

Modi begins 3rd term as Prime Minister

Five allies get one Cabinet berth each • Sonowal, Rijiju and Pabitra Margherita from NE find place in Cabinet

NEW DELHI, June 9: Narendra Modi was sworn-in as Prime Minister on Sunday for a record-equalling third term, heading a Cabinet that emphasised continuity and experience while also rewarding partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government.

Along with Modi, senior BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar, all ministers in Modi 2.0 Cabinet, took oath as cabinet ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of secrecy and office to Modi and 30 Cabinet ministers.

Dressed in a white kurta and churidar with a blue chequered jacket, Modi, 73, took the oath in the name of God. Modi became only the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a third consecutive term.

In the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, the BJP failed to win a simple majority, making it dependent on allies whose MPs also took the oath of office as Cabinet ministers -- JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, HAM (Secular) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi, JD(U) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', TDP's K Ram Mohan Naidu and LJP-RV leader Chirag Paswan. Each of these five allies got one cabinet berth each. Kumaraswamy and Manjhi are former chief

ministers of Karnataka and Bihar respectively

BJP Party president J P Nadda returned to the cabinet after five years, while former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and ex-Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar were the fresh faces

in the Modi cabinet. BJP leaders Piyush Goyal, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav, who were earlier in the Rajya Sabha but have now been elected to the Lok Sabha, were among those retained as ministers. Former Assam CM Sarbananda

Sonowal, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Virendra Kumar, Pralhad Joshi, Giriraj Singh, Jual Oram, C R Paatil, who is Gujarat BJP president, Mansukh Mandaviya, G Kishan Reddy, Hardeep Singh Puri, Kiren Rijiju, Annapurna Devi and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, all from BJP, were among those

sworn in as Cabinet ministers. Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was present, even as several opposition leaders skipped the ceremony.

Ahead of the oath taking ceremony, Modi had a pep talk with the minister-designates, saying people have huge expectations and everyone will have to deliver. sources said

Be humble as common people love those who are humble and never compromise on probity and transparency, he told the minister-designates.

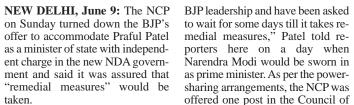
Those present on the occasion included Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, TDP president Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar.

Bollywood actors Shahrukh Khan and Rajinikanth, and industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani were among those who attended the swearing-in ceremony. Modi's third term, which always appeared inevitable, did not come with the massive mandate he and (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

NCP turns down MoS rank in Council of Shah, Shivraj, Scindia, Paatil: New ministers Plea in SC seeks Centre, SEBI to submit Ministers, opts to wait for Cabinet rank among top 10 with highest victory margins report into June 4

stock market crash NEW DELHI, June 9: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court, seeking directions to the Centre and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to submit a detailed report into the stock market crash on the day of election results on June 4, when investors lost billions of rupees.

The plea, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, also sought direction to the government and the SEBI to submit a status report on the orders given on January 3 for considering (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



Patel, the working president of BJP ally NCP, argued that since he had already served as a Cabinet minister in the Union government, assuming office as a minister of state with independent charge would be a "demotion" for him. "We have conveyed this to the

to wait for some days till it takes remedial measures," Patel told reporters here on a day when Narendra Modi would be sworn in as prime minister. As per the powersharing arrangements, the NCP was offered one post in the Council of Ministers of the NDA government led by PM Modi.

BJP leaders Devendra Fadnavis and Vinod Tawde called on Patel, who was reportedly upset at the "demotion" in the Union government. The NCP has two members in the Parliament -- Patel in the Rajya

Sabha and Sunil Tatkare in the Lok Sabha. The NCP is likely to increase its tally in the Rajya Sabha by two in the next few months.

cided on a criteria for handing out ministerial berths to coalition partners on the basis of their strengths in the Parliament.

"We cannot twist the criteria for one party. The NCP will be accommodated in the future whenever their will be an expansion of the Cabinet as they had requested for a Cabinet rank in the Council of Ministers." (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

NEW DELHI, June 9: Amit Shah, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Jyotiraditya Scincida, and C R Paatil are among the newly inducted Cabinet Ministers who figured in the list of top 10 leaders who won the Lok Sabha polls with a considerable margin.

