received/ opened on the next working day.

**Note :-**

- The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund under appropriate Head of Account No claim what so ever in this regard will be entertained.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer should submit their tender with up to date GSTIN certificate and PAN Card failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-Director,  
Panchayat & Rural Development,  
BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)-2023-24/327



# K'taka govt rules out CBI probe into Jain monk's murder

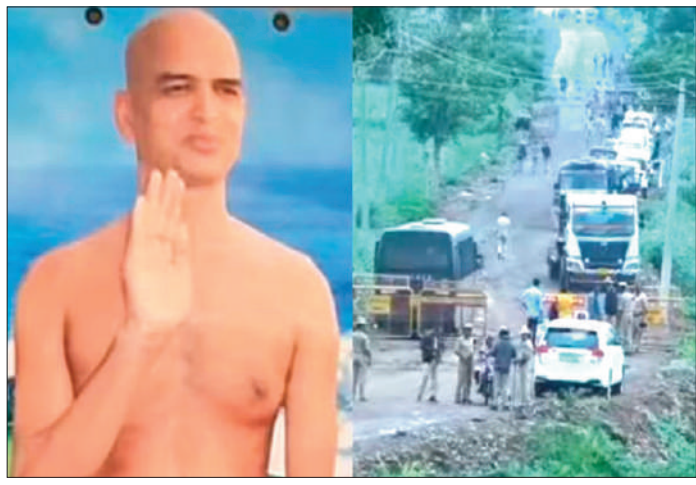
**Former chief minister says, 'pre-planned, cold-blooded murder'**

**HUBBALLI/BENGALURU, July 10 (PTI):** Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara on Monday ruled out handing over the probe into the brutal murder of a Jain monk in Belagavi district, as he complimented the efficiency of the state police in investigating the case and arrests made so far.

He said this even as the chorus grew in favour of a CBI probe, with the opposition BJP making a strong demand in this regard in the Legislative Assembly, while expressing apprehensions that the way in which the police is handling the case, may lead to a "cover up".

Also, protests were held by the Jain community at several places, especially in Chikkodi in Belagavi district today condemning the "brutal" killing of the monk, and demanding justice and protection.

Kamkumar Nandi Maharaj from Nand Parvat Ashram at Hirekodi village in Chikkodi taluk was allegedly murdered and his body was dumped in a borewell pit at Khatakhavi village in Raibag taluk. "No one will do politics or other kinds of discrimination in such cases...After the police got to know about the incident and the complaint was filed...Police have immediately swung into action, and have arrested the culprits. They have recovered the body parts that were dumped in a borewell pit and have taken necessary action. I compliment the po-



lice for the swift action," Parameshwara told reporters here.

Noting that he has spoken to Jain seer Varuru Gunadhara Nandi Maharaj, who had threatened to launch fast-unto-death protest in Hubballi following the incident, and that he has come to meet him, Parameshwara said he has come listen to the seer's demands and give assurances that action will be taken and it will be ensured that such incidents don't repeat.

Responding to a question on the demand for a CBI probe into the incident, the Minister said the police department is efficient and arrested the culprits immediately.

"The inquiry is underway, so I don't see the need for the probe to be handed over to CBI or any other agency immediately. The police

department has started the inquiry and once it is completed the truth will be known," he added.

Police have said investigation is underway from all angles in connection with the murder and two accused have been arrested. According to reports, the accused have been identified as Narayana Basappa Madi and Hassan Dalayath. Some Jain community members have demanded a CBI investigation into the murder of Kamkumar Nandi Maharaj.

The opposition BJP too raised the issue in the Assembly and demanded a CBI probe into the incident. Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, speaking on the issue, called it a "pre-planned, cold-blooded murder."

Going into the details on how

the Jain monk was murdered by giving him an electric shock and then his body being chopped into pieces and dumped in a borewell pit, he alleged the audacity of culprits showed there was no fear for the law in the state.

There was no financial dealing between the seer and the accused as being alleged, he said.

"Police instead of going into the source, have come to a conclusion that financial dealings led to the murder and tried to hide the name of the second accused...also there are more people behind this incident and in conspiring it."

Bommai said if the government truly believes in a fair probe, it has to hand over the case to CBI, while also taking steps to strengthen the law and order situation.

Alleging that the police and the administration did not take seriously the pontiff going missing and the subsequent murder, he said, "there are allegations of cover-up with political support. To prove the allegation is wrong, give the probe to CBI for a fair and impartial investigation and for strong action against the culprits...the murder of the monk is heinous, like that of ISIS." He also warned of strong public reaction if the government fails to hand over the probe to CBI.

Several BJP legislators including Abhay Patil, Shahsikala Jolle, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, V Sunil Kumar and Siddu Savadi also ex-

pressed similar sentiments while demanding CBI probe.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah responding to the issue raised by the BJP, said Home Minister Parameshwara who is visiting Hubballi and Chikkodi to gather details with respect to the murder, would make a statement on behalf of the government once he is back.

He condemned the murder and called it heinous and brutal.

BJP MLAs, especially, Patil and Yatnal during their intervention alleged that police only revealed the name of first accused Narayana Basappa Madi and did not reveal the name of second accused Hassan Dalayath, as they expressed strong suspicion of some kind of cover-up under pressure.

They also took strong exception to allegations that the monk was involved in financial dealings as a "police creation", pointing out that the seer was a "Digambara" (referring to their traditional monastic practice of neither possessing nor wearing any clothes) and had sacrificed everything.

Replying to a question over allegations in some quarters that the case has been "neglected as the Jain community is a small vote-bank," Parameshwara said in Hubballi making such false charges is not right; things should be left for the law to take its course.

"Police function in a non-partisan manner without coming under any pressure," he added.

# Repolling in nearly 700 booths; BJP, TMC in war of words over violence

**West Bengal panchayat elections**



**KOLKATA, July 10 (PTI):** No major incident was reported as fresh polling was underway in nearly 700 booths in 19 districts of West Bengal, where voting for the panchayat elections was declared void, officials said.

The repolling was ordered in 696 booths by the State Election Commission (SEC) on Sunday evening amid allegations of tampering with ballot boxes and the violence that left 15 people dead, they said.

The repolling started at 7 am amid tight security with four central forces personnel deployed in each booth, besides state police. Till 3 pm, 53.95 per cent voter turnout was recorded.

Voting started late in a few booths as ballot boxes did not reach on time, officials said. These booths will be given extra time to complete the polling, they said.

"No major untoward incidents were reported from the districts where repolling is underway. A couple of stray incidents happened and those were managed by the police," an SEC official said.

Counting of votes, including those in the repolling, will be held on July 11.

In Malda, locals blocked a booth in Dogachi in Raniganj panchayat in Gazole block, preventing the repoll. Polling could not be held on Saturday too as locals boycotted the vote demanding the repair of a road. As polling could not be held on Saturday, a repolling was ordered but that also could not be held as locals locked the booth, an official said.

A road was blocked at Tehatta in Nadia in the morning but it was later cleared by the police. Voters also demonstrated outside a booth at Mayna in Purba Medinipur district, he said. The voting is scheduled to continue till 5 pm.

Leader of opposition Suwendu Adhikari said the BJP submitted a

list of 6,000 booths to the SEC, demanding repolling.

"Actually false voting took place in 18,000 booths at the behest of the TMC. We are collecting more evidence. Our list was apparently overlooked by State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha, but we are not surprised. The list of booths suddenly announced by the SEC for repoll was submitted by TMC," he claimed.

"Detailed evidence backed up with ample video footage will be submitted to the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, the day of the counting of votes," he added.

TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh alleged that the violence on the election day was perpetrated by opposition parties.

"It is TMC that has suffered the most due to this opposition-sponsored violence. Central forces did not arrive despite requisition by the SEC. Today's poll has been peaceful and it proves that SEC has taken steps to control the situation," he said.

Among the districts where repolling was being held, violence-hit Murshidabad has the highest number of booths at 175, followed by Malda with 109, officials said.

Repolling was also being held at 89 booths in Nadia, followed by Cooch Behar (53), North 24 Parganas (46), Uttar Dinajpur (42), South 24 Parganas (36), Purba Medinipur (31) and Hooghly (29), they said. No repolling was ordered in Darjeeling, Jhargram and Kalimpong districts, they said.

The decision for repolling was announced after reviewing reports of violence and tampering with ballot boxes and ballot papers, they added.

Polling was held on Saturday in over 61,000 booths for the three-tier panchayat elections. In several places, ballot boxes were looted, set on fire and thrown in ponds, leading to violence.

# S Jaishankar files nomination papers for RS polls from Gujarat

**GANDHINAGAR, July 10 (PTI):** External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday filed his nomination papers for elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

After filing the nomination form, Jaishankar thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leadership and the people of Gujarat for giving him another chance to represent the state in the upper house of Parliament.

Chief minister Bhupendra Patel and BJP's Gujarat unit president C R Paatil accompanied Jaishankar to the state Assembly complex in Gandhinagar where he submitted the nomination papers to Returning Officer Rita Mehta.

Jaishankar also said a neighbouring country has posed a challenge of terrorism but the government is dealing with it strongly and that the Modi government will keep the country safe and secure.

"I got the chance to be part of the changes seen in the last four years, especially in foreign policy, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I hope and expect to contribute to the development of the country under Modi's leadership," he told reporters after filing the form.

Jaishankar said he was fortunate to represent Gujarat, considered a model state not just in India but also globally for its schemes and developmental projects.

"I would express gratitude for another chance. I am also thankful for the support and enthusiasm of legislators," he said.

Queried on India's relations with neighbouring countries, the external affairs minister said that overall there has been great progress with countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the last nine years of the Modi government.

"We have increased trade and connectivity, our relationship has improved, and even from the perspective of the security, there has been an improvement," he said.



"There is a neighbouring country which has posed a challenge of terrorism, but we are dealing with the challenge strongly, and I am confident the Modi government will be able to keep the country safe and secure," Jaishankar said without taking names.

The last date for filing nominations to RS polls is July 13 and the deadline for the withdrawal is July 17. Polling will be held on July 24 if required.

Four years ago, Jaishankar had filed his nomination for the first time from Gujarat for the Rajya Sabha.

Of the 11 Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat, eight are currently held by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the rest by the Congress.

The terms of S Jaishankar, Jagajji Thakor and Dinesh Anavadiya- all MPs from BJP- will end on August 18. Polls will be held for these three seats.

BJP is yet to announce the names of the other two candidates. The Congress on Friday said it would not field candidates for polls to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat as it did not have enough MLAs in the 182-member state Assembly.

The BJP won a record 156 seats in the Gujarat Assembly polls held late last year, while the Congress saw its worst performance since the state was formed by managing to get just 17 seats.

# Ordinance on control of services SC issues notice to Centre on plea filed by Delhi govt

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's stand on a plea filed by the Delhi government challenging the constitutionality of the ordinance on control of services.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha issued notice to the government and asked senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the AAP government, to amend its plea and add the Lieutenant Governor as party in case. "We'll issue notice," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on July 17.

In its plea, the AAP government has said it is an "unconstitutional exercise of executive fiat" that attempts to "override" the top court and the basic structure of the Constitution.

Besides quashing the ordinance, the Delhi government has also sought an interim stay on it.

The Centre had on May 19 promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, to create an authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has termed it as a "deception" with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.



The ordinance, which came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi excluding police, public order and land to the elected government, seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services (DANICS) cadre.

# BJP demands Tejashwi's resignation inside Bihar assembly

**PATNA, July 10 (PTI):** The opposition BJP in Bihar on Monday created a ruckus in the state assembly demanding the resignation of deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav against whom the CBI has filed a charge sheet in land for jobs scam. No sooner than the House assembled, on the inaugural day of the monsoon session, BJP chief whip Janak Ram rose in his seat and demanded the resignation of Yadav, who sat quietly in the treasury benches alongside his boss, chief minister Nitish Kumar.

Proceedings for the day were adjourned minutes later, after obituary references, but the opposition party made it clear that it would keep pressing the issue. "We did not press the matter today in view of the solemnity of the occasion. But during the rest of the session, we will force the government to come clean on corruption", Leader of the Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha told reporters outside the

House. "The chief minister seems to have struck a compromise with corruption. He will be held to account for his acts of commission and omission", said the BJP leader, whose party was stripped of power a year ago when Kumar, the JD(U)'s supreme leader, quit the NDA and joined Mahagathbandhan.

Earlier, Kumar reached the assembly with his deputy and the latter's elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, a cabinet minister himself, in his car.

The gesture was apparently aimed at sending out the signal that all is well within the 'Mahagathbandhan' of which the RJD, founded and headed by the Yadav duo's father Lalu Prasad, is the largest constituent.

Kumar had reached the assembly from the adjacent Old Secretariat building where he planted a tree as part of a state-level drive 'Van Mahotsav' which seeks to improve the forest cover in Bihar.

# Uddhav accuses BJP of 'splitting' other parties as it wasn't confident of winning polls on its own

**NAGPUR, July 10 (PTI):** Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of engineering "splits" in other parties and claimed it was doing so as it was not confident of winning elections on its own.

Thackeray, who was on a tour of Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, also accused the BJP-led Centre of raising issues like the Uniform Civil Code ahead of polls just to divert the attention of people for electoral gains. After the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls, Thackeray broke ties with the BJP to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government with the help of the NCP and Congress.

The MVA government collapsed in June last year after Shinde broke ranks with Thackeray. Shinde later formed government in alliance with the BJP.

On July 2 this year, Ajit Pawar led a split in the NCP, founded by Sharad Pawar, and joined the Shinde-BJP government as deputy chief minister. Eight other NCP MLAs also took oath as ministers in the state cabinet.

Addressing Shiv Sena (UBT) workers in Amravati on the second day of his Vidarbha tour, Thackeray asked the BJP why it needed to "split" other parties

when it claimed to have the "number one prime minister in world".

"You are stealing the Shiv Sena, you have also stolen the NCP and you will steal some other tomorrow. You sell off what belongs to the country and rob what belongs to others," he alleged.

"Why this time has come before the BJP - the biggest party in the world? It's meaning is very simple - you have 'satta ki masti' (pride of power) and no 'atmavishwas' (self-confidence)," he said.

The BJP, even after becoming so big and powerful, still feels it won't get elected, he said.

"Hence, they don't want anyone (opponent) before them, by using the ED, Income Tax and police," Thackeray said and dared the BJP to keep these agencies aside and come out in the political arena.

Thackeray claimed the Shiv Sena had carried the BJP, when it was "nothing" in Maharashtra, on its shoulders and helped it expand base in the state.

"You are trying to finish us off in politics, this is your Hindutva. We were with you for 25 to 30 years and now you are planning to finish off the Shiv Sena which was with you when you were zero," he said hitting out at its former saffron ally.



# Evacuation of people from low-lying areas once the river breaches the 206m mark Yamuna breaches danger mark in Delhi

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** The Yamuna crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday as torrential rains pummelled the upper catchment areas of the river for the third day on the trot.

The river breached the danger mark earlier than expected. It was predicted that it would cross the danger mark by Tuesday afternoon.

According to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) flood-monitoring portal, the water level at the Old Railway Bridge had risen to 205.4 metres by 5 pm as Haryana released more water into the river from the Hathnikund barrage in Yamunanagar.

The water level is anticipated to rise to 206.65 metres on Tuesday before it starts receding.

Addressing a press conference, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said a flood-like situation is unlikely in Delhi, but the government is prepared to tackle any

eventuality.

He said the evacuation of people from low-lying areas will start once the river breaches the 206-metre mark.

The irrigation and flood control department said the flow rate at the Hathnikund barrage gradually increased to 3,05,768 cusecs at 5 am on Monday. It dropped to 1,90,837 cusecs at 1 pm.

Normally, the flow rate at the barrage is 352 cusecs, but heavy rainfall in the catchment areas increases the discharge. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litres per second.

The water from the barrage takes around two to three days to reach Delhi.

The Delhi government issued a flood warning on Sunday and is creating awareness among people living close to the river banks.

Authorities have been instructed to stay vigilant and take necessary action in vulnerable areas. Quick response teams and boats have also been deployed.



The Delhi government has set up 16 control rooms, including a central control room, to monitor the flood-prone areas and the water level of the Yamuna.

Northwest India has seen incessant rainfall over the last three days, with many areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana,

Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan recording "heavy to extremely heavy" precipitation.

This has resulted in overflowing rivers, creeks and drains that have massively damaged infrastructure and disrupted essential services in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab. Delhi witnessed its highest rainfall (153 mm) in a single day in July since 1982 in the 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am on Sunday. The city received an additional 107 mm rainfall in the subsequent 24 hours, exacerbating the situation.

The heavy rain transformed roads into gushing streams, parks into watery labyrinths and marketplaces into submerged realms.

In response to the torrential rain, the Delhi government announced a closure of all schools on Monday and cancelled the Sunday leave of government officials, instructing them to be in the field.

The Yamuna river system's catchment covers parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

The low-lying areas near the river in Delhi are considered prone to flooding and are inhabited by around 41,000 people.

Encroachments on the river floodplain have occurred over the years, despite the land belonging to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), revenue department and private individuals.

The Yamuna breached the danger mark twice in September last year, with the water level reaching 206.38 metres.

In 2019, the river witnessed a peak flow rate of 8.28 lakh cusecs on August 18-19 and the water level rose to 206.6 metres. In 2013, it reached a level of 207.32 metres.

The river had swollen to an all-time record water level of 207.49 metres in 1978.



# Kerala's ruling CPI(M) contends Congress has 'soft Hindutva' stand

**KANNUR (KERALA), July 10 (PTI):** A day after the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) clearly rejected the invitation of the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala to take part in its seminar on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), its senior leader and LDF convener E P Jayarajan held out hope that the key Congress ally would cooperate with the Left party on the issue.

Jayarajan justified the CPI(M) not inviting Congress to its seminar to be held at Kozhikode on July 15, alleging that the opposition party had a "soft Hindutva" stand. "The Congress was not invited because of its soft Hindutva approach and lack of a strong stand against the communal agenda of the RSS and Sangh Parivar," the LDF convener claimed.

"If Congress is ready to give up its soft Hindutva stand and strongly oppose the RSS and Sangh Parivar's communal agenda, the CPI(M) might have no problem inviting them (Congress)," he contended.

Speaking to reporters here, the LDF convener said many of the followers of IUM believe the party should have a proper stand of its own instead of following the Congress lead. "I am hoping they will cooperate with our efforts (on the UCC issue)," he added. He said



that neither the CPI(M) nor its mouthpiece and not even its former leader and the first Kerala CM, E M S Nambudiripad, ever spoke in favour of implementing the UCC. "Anyone who knows EMS would know that he did not have such a stand. He never took a stand (on the UCC) which was different from that of the party. The allegations to the contrary are being spread by those who do not know EMS," Jayarajan said.

He also said Nambudiripad had in fact warned against mixing religion and politics. On the issue of what Nambudiripad said regarding the UCC,

leader of opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan in a press conference held in Thiruvananthapuram said he can show Assembly records and newspaper reports of the CPI(M) mouthpiece where the first Kerala CM was calling for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code.

The LDF convener further said the Left party was always against the UCC and being the strongest party in the southern state was duty-bound to take up the issue of UCC and organise a united front to counter the same.

"That is why we invited everyone to our state-level seminar to be

held at Kozhikode on July 15 on the issue of UCC," he said.

The IUM had on Sunday rejected the CPI(M)'s overtures to take part in its seminars on the hotly debated UCC issue and claimed that the Left party was trying to create "conflict" and "division" by not inviting the Congress.

Throwing its weight behind the Congress, the League said without the grand old party's leadership and support, it would not be possible for anyone to fight against the UCC at the national level as it was an issue concerning everyone in India and not just the Muslims.

Jayarajan also refuted the Congress claims that the Left government has not yet withdrawn even one case lodged against those who participated in protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He said that in all the cases where requests were received to withdraw the case, the same was done. "Where no such request was made and the case is pending in the court, we cannot withdraw the same on our own," he claimed.

The Congress has been warning against joining the CPI(M) seminar, saying that the participants might share the same fate — that of facing criminal cases — as those who joined the Left party to protest against the CAA.

## SEBI disagrees with expert panel, says will take action if any violation found



**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Capital markets regulator SEBI on Monday told the Supreme Court that its 2019 rule changes do not make it tougher to identify beneficiaries of offshore funds, and action will be taken if any violation is found or established.

SEBI said it has continuously tightened rules concerning beneficial ownership and related-party transactions — key aspects in the allegations of Adani Group manipulating its stock price.

A Supreme Court-appointed expert committee had in an interim report in May stated that it saw "no evident pattern of manipulation" in billionaire Gautam Adani's companies and there was no regulatory failure.

It, however, cited several amendments the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) made between 2014-2019 that constrained regulators' ability to investigate, and its probe into alleged violation in money flows from offshore entities has "drawn a blank".

Without making any mention of the status report of its own investigation into allegations against Adani Group, SEBI in its latest affidavit to the Supreme Court said it did not agree with the expert com-

mittee observation of difficulties in identifying holders of economic interest behind an offshore fund.

It also differed with the panel observation that stocks will re-price if the markets feel actions taken in the past by the company were not desirable, saying even if the market may re-price the stocks of the company based on the past transactions, "there is no bar on SEBI to examine any securities laws violations because re-pricing of the stock has happened."

SEBI indicated it does not agree with the expert committee's views and action will be taken if any violation is found/established.

After a report of US short-seller Hindenburg Research alleging accounting fraud, stock market manipulation and improper use of offshore entities by Adani Group stirred a political row and triggered a rout in the conglomerate's stocks, dethroning Adani as the world's third richest man, the Supreme Court had on March 2 constituted the expert committee to investigate if there was any failure to disclose transactions with related parties and if stock prices were manipulated.

The committee was to work in parallel with the probe by

Sebi into offshore entities investing in the Adani Group. The regulator was first asked to complete the probe in two months and then given another three months till August 14.

In the affidavit, SEBI said its 2019 rule changes in fact "tightened the disclosure requirement" related to beneficial owners.

In its 43-page filing, SEBI opposed the expert committee's recommendation that a firm timeline for the regulator to complete its investigation must be "embedded into the law", saying prescribing such limits "may compromise the quality of investigation", create constraints and increase litigation.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud is scheduled to hear the ongoing Adani-Hindenburg case on Tuesday.

In the affidavit, SEBI has given its views on the recommendations by the expert committee on issues like effective enforcement policy, judicial discipline, robust settlement policy, necessary timelines, surveillance and market administration measures, creation of financial redress agency and others.

"Prescribing timelines for initiation of investigation and proceedings may not be appropriate as the Board is mandated to form a prima-facie opinion (reasonable grounds) to appoint an investigating authority," it said.

"Further, the nature, scope and complexity of cases in the securities market vary significantly, and 'reasonable time' to complete investigation would depend on the facts of each specific case and availability of information. Therefore, prescribing specific timelines to complete the investigation may compromise the quality of the investigation," the SEBI said.

## UDF announces series of protests against UCC, Manipur violence



**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, July 10 (PTI):** The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) on Monday announced a series of protests against the Union government's move to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and its failure to curb the ethnic violence in Manipur. Leader of opposition and UDF chairperson V D Satheesan said the front has observed that the Sangh Parivar's move of initiating a discussion on UCC was an attempt to create a division in society.

Sangh Parivar is an umbrella term used for a collection of right-wing organisations in the country. The UDF has decided to organise a 'Bahuswaratha Sangamam' (roughly translated as a meet to defend pluralism) on July 29 in protest against the implementation of UCC, he said. Satheesan said no party from the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) would be invited to the meeting. His statement came days after the CPI(M) announced that it will conduct a seminar on UCC on July 15 and that all secular-minded parties would be invited, but not the Congress, saying it does not have a united stand on the matter. The CPI(M) had invited the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), a major ally of the UDF, for the seminar, but the Congress ally rejected the Left party's overtures to take part in its seminars. The IUM had said that the Left party was trying to create "conflict" and "division" by not inviting the Congress.

Addressing a press conference after the UDF meeting, Satheesan said his party will not "fall" into the trap laid by the BJP.

"Even the union government has no idea about the UCC. There's no draft on UCC. There is no clarity. The Sangh Parivar initiated the talk on UCC to divide the people and the society," Satheesan said.

A strong political debate has been kicked off in the state over the UCC after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, last week, made a strong push for implementing the civil code by asking how the country can function with dual laws that govern personal matters.

Contd. from Page 1...

## No let up in flood scene

Significant erosion has been reported in Biswanath, Charaideo, Goalpara, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, and South Salmara. Additionally, an embankment breach occurred in Biswanath, while multiple roads and embankments have been damaged in Goalpara, Lakhimpur, and Dhemaji. Although monsoon rainfall in the state has been within the normal range, there was a 28 per cent deficit during the week ending July 5.

## Heavy rains batter north

The body of her granddaughter was recovered from the site. On Monday morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a "red" alert for "extremely heavy rain", a day after heavy rain pounded the state, triggering landslides, and damaging houses. Officials said rail operations on the Shilma-Kalka route, a UNESCO world heritage site, have been suspended till Tuesday as landslides blocked the track at several places while educational institutions across the state were ordered to remain shut on Monday and Tuesday.

The Shimla-Kalka National Highway was blocked near Shoghi, about 16 km from the capital city, following a landslide on Monday. More than 120 roads are blocked in the district while 484 water supply schemes have been affected, the officials said. CM Sukhu appealed to the people to avoid venturing out in heavy rains, especially near rivers and nullahs, as the Met department has warned of heavy rains to continue.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday held a meeting over the torrential rains and the rising Yamuna water levels in the city. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said the evacuation of people from low-lying areas around Yamuna will start once the river touches the 206-metre mark while assuring the people that experts have said the flood situation might not arise in the national capital.

The government is closely monitoring the situation and was fully prepared to tackle it, he said. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed all departments concerned to remain alert in view of a possible swelling of rivers due to heavy rains in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

In a review meeting following heavy rains, Adityanath asked officials to keep monitoring the situation, especially the river embankments, while flood units of the NDRF and SDRF as well as disaster management teams were directed to remain alert. In Rajasthan, intense monsoon rains brought normal life to a standstill in eastern and central parts of the state, flooding out roads, rail tracks, and even hospitals. More showers are expected to lash around a dozen districts on Tuesday as well. A seven-year-old boy was swept away in the gushing waters of an overflowing drain in the Murlipura area in state capital Jaipur, where several areas reeled from waterlogging.

The Met department has issued a yellow alert for heavy rainfall in Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Bharatpur, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Sirohi, and Udaipur on Monday and in Baran, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kota, Pratapgarh and Sawai Madhopur on Tuesday. The state has 33 districts.

The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings — green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action). Rains battered many parts of Punjab and Haryana on Monday causing flooding at many places, as authorities scrambled to lead rescue operations to shift people to safer places.

The Punjab government ordered the closure of schools in the state till July 13 in view of the prevailing situation. Chandigarh also witnessed record rainfall during the past three days, and a few roads were filled with rainwater. Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann appealed to people not to panic as heavy rains caused flooding at some places in the state.

Punjab chief secretary Anurag Verma on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the situation in the state and to speed up the relief work. Mohali, Patiala, Rupnagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Panchkula and Ambala are some of the worst-hit districts in the two states.

In view of the prevailing situation, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar cancelled all his pre-scheduled programmes for the day and summoned an emergency meeting of senior officials of various departments.

He also took stock of the situation with senior officials in the meeting in which chief secretary Sanjeev Kaushal was also present. In Uttarakhand, the Badrinath National Highway and several other roads were blocked due to incessant rains and landslides on Monday, officials said. The traffic on the highway was restored after a few hours while efforts are on to open other roads that are still closed, they said.

## Micro-tunnelling of Barauni

steel pipeline to transport natural gas in this tunnel in the next few weeks. On completion it will serve as a final link to complete a 1600-km network of gas pipelines from Barauni to Guwahati, and further from Guwahati to Numaligarh after crossing major rivers like Subansiri and Brahmaputra. The Bihar portion of the gas pipeline was completed in April this year, connecting six districts of the eastern state to the national gas grid, it said.

The gas pipeline is a part of extension of Urja Ganga Project which will bring natural gas connectivity from Guwahati to Numaligarh and all towns and cities of the North East.

Ranchi-based MECON Limited spearheaded the engineering efforts for the project. It was appointed as the project management consultant to GAIL. K B Singh, the executive director (eastern region), GAIL (India) Ltd, said, "The breakthrough of a tunnel boring machine is a culmination of months of back-breaking hard work, with the front line crew working 24x7 in rain and hail and the efforts of project managers, designers and countless other faces behind the scenes who ensured that the front-end crew will succeed."

Ravneet Singh, director, Ace Energy, said, "This milestone is a remarkable achievement for all of us and we hope this is a forerunner for many more breakthroughs in India and also across the globe."

As part of the Centre's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030, the gas grid project will connect the eight north eastern states to the national gas grid through the Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline as part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

## Apex court asks groups

The top court is hearing a batch of petitions filed by different NGOs, including the one by 'Manipur Tribal Forum', which has sought Army protection for the Kuki tribe, Dinganglung Gangmei, the chairman of the Hills Area Committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, who has challenged the high court's order on designating the Meitei community as a Scheduled Tribe, the high court bar association and others.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, said as directed by the court, an updated status report has been filed.

He claimed things are returning to normal after concerted efforts by the Centre and the state government.

The moment Gonsalves alleged everyone in the state was against the Kuki tribe, the bench restrained him from proceeding further, asserting the court cannot be used as a platform for escalating tensions in the state.

It told him whatever "positive suggestions" he has can be put in a note which will be given to the Centre and the state for initiating suitable action.

When another lawyer from Manipur tried to intervene, saying he can apprise the court about the situation prevailing at ground zero, the bench told him it understands his feelings but there are some modalities under which the court works and arguments are made.

One of the lawyers pointed to some interviews Gonsalves gave on the issue responding to which the bench said it is not going to "police a lawyer" and asked Gonsalves to address the concerns being raised.

The counsel appearing for the Manipur High Court Bar Association said he has a positive suggestion that the blockade of the 10 km stretch of a national highway, which is a lifeline of the state, should be removed so essential supplies are not disrupted.

Advocate Nizam Pasha said a circular was issued by the state government in June asking its employees to report for duty by a scheduled date or face pay cut.

The bench asked Mehta to look at the suggestions made by the high court bar association and seek instructions on the circular about the pay cut.

It said the matter will be taken up for resumed hearing on Tuesday.

On July 3, the top court had directed the state government to file an updated status report giving details of the steps taken for rehabilitation of those displaced as a result of the ethnic conflict, improving the law and order situation and recovery of firearms, many of which were looted from state armories.

At least 150 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribal Nagas and Kukis constitute 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

On May 17, the CJI-led bench had directed the Manipur government to take steps to foster confidence and ensure peace and tranquillity in the state torn by ethnic violence, asserting being the top-most court it can ensure that the political executive exercises its power and does not turn "a blind eye" to the situation.

Taking note of submissions on alleged provocative statements by Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh, the top court had asked the solicitor general to advise the constitutional functionary restraint.

Manipur was simmering since March 27, the day the high court asked the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre within four weeks on the demand for ST status to the majority Meitei community, a move the Kukis and other tribal groups apprehend will shear them of many of their rights.

## Civilian killed in Manipur

search, they said. Tension prevailed in Imphal city following the incident and paramilitary forces were deployed in the affected area. Shops and other business establishments remained shut. Assam Rifles manages a buffer zone between the two villages. Officials did not rule out the possibility of more casualties from both sides and said the exact picture can be ascertained only after the firing stops.

At least 150 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribal Nagas and Kukis constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

## IIT-G develops deep learning

multi-scale features of knee X-rays. It uses an efficient deep convolutional neural network, an algorithm from image recognition. "The team is working to reconfigure these models in such a way that they can be deployed in resource-constrained devices so that medical professionals can easily get an initial but accurate guess for the diagnosis. "This work has the potential to mitigate the severe shortage of skilled personnel in this field, especially in rural India," it added.

## Nagaland govt trying to

the officers to work hand in hand with the elected members to bring about better development and progress. Advisor to chief minister, Dr Chumben Murry, in his speech, appealed to all sections of people to be law-abiding citizens and extend cooperation to the government for the growth and progress of our society.

## The SSLV is the 6<sup>th</sup> launch vehicle developed by ISRO and has undergone two development flights Will transfer SSLV to industry: ISRO chairman

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday announced that it will transfer its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to the private sector amid growing demand for small satellites.

The SSLV, which has had two development flights, seeks to provide on-demand services to put satellites weighing up to 500 kg in a low-earth orbit.

"We have built our own SSLV which will be transferred to the industry and produced in large numbers to meet the growing demand," ISRO chairman S Somanath said at the inauguration ceremony of the India Space Congress organised by SIA India.

The space agency has decided to opt for the bidding route to transfer the mini-rocket to the industry, a senior official said.

The SSLV is the sixth launch vehicle developed by ISRO and has undergone two development flights in August last year and in



February this year.

The maiden flight of the SSLV in August last year was a failure due to vibration disturbance for a short duration on the Equipment Bay deck during the second-stage separation.

The ISRO took corrective actions after conducting an in-depth analysis of the fault and carried out a successful launch of the SSLV in

February.

The SSLV injected the ISRO's EOS-07 satellite, US-based firm Antares' Janus-1 and Chennai-based space start-up Space Kidz's AzaadiSAT-2 satellites into a 450-km circular orbit.

Small rockets, such as the SSLV, target nano and micro-satellites, which weigh less than 10 kg and 100 kg respectively, offer on-de-

mand launch services, without requiring clients to wait for larger rockets to carry them as co-passengers.

Last year, the ISRO had awarded a contract to build five polar satellite launch vehicles (PSLVs), its warhorse rocket with 54 successful launches, to a consortium of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen and Toubro.

A recent report prepared by the Indian Space Association and consultancy firm EY India said commercial satellite launch services can see India's domestic space industry contribute USD 13 billion to the economy by 2025.

The SSLV was the sixth launch vehicle developed by the ISRO after the Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3), Advanced Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3). The SLV-3 and the ASLV have since been retired.



# SRK is a man set to 'rectify wrongs in society' in 'Jawan' 'prevue'

**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** Earlier this year, he was Pathaan. Now, Shah Rukh Khan is promising yet another "high-octane action thriller" in 2023 with "Jawan" and on Monday the actor shared a 'prevue' of the film on Twitter.

The 'prevue', as the makers dubbed the 2.12 minute long clip, showcases Shah Rukh featuring in several death-defying stunts, songs and mouthing dialogues in his quintessential style.

Directed by Atlee of "Theri" and "Mersal" fame, the upcoming pan-India movie also features Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi. It is produced by Gaurav Khan and co-produced by Gaurav Gupta under the production banner Red Chillies Entertainment.

tainment.

"Jawan" is billed as "a high-octane action thriller that outlines the emotional journey of a man who is set to rectify the wrongs in the society", the makers said in the accompanying press release.

"Who am I, who am I not? I don't know. A promise to a mother or a purpose unfinished. Ask yourself if I am good, bad, a virtue or a curse? Because, for better or worse, I am also you. Ready? "You must have heard the name. This is just the beginning... When I become the villain, no hero stands a chance against me," Shah Rukh's character says in the clip.

In the video, the actor is seen sporting four looks -- his face al-



most covered with bandages, a clean shave, his face half-covered with a grey mask and a bald look. "Jawan" also stars Deepika Padukone in a special appearance, along with Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Girija Oak, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Lehar Khan, Aaliyah Qureshi, Ridhi Dogra, Sunil Grover and

Mukesh Chhabra in key roles.

In the clip, Nayanthara is seen arriving in style in her police jeep, whereas Vijay can be seen taking his best aim at a punching bag. The viewers see Deepika, clad in a red sari, wrestle it out with her opponent in rain and mud as she pins him down.



## TOOK THREE FLOODS TO WRITE '2018': DIRECTOR JUDE ANTHONY JOSEPH

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Director Jude Anthony Joseph says it took him three floods to write "2018", his superhit Malayalam survival drama.

"2018" narrated the story of the devastating Kerala floods that occurred in 2018 when people from all walks of life came together to survive the calamity.

The Tovino Thomas-starrer, which released in May, emerged as the highest earning Malayalam film by crossing Rs 200 crore mark at the box office.

Joseph, who recently announced his next project with Lyca Productions, said he was one of the many people affected by the August 2018 floods in Kerala. Deemed the state's worst in a century, the disaster claimed over 400 lives.

"It took me three floods to complete the script. In 2018, when the floods happened,

my house drowned. I was away with my family at my sister's house and did not know about the massive rescue efforts launched by the navy and airforce because there was no internet connection," Joseph told PTI.

According to the filmmaker, he was in a "depressive state" when an NGO approached him to make a short film focusing on how people helped each other during the crisis.

Joseph said he realised a short film was not enough on the 2018 floods and decided to narrate the stories that he unearthed during his research through a feature, which he said was a "herculean task".

"After the floods, when I started writing the script... It was like self-inspiration. I had to move on, so I had to do something that would make me happy," he said, adding that his house also faced damage in 2019 and

2020 as well.

The filmmaker, whose credits include "Ohm Shanthi Oshaana" and "Sara's", also recalled the outpour of love from the who's who of Malayalam cinema, including veteran directors Priyadarshan and T K Rajeev Kumar, in the first three weeks of the film's release.

"The most memorable thing was that wherever I would go, to a theatre or a mall, common people would come to me and they would hug me. They would take a snap with me... I was very moved by that gesture. Everybody was very emotional because they had experienced the floods," he added. Indrans, Kunchacko Boban, Aparna Balamurali, Vineeth Sreenivasan, Asif Ali, Lal, Narain, Tanvi Ram, Sshivada, Kalaiyarasam, Aju Varghese, Siddique, Joy Mathew and Sudheesh also starred in "2018".

## Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri-starrer untitled entertainer to now release in February

**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** Dharma Productions has set February 23, 2024 as the release date of the film starring Vicky Kaushal and Triptii Dimri.

Directed by Anand Tiwari, the currently untitled project also stars Ammy Virk. It was previously scheduled to hit the screens on August 25, 2023.

Dharma Productions announced the release date of the movie on its official Twitter page Sunday night.

"It's only going to get bigger and better from here! Three of these powerhouses of talent will shine on the big screen - Vicky Kaushal, Ammy Virk & Triptii Dimri, directed by Anand Tiwari in an entertainer unlike any other.

"Expect uncontrollable laughs, mind-boggling situations & entertainment for all! Coming to cinemas on 23rd February, 2024!" the production banner said in the tweet.

According to the post, Amazon Prime is presenting the upcoming Hindi film in association with Dharma Productions and Leo Media Collective.

It reportedly also stars Neha Dhupia.

While the makers are yet to officially reveal the title of the movie, Dhupia used the hashtag #MereMehboobMereSanam teasing the name in a photo from the film's wrap party last week.

Details about the movie's plot are also currently under wraps.

It marks the second collaboration for Kaushal and Tiwari, who previously worked together on the latter's directorial debut "Love per Square Foot" (2018).

# Being able to give your 100 per cent only kind of success that's not fickle: Sara Ali Khan

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** There are three levels of success for Sara Ali Khan: perceptual, mental and internal, and the actor says her latest film "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" helped her tick all of them.

Romantic comedy "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke", also starring Vicky Kaushal, recently completed 30 days in theatres and has crossed Rs 80 crore at the domestic box office.

While money and appreciation of work by family are important, Sara said, knowing she gave the role her 100 per cent is the ultimate success.

"For me, there are three levels of success. There's perceptual success. Vicky, Dino sir and I said, (when) the film will make Rs 50 crore, we'll be publicly successful. Right now, touchwood, we are touching Rs 85 crore.

"Then there's mental success when my mother

and my brother like my work. I'm proud of my work. Finally, there's really internal success which comes the day you know you have given your 100 per cent. Being able to give your 100 per cent every day is the only kind of success that's not fickle," the 27-year-old actor told PTI.

Asked if her latest film helped her achieve all three levels of success, she replied: "Yes, for sure."

Directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Maddock Films, "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" hit theatres on June 2. Set in Indore, the film follows a married couple Kapil and Somya, played by Vicky and Sara, who are headed for a 'divorce'.

The actor said she is "relieved" with the success of the film, which marks her first theatrical release since 2020's "Love Aaj Kal". Her last three films "Coolie No. 1", "Atrangi Re" and "Gaslight" premiered di-

rectly on streamers.

"I was coming back to the big screen after a really long time... I was so scared. People used to say they don't know what will happen. It was the regular Friday anxiety but I'm so happy and so relieved."

At a time when the viewers are "emotionally very intelligent", Sara said a film that is honest will strike a chord with anybody.

"There was a simplicity to the film. It's not like there are five twists and turns and you're asking me what the biggest expense was. It's a simple story. Being Somya with Vicky as Kapil under Laxman sir's guidance was the most special for me," she said.

Next in the pipeline for the actor are period drama "Ae Watan Mere Watan", Anurag Basu's film anthology "Metroü In Dino", and "Murder Mubarak" by Homi Adajania.

## It really depends on timing: Ayushmann on performance of 'An Action Hero'

**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** Actor Ayushmann Khurrana says his highly lauded film "An Action Hero" failed to draw audiences to cinema halls because its theatrical release timing was "bad".

Directed by debutant Anirudh Iyer, the action-comedy-thriller opened to good reviews upon its December 2 theatrical release but fell short at the box office. "An Action Hero" received a better response when it premiered on Netflix in January.

According to Khurrana, timing matters a lot for theatrical releases in the post-pandemic era.

"It really depends on timing. This is the best time, the theatricals are also back and I am glad mid-budget films are

working. It is a great silver lining. "I think it was a bad time then. 'An Action Hero' got a lot of love later. I will keep on making these choices. I am sure theatricals will happen and we will do well," the actor told PTI.

"An Action Hero" revolved around superstar Manav (Khurrana), who after getting caught up in an accident while shooting a film tries to escape Bhooora, a revenge-hungry municipal councillor, played by Jaideep Ahlawat.

Khurrana's next release is "Dream Girl 2", the sequel to his 2019 comedy drama. In the movie, Khurrana played a man whose female voice impersonation as Pooja begets attention from oth-

ers. The second part, the actor said, is more entertaining.

"This is like 'Dream Girl 2.0' in a way... It is a different scenario altogether. If you found 'Dream Girl' funny, this is going to be 10 times more fun. It is probably my second single-screen film. Most of my films are multiplex films, this is going to be a big blast. I am expecting a lot from 'Dream Girl 2'," he added.

Asked if sequels or franchises are a safe zone today, Khurrana said, "Sequels of blockbuster films will have a lot of traction, but eventually the script works."

Raaj Shaandilyaa, who had helmed the first part, is returning to direct "Dream Girl 2".

# I'm constantly looking for the next cool thing to do: Huma Qureshi

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Ten years and over 20 movies later, actor Huma Qureshi says she still wants to be that "cool Delhi kid", who enjoyed doing theatre and hoped to play interesting roles in films. Her latest acting effort is "Tarla", a film on the life of the renowned food author and cooking show host. Huma said she portrays a "multidimensional inspirational woman", in the film, currently streaming on ZEE5. "I like to do films that I would like to watch. I don't like to repeat myself. I'm constantly looking for the next cool thing I can do. I'm just trying to maintain that innocence from my college theatre days and be that cool Delhi kid who loved doing theatre," the 36-year-old actor told PTI in an interview here.

"Tarla" is directed by debutant filmmaker Piyush Gupta. The film features Huma as Tarla Dalal alongside Sharib Hashmi, who essays the role of Tarla's husband Nalin Dalal.

Equating Tarla Dalal with Julia Child, renowned American cook show host of the 1960s, Huma said

she was intrigued by the woman at the centre of the story. "This is India's Julia Child story. We all know her and have grown up watching her cook on television. The first time my mom made a pizza or pasta or Chinese (food)... 'All came from Tarla's multiple cookbooks. I was intrigued to bring this story to life because I'm interested in playing multidimensional living, breathing women who inspire, and she really is an icon," she added.

The Delhi-born actor, who hails from a business family and made her cinema debut with Anurag Kashyap's 2012 movie "Gangs of Wasseyapur", said "Tarla" is essentially about finding one's dreams. "It's not food porn... It's wholesome like our mother's cooking," she added. The "Maharani" star recalled how she ended up pursuing a career in movies.

"I was doing theatre and suddenly, I started getting calls for auditions from Mumbai. I was just a kid. So, I thought maybe there is something... I think that was a turning point in my life, when I told

my family that I want to give acting a shot," she said. Tarla Dalal, known for hosting popular cookery TV shows such as "The Tarla Dalal Show" and "Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal", penned more than 100 cookbooks and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2007. She passed away in 2013 at the age of 77. "Tarla", the film, has been conceived as an endearing relationship drama with subtle messaging, added Huma.

"It is Tarla's story and her journey... But, it is also a husband-wife story... It shows how one needs a strong support system and family to realise one's potential. It's about a bunch of many such things. All of us were trying to authentically recreate these people and organically put in an important thought."

The biggest challenge, Huma said, was to maintain the innocence that was inherent to Tarla Dalal's personality. "The most difficult emotion or zone I find personally is to be innocent or show wonder. We are so wise and aware of courtesy on the Internet that at times it becomes difficult to be innocent.





# People are going overboard while criticising Rohit's captaincy: Harbhajan

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Rohit Sharma needs all the support from the Indian cricket establishment in the coming times as people are going "overboard" with their criticism of his captaincy, feels spin great Harbhajan Singh.

In recent weeks, the Indian captain has received a lot of flak from fans and former cricketers, including the legendary Sunil Gavaskar, who felt that his leadership in the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia was not up to the mark.

However, Harbhajan, who has seen a lot of Rohit in the Indian as well as the Mumbai Indians dressing room, reminded everyone about the kind of respect he commands from his peers.

"I find that people are going a bit overboard... the way Rohit has been criticised. Cricket is a team sport and one individual cannot take you from one place to another," Harbhajan told PTI in an interview ahead of India's next Test assignment against the West Indies.

"Team India didn't do well in the WTC final, and yes, you talk about that performance and move on from there. But it is unfair to criticise Rohit alone, that he is not scoring runs, putting on weight, not captaining well. I think he is a brilliant leader," the veteran of 103 Tests said.

For Harbhajan, the need of the hour is to show faith in Rohit's leadership ability.

"I have played with him (Rohit) and watched him closely. He commands a lot of respect not only in the MI dressing room but also in the Indian dressing room. So I think it's unfair to judge him on the basis of recent results."

"He will come good and we need to show faith in him and we need to support him rather than pinpointing that you are not doing this or that."

History has been witness to every influential Indian captain getting implicit back-

ing from the BCCI and its most powerful administrator. For Sourav Ganguly, Jagmohan Dalmiya's support was very vital, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni always enjoyed firm backing from another BCCI strongman, N Srinivasan, throughout his captaincy tenure.

When Virat Kohli enjoyed his best days on the hot seat, he had former CAG and Committee of Administrator (CoA) head, Vinod Rai, endorsing all his decisions.

Harbhajan hoped that Rohit is getting the kind of backing from the BCCI like his predecessors got.

"If you have the support from the BCCI, you can work freely. Not just MS Dhoni or Virat Kohli, if you go back a little further, a lot of captains have got support from BCCI presidents of that time."

"Rohit must be getting support from BCCI. I don't know how much support he must be getting (though). Having that kind of support will help him make the right kind of decision at the right time."

"He will get that liberty if he has that support. Support must be there for Rohit like BCCI has given it to all its captains," the 'Turbanator' said.

**Pujara did 'dirty work' for team and deserves way more respect**

Cheteshwar Pujara, a doyen at No. 3 in India's batting order, has been dropped and Harbhajan feels that Indian cricket hasn't exactly learned to value his contribution.

"I have a lot of respect for Cheteshwar Pujara for what he has achieved. He has been an unsung hero of the Indian team for many years now. He has been one of those pillars of strength for India, doing the dirty work of hanging in there, making sure other batters get their comfort," Harbhajan was blunt as ever in his assessment.

Harbhajan has expressed his massive



displeasure with the "lack of respect" for the Saurashtra man and the fact that the yardstick to judge performances hasn't been same for every senior player.

"I believe he needs to be given a bit more respect than what he has been given and the way he was chucked out of the team was a surprise for me. Because he isn't the only one not scoring runs. There are others as well who play in that same team who are scoring runs at same average," Harbhajan said.

He didn't name any other player, but it could be a thinly-veiled reference to Virat Kohli's sub-30 average during the same period, the time when Pujara struggled for big scores and paid the price recently.

"I think the rules should be the same for everyone, not different for different people. Look, if you want to drop a senior guy like him, talk to him and make him

understand 'look at what we are looking to do'."

"Tell him what's the way forward, make him understand. All he needs is a bit more respect."

Harbhajan is also irritated with Pujara's strike-rate and intent being questioned time and again, without people understanding that a Test team requires traditional players, who bring in balance.

"In case of Pujara, we keep hearing about his strike-rate of scoring runs in Tests but because of that strike-rate, the wickets remain intact and that's a huge contribution."

"So you have to see which guy is contributing what. You need to see how much the team needs him. In my opinion, the team still needs him."

"When you go abroad (SENA countries), you need one such batter as you

can't have everyone playing strokes all the time. You need someone who plays normal Test cricket, just like Cheteshwar Pujara."

Harbhajan was all praise for Ajinkya Rahane for the manner in which he made a comeback to the Test arena, with knocks of 89 and 46 against Australia in the WTC final at the Oval.

"The way he made a comeback, he really looked good in that WTC finale. Now he is the vice-captain again."

"You need to show faith in these players so that they can do well again. A good player is a good player. Doesn't matter if you are going forward or backwards (with his selection)."

**Has anyone tried telling Sarfaraz why he is not being picked?**

Harbhajan understands that the current crop of players will get a long rope before a domestic performer like Sarfaraz Khan gets a chance, but Harbhajan wants that the young Mumbaier is told about the areas that he has to work on, with an assurance that he is there in the mix.

"Sarfaraz will get his opportunity as he has scored heavily in domestic cricket. I want to know if anyone has made an effort to go and talk to him, maybe from the BCCI or state associations?," he asked.

"He is scoring runs, so you need to go and talk to him. Try and make him the player you want him to be. You have to keep him around the group and keep him motivated that he will be selected," he elaborated.

**On spin bowling options after Ashwin and Jadeja**

The Indian team has been served admirably in home Tests by Ravichandran Ashwin (474 wickets) and Ravindra Jadeja (268 wickets). However, Ashwin is pushing 37 and Jadeja is nearing 35, and the team will need to explore other options in the near future.

Asked about the spin bowling reserves after the celebrated duo decides to make a move on in two-three years' time, Harbhajan said the decision-makers in and around the Indian team should encourage a lot of domestic spinners and make them understand the importance and incentives of playing Test cricket.

"I think it is something to do with domestic cricket. You talk about Jayant, whatever little Test cricket he played, he has bowled well and is very good with the bat and you have to show faith in them."

"I want to see Axar Patel more and more as he is the one going forward. He is going to replace Jadeja. But Axar is also not too young compared to Jadeja."

Kuldeep Yadav, who got five wickets on Test debut, remains a mystery for Harbhajan.

"Kuldeep was another spinner, when he took those five wickets in Australia, we heard that he will be the guy who will be playing abroad (in SENA) for India, but, after that, he never played abroad."

"I don't know what happened after that. Maybe he took five wickets and he paid the price for taking those wickets," the spin great said, the sarcasm in his tone quite evident.

He also felt that someone of Yuzvendra Chahal's calibre needs to be encouraged more to play Ranji Trophy and stake a claim for a Test spot.

"I am not saying we don't have spinners but, somehow, we need to make them want to play Test cricket. Like Yuzvendra Chahal, who is a top spinner and plays in T20 formats, but then, I get surprised that he doesn't feature in Asia Cup or World Cup."

"You have to make those spinners believe that you are good enough to play Test cricket. You have to push them to play Ranji Trophy so that they learn the art of bowling longer spells."

## Sen hails Canada open win as one of 'greatest comebacks'

**NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI):** Describing the Canada Open victory as one of the "greatest comebacks" in his nascent career, star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen on Monday said the win against the reigning All England Champion gives him confidence and belief in the Olympic qualification year.

Sen saved four game points in the second game of the final to oust China's Li Shi Feng of China 21-18 22-20, snapping a 17-month wait for a BWF world tour title.

"Coming into the Olympic qualification year, it was tough as things didn't go my way," Sen, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, told PTI.

"So this will be one of the good tournaments for me and playing the finals like that is for me one of the greatest comebacks."

Following the high of 2022, Sen endured a low this season after being bothered by the effects of nose surgery that he underwent to treat a deviated septum following the World Championships last August.

His recovery process extended from three months to over eight months and his struggles were reflected in his performance. He made first-round exits from the last four events of 2022 and found the going tough in the early part of 2023.

His ranking also plunged to world number 25 from six.

"I was training well but post-surgery, I was falling sick and my immune system was not well, I had a lot of health issues. I couldn't play 100 percent, I had prepared well for All England, but again couldn't do well," he said.

Sen also had to make some changes



around him after Korean coach Yong Sung Yoo left following the 2022 World Championships. He got Anup Sridhar on board and also hired Deckline Leitao, a sport and exercise science specialist.

"Since my Korean coach left, there have been a lot of changes, I have tried different things in training and it is all helping me now," he said.

"The kind of support system that I have with Anup bhaiya, my physio and I changed my trainer, now I am working with Deckline Leitao."

"So gelling with all and having Vimal (Kumar) sir and my dad (DK Sen) around, it all helped. I hope to continue the form in the Olympic qualification year, it gives me a lot of confidence and belief."

While HS Prannoy is the highest-ranked Indian at world number 8, Sen and Kidambi Srikanth are ranked at the 19th and 20th spots respectively.

**Want to remain injury free**

A win like this will surely ease the pres-

sure in the Olympic qualification race which began on May 1 but Sen knows it is still a long road ahead with the Olympic period concluding on April 28, 2024.

"I won't say it is a relief, I still have to play a lot of tournaments but this win will give me big motivation that I am doing the right thing and belief in my process," he said.

"There are a lot of tournaments, I will just take the positives from this one. Now that my health issues are sorted, I just want to remain injury free and fit for the good season ahead."

Sen came into the final with a 4-2 head-to-head count against Li Shi Feng, having beaten him on his way to the semifinal finish of the Thailand Open.

"That match was completely different, there was a lot more pressure this time. Today it was more about who controls the net because we both were hitting well and scoring from the back, so we had to be quick at the net."

On the competition in men's singles, Sen said, "You can't take any match lightly. Different players have different game styles and the level of badminton is increasing every day, there are a lot of players who are good in the top 30, and they can pose a challenge."

"So you can't think a lot ahead. Whether I am playing world number three or 30, I go on the court with the same intensity knowing that anything can happen."

So how do you plan to celebrate?

"Tomorrow I will be travelling, so on Tuesday I will get a feel of the court and play on Wednesday (US Open). There is not

much time to celebrate, so probably have a good meal here and then rest and recover."

**Asian circuit was the turning point:**

**Coach** Sridhar, who took over as Sen's coach in January, said things started to change for his ward at the Asian swing.

"I feel the four tournament circuit in Asia was the turning point. He was playing well and made the semifinals in Thailand, played a close match against Kunlavut Vitidsarn and he has gone from strength to strength," said Sridhar, a 2008 Beijing Olympian.

"Lakshya's frame of mind and temperament has been excellent this week, his shot selection has been good, and he has used a lot of variations but the main thing is he is mentally and physically fit and his improved fitness is showing up."

Sen had shown signs of finding form when he recorded wins over some big names such as Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen, and Kodai Naraoka this year.

"We spent a lot of time together. He is much younger than me but he is smart and mature. Frankly, about a lot of things, it is about having trust in each other," said Sridhar, a 2006 CWG bronze medalist in the mixed team event.

"When you are in a difficult or critical situation like when he was down 16-20, trust is required. He has been good this week, he kept his nerves and he was incredible in the last six points."

"I would have still backed him if it would have gone to three games but I am very happy how he finished it."



## Archery: Parth Salunkhe becomes first Indian to win Youth World Championship in men's recurve category



**LIMERICK (IRELAND), July 10 (PTI):** Parth Salunkhe became

the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category of the Youth World Championships as the country's contingent finished with its highest-ever tally of 11 medals.

The 19-year-old from Satara in Maharashtra provided the perfect icing on the cake by defeating a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final here on Sunday.

Salunkhe, who topped the rankings round, bounced back from behind to down seventh seed Song Injun 7-3 (26-26, 25-28, 28-26, 29-26, 28-26) in a hard-fought five-setter.

"I try to live in the present and not see who I'm up against. By doing yoga and meditation, it has helped me keep calm, which helped immensely in the final," Salunkhe told PTI from Dublin.

India also clinched a bronze medal in the Under-21 women's recurve individual section when Bhajja Kaur defeated Su Hsin-Yu of Chinese Taipei 7-1 (28-25, 27-27, 29-25, 30-26). India finished with six gold, one silver and four bronze medals, which was the highest in the standings in terms of total number of medals.

But in overall rankings, they finished second behind Korea who ended with six gold and four silver medals.

Salunkhe trailed 1-3 after Injun hit two perfect 10s and three 9s from the first six arrows.

Just when it seemed a familiar Korean dominance over India, the former senior national champion Salunkhe fought back clinching the third set by two points, drilling one

arrow closer to the centre (X) to make it three-all.

Pressure was writ large on Injun as Salunkhe went on to hit two 10s and one 9 to snatch a 5-3 lead before finishing off in style with two Xs.

Son of a secondary school English teacher, Salunkhe, whose talent was first tapped by coach Pravin Sawant in 2018-19, became the first male archer to become a youth world champion.

After Sawant discovered his talent, Salunkhe trained under Ram Awdhesh at the SAT centre in Sonapat.

"He has been like God to us, he made some technical changes and as a result Parth has improved vastly under him," his father Sushant Salunkhe said.

In women's recurve section, Deepika Kumari had become cadet and youth world champion in 2009 and 2011, a feat that was emulated by her Jharkhand statemate Komalika Bari in 2019 and 2021.

Overall, Salunkhe is the sixth Indian archer to become world champion in the youth showcase.

Compound archers Palton Hansda (2006) and the duo of Aditi Swami and Priyansh who won here are the other youth world champions from India.

Salunkhe had won a silver in the Singapore Asia Cup Leg 3 in June, and two bronze medals in the same event in Sulaymaniyah and Sharjah last year.

With the World Championships and Asian Games teams already decided, Salunkhe will be eyeing to make the senior team at the Asian Championships trials in October.

## American midfielder Brenden Aaronson joins Union Berlin on loan

**LEEDS, July 10 (AP):** United States midfielder Brenden Aaronson will play in Germany's top flight next season after joining Union Berlin on loan from Leeds on Sunday.

Aaronson has agreed a season-long deal after Leeds was relegated from the Premier League last term.

"We would like to wish Brenden good luck during his time at the Stadion An der Alten Forsterei," his club said.

The 22-year-old Aaronson made 36 Premier League appearances for Leeds last season after joining from Red Bull Salzburg for a fee close to 25 million pounds (\$32 million) in the summer of 2022.

He joined Union Berlin after it qualified for the Champions League for the first time.

## Shivam Dube picked in West Zone squad for Deodhar Trophy

**MUMBAI, July 10 (PTI):** India and Mumbai all-rounder Shivam Dube was on Monday included in the 15-member West Zone squad while fast bowler Tushar Deshpande was among the standby players for the Deodhar Trophy beginning July 24.

The Deodhar Trophy was last organised in the 2019-20 season and was not held in the subsequent seasons owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The upcoming edition of the inter-zonal 50-over Deodhar Trophy will be held this year entirely in Puducherry from July 24 to August 3.

The left-handed batter Dube had a terrific season with the bat for the Indian Premier League winners Chennai Super Kings, scoring 418 runs in 16 matches with a strike rate of 158.33.

The 15-member squad features right-handed India and Delhi Capitals' batter Prithvi Shaw, though he is also expected to fly out for his County stint with Northamptonshire after the conclusion of the Duleep Trophy.

Priyank Panchal was named the captain of the West Zone squad which also includes Sarfaraz Khan and Rahul Tripathi.

Right-arm pacer Deshpande was CSK's top wicket-taker with 21 scalps in 16 matches. He was recently called up into the West Zone squad ahead of their Duleep Trophy semi-final against the Central Zone after left-arm seamer Chetan Sakariya was ruled out due to an elbow injury.

## Sen, Sindhu eye title at US Open

**COUNCIL BLUFFS (US), July 10 (PTI):** Newly-crowned Canada Open champion Lakshya Sen will hope to continue his winning momentum while beginning his campaign at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Sen turned around a health-related slump in form with a thrilling straight-game win over All England Champion Li Shi Feng in the finals of Canada Open on Sunday night.

It was his first BWF title in 17 months and Sen will now train his eyes on the US Open, where the third seeded Indian opens against Finland's Kalle Koljonen.

Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth, who is going through a poor run of form, will face a tall task of taming second seed and world number 10 Feng, who reached the finals in Calgary.

In women's singles, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, seeded third, will continue her quest

for a first title of the season when she opens her campaign against a qualifier.

The Indian had reached the finals of Madrid Spain Masters this year and is coming into the tournament after a good outing at Canada, where she reached the semifinals.

While Thailand's former world champion Ratchanok Intanon, the top seed, is in the same half as Sindhu, the field also has some good players such as second seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan, fourth seed Beibei Zhang and eighth seed Line Christophersen.

Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will begin her campaign against Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang Ti.

In men's doubles, the duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, who had finished runners-up at 2021 Orleans Masters and 2022 Syed Modi International, will face Taipei's Lin Yu Chieh and Su Li Wei.

## Luis Suárez, only Spanish man to win Ballon d'Or, passes away

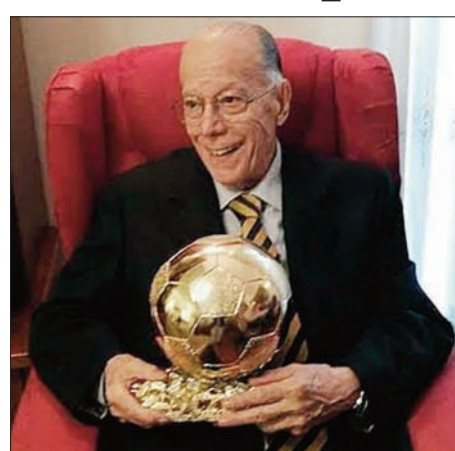
**BARCELONA, July 10 (AP):** Luis Suárez Miramontes, the so-called "Golden Galician" who is the only Spanish man to win soccer's most prestigious individual award, the Ballon d'Or, has died, according to former club Inter Milan. He was 88.

Inter did not indicate the cause of Suárez's death when announcing his passing on Sunday.

Although born in the northwest Spanish region of Galicia, the midfielder won the bulk of his trophies in Italy with Inter, including the European Cup in 1964 and 1965 and three Italian league titles. Suárez moved to Inter from Barcelona after winning two Spanish league titles.

"Sadly his greatest and most successful period came when he was no longer a Barca player," Barcelona's website noted.

Suárez won the Ballon d'Or in 1960 and was



runner-up in 1961 and 1964. He played on Spain's team that won the 1964 European

Championship, its first major title.

After retiring in 1973, Suárez had three spells coaching Inter. He also managed Spain's national side from 1988-91.

Suárez downplayed his Ballon d'Or, a trophy that eluded subsequent Spanish superstars including Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez and Raul Gonzalez.

"So much depends on the era you find yourself living in," Suárez told FIFA's website. "You need the slice of luck that comes when another great player of your time doesn't perform quite so well. There have been truly great players who have never won that award. It's not that big a deal."

Real Madrid forward Alfredo di Stefano, who won the award in 1957 and 1959, was born in Argentina.

Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas has won the women's Ballon d'Or twice.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> T20I: Shafali looks to get big score as Indian women aim to seal series vs Bangladesh

**MIRPUR, July 10 (PTI):** The supremely talented Shafali Verma would like to make an impact with the willow after a poor start in the lung opener as Indian women aim to clinch the three-match T20 International series against Bangladesh with another dominant performance in the second game here on Tuesday.

India coasted to an easy seven-wicket victory in the opening match on Sunday with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur blazing her way to an unbeaten 35-ball 54 and Smriti Mandhana looking equally dangerous during her short but significant knock of 38.

The slow bowlers were also on target as the two debutants Anusha Baredy and Minnu Mani gave a good account of themselves under senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma. However, what stuck out like a sore thumb was Shafali's three-ball duck and once again the distinct lack of footwork was evident against medium pacer Marufa Akter.

The young Haryana woman is one of the biggest batting talents in the country and has already played 57 T20I games even before completing her 20th birthday.

While she could be breathtaking when on song, her consistency has been an issue with only one score of 50-plus in the last 10 games in the shortest version.

Her last half-century in T20Is came last year against Australian women during a home series and since then had a quiet



World Cup in South Africa.

There are still a few technical issues which one expects chief coach Amol Muzumdar to address in the coming days.

Bangladesh are such opponents which will give Shafali a good chance to regain some form and notch up a big score at the top of the order.

Harmanpreet's unit has shown the gulf in cricketing standards between the two teams and it will be a huge upset if Bangladesh win on Tuesday and restore parity in the series.

The difference in quality between the two

teams was there to be seen when Bangladesh batted, as the only batter to at least score at run-a-ball strike-rate was Shorna Akter, who struck two sixes in her 28-ball-28 that took the home team past the 100-run mark. What has worked to India's advantage is the fact that all of Bangladesh's top seven batters are right-handers and that has allowed the Indian skipper to stick to one particular line on a Sher-e-Bangla track where the ball at times stops before coming onto the bat.

Harmanpreet's clever ploy of loading the off-side cordon with five fielders worked

wonderfully well as the Bangladeshi batters were often seen trying to fetch the deliveries pitched on the imaginary fourth or fifth off-stump and hit them through the vacant on-side.

But Deepti, Anusha and Minu did maintain a tight line, which didn't allow them to manoeuvre much.

It was a good toss to win for Harmanpreet during the opening game and if the spin of coin goes in her favour once again, she might see how well the batting unit performs while trying to set a target. This will also give Shafali a chance to express herself freely in Mandhana and Harmanpreet company and give the glimpse of a player that everyone wants to pay to watch.

### The Teams (From):

**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Devika Vaidya, Uma Chhetri (wk), Amanjot Kaur, S Meghna, Pooja Vastakkar, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarwani, Monika Patel, Rashi Kanojia, Anusha Baredy, Minnu Mani.

**Bangladesh:** Nigar Sultana (c/w), Shamima Sultana, Murshida Khatun, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Nahida Akter, Fahima Khatun, Rabeya Khan, Shanjida Akter, Salma Khatun, Marufa Akter, Dilara Akter, Disha Biswas, Sultana Khatun, Shathi Rani.

Match Starts: 1:30 pm IST.

## De Gea's Man United exit paves the way for Ten Hag's tactical transformation



**MANCHESTER, July 10 (AP):** Replacing David de Gea won't be easy.

No Premier League goalkeeper kept more clean sheets last season than De Gea, who announced his departure on Saturday, and in 12 years at Manchester United he was named the club's player of the year on four occasions.

He leaves United as a legend, having been part of its last league title-winning team and lifting four major trophies with the club. But his exit also paves the way for a transition that many fans feel is long overdue.

At his best, De Gea was a match-winning shot-stopper with the agility and speed of reaction to pull off astounding saves.

In recent years, however, he has looked like a player out of his time as soccer has demanded more from keepers, with Manchester City and Liverpool two standout examples of how the position has been transformed.

England's two most dominant teams of the past five years have exploited the ball-playing qualities of their keepers.

Ederson, at City, and Alisson, at Liverpool, look as comfortable with the ball at their feet as they do with their hands. Their composure in possession and the precision of their passing adds another dimension to their teams.

They are effectively an 11th outfield player at times and it can feel like their teams have an extra

man in defense with their ability to step out of goal and double up as a sweeper when required.

Their long-range passing can be a valuable weapon in attack, but it is more their prowess in building out from the back that is fundamental to the style of soccer played by City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp.

United has not had that option with De Gea in goal and increasingly there has been a sense that it has held the team back in attempts to modernize its play.

Can it be a coincidence that the two best teams in English soccer have built their success on ball-playing keepers?

Of course it is not the only way to achieve success. But it helps.

Guardiola shocked City fans when displacing the club's two-time league title-winning keeper and then-England No.1, Joe Hart, almost as soon as he took over at Etihad Stadium.

Hart was an icon. But Guardiola had different ideas of what he wanted from a keeper and the ball-playing Claudio Bravo was signed from Barcelona before Ederson was eventually brought in from Benfica.

It was seen as controversial at the time and Guardiola was even derided when Bravo made some high-profile blunders in his first season. But to a coach who has repeatedly looked to innovate soccer, getting the right keeper was pivotal to his plans at City.

## Gukesh finishes 5<sup>th</sup>, Anand settles for tied 7<sup>th</sup>

**ZAGREB (CROATIA), July 10 (PTI):** Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh finished fifth while his illustrious compatriot Viswanathan Anand could only manage a tied seventh place in the third leg of the 2023 SuperRapid and Blitz chess tournament.

Gukesh, who had a moderate performance on day 1 of the Blitz segment, bounced back well on the second day to pick up 6.5 points which included wins over Anand and top players like Fabiano Caruana (USA) and Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland).

Gukesh, who beat Anand for the first time ever in tournament play

in the Rapid segment, got the better of the five-time world champion in 34 moves in the blitz on Sunday.

The 17-year old Indian star began the second day of the Blitz section with a win over Richard Rapoport (Romania) and then stunned the highly-rated Caruana.

After going down to world No.1 Magnus Carlsen (Norway), Gukesh turned the tables on Anand.

A defeat to Alireza Firouzja was followed by three straight wins - over Constantin Lupulescu (Romania), Duda and Ivan Saric (Croatia).

## Ukrainian soccer club calls out Turkish rival for going to Russia to play Gazprom-owned Zenit

**GENEVA, July 10 (AP):** Ukrainian soccer club Dynamo Kyiv told Turkish rival Fenerbahce it had "blood on your hands" for going to Russia to play Zenit St. Petersburg on Sunday in a preseason game.

It is the latest dispute between two clubs who played each other in the Champions League qualifying rounds and Europa League last season, and could meet again within weeks in the Europa Conference League.

Dynamo posted a statement on its Instagram account with red splashes on the blue logo of Russ-

ian state energy giant Gazprom, the long-time owner and shirt sponsor of Zenit.

"The bloody money of Gazprom has eclipsed everything for you, left you without honor and conscience," Dynamo said, targeting the storied Istanbul club.


Gazprom was dropped by UEFA as a Champions League and 2024 European Championship sponsor within days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine starting in February last year.

UEFA also removed all Russian teams from its competitions and stripped the country of hosting the


2022 Champions League final at Zenit's home stadium in St. Petersburg, where Fenerbahce played Sunday.

"Nothing can justify this step" the Kyiv club wrote Sunday. "No money can compensate you for this shameful behavior, this trip to the killer without morals and human qualities."


Fenerbahce said it accepted the invitation to Russia after hosting Zenit in Istanbul. The teams played a charity game in March to raise aid money several weeks after the earthquake in the Turkey-Syria border region.



সত্যমেব জয়তে  
Government of Assam



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सत्यमेव जयते  
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एनडीएम  
National Health Mission, Assam

# World Population Day


11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, let us pledge to adopt **Family Planning** as a choice for happiness and prosperity. Visit your nearest **Government Health Institutions** and avail the various benefits of Family Planning for both beneficiaries and motivators **free of cost**, this **World Population Day**.

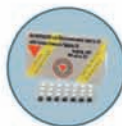
### Temporary Methods of Family Planning




**Condom**



**Injectable Contraceptive (Antara)**



**Contraceptive Pills (Mala N & Chhaya)**




**IUCD, PPIUCD, PAIUCD**


**ACCEPTORS for ANTARA will be given incentives of Rs. 100/- (per dose)**

**ACCEPTORS for PPIUCD/PAIUCD will be given incentives of Rs. 300/-**

### Permanent Methods of Family Planning



**NSV without surgery (Male)**



**LS Minilap, PPS (Female)**


**ACCEPTORS for NSV will be given incentives of Rs. 3,000/-**


**ACCEPTORS for L.S. Minilap will be given incentives of Rs. 2,000/-**

**ACCEPTORS for PPS will be given incentives of Rs. 3,000/-**

Incentives will be credited to ACCEPTORS' bank accounts.

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পরিবার সমৃদ্ধি

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