Former Madhya Pradesh CM and six-time Vidisha MP Chouhan won from his constituency by a margin of 8.21 lakh votes. Shah, who was the home minister in Modi 2.0 won from Gandhinagar by a margin of more than 7.44 lakh votes.

Scindia, who was the aviation minister in the previous Modi gov-

ernment, won from Guna in Madhya Pradesh by more than 5.40 lakh votes. BJP's C R Paatil recorded a victory margin of 7.73 lakh from Navsari in Gujarat.

The previous record for the highest winning margin was held by Pritam Munde, also from the BJP, who won a bypoll in October 2014 from Beed in Maharashtra by more than 6.96 lakh votes.

Paatil, a three-term MP from Navsari, held the record for the second-highest victory margin of 6.89 lakh votes in 2019. He broke his own record in the 2024 polls.

Narendra Modi was sworn in as prime minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Sunday, becoming only the second PM after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a third consecutive term.

Along with Modi, who took oath in the name of God, senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar were sworn in as cabinet ministers, indicating the Prime Minister's emphasis on continuity and experience as they also held senior positions in his second term. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)







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BUSINESS

ONGC seeks foreign partners for Mumbai High oilfield

NEW DELHI, June 9: Stateowned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is seeking foreign partners to reverse declining output at its flagship Mumbai High fields, offering a share of revenue from incremental production plus a fixed fee but not any equity stake.

ONGC on June 1 floated an international tender seeking global technical services providers (TSP) with annual revenue of at least USD 75 billion, according to the tender document.

The TSP would have to do a comprehensive review of the field performance and identify improvements as well as implement suitable technological interventions and practices for improving production and recovery, it said.

Bidders have been asked to quote quarterly incremental production they can enable over the 10-year contract period as well as the percentage share of the revenue they want from the sale of oil and gas produced over and above the baseline production.

Bids are due by September 15, 2024

The TSP, who would be selected on the basis of one offering the highest incremental production and the lowest revenue share, will also be paid a fixed service fee for its efforts, the document said.



them

The Mumbai High field (previously Bombay High field) --India's most prolific oil field -- lies some 160-kilometer in the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai coast. It was discovered in February 1974 and started production on May 21, 1976.

been considered on at least two oc-The field hit a peak of 4,76,000 casions in recent years. A high-level committee headed barrels of oil per day and 28 billion cubic meters of gas in 1989 and by the then Niti Aayog Vice Chairhas since seen a gradual decline in man Rajiv Kumar in late 2018 output. It is currently producing considered "transferring" western ,34,000 bpd of oil and 13 bcm offshore oil and gas fields of (less then 10 million standard Mumbai High as also some fields cubic meters per day) of gas -- acin Mumbai offshore, Assam, Racounting for almost 38 per cent of jasthan, and Gujarat to private/for-India's production and 14 per cent eign companies. But that plan met with strong of consumption.

ONGC believes the field still opposition from ONGC and some

quarters within the government, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

While ONGC opposed giving away on a platter to private/foreign sector what it discovered after years of toil and spending billions of dollars over last four decades. some in government were not convinced by the incremental potential toyed with to get the proposal through, they said, adding that it wasn't clear how the incremental output numbers were arrived at in the absence of any real basin or field study by the panel.

The oil ministry twice in 2021 told ONGC to give away 60 per cent stake, plus operating control of Mumbai High and Bassein fields to foreign companies.

Bassein and Satellite (B&S), adjoining Mumbai High, are India's biggest gas fields that were put to production in 1988.

The 2021 proposal, too, was resisted by ONGC but with the output continuing to decline it has now come up with the TSP model to get technical knowhow for boosting output.

ONGC produced a total of 18.4 million tonnes of crude oil in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) fiscal year, down from 18.54 million tonnes in the previous year. Gas output declined 3.2 per cent to 19.974 bcm. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, June 9: Nirmala

Sitharaman, who joined the likes of Arun Jaitley and Manmohan Singh by serving a full term as Finance Minister and is credited with carrying forward second-generation reforms, created a record by being the first woman to be sworn in as minister for the third consecutive term of the Modi government.

Being a fiery spokesperson of the BJP, she was inducted into the Cabinet when Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of the NDA government in 2014.

As a staunch defender of the Modi government's economic policies and executor, she created a record when she was appointed as the first female Raksha Mantri, or Defence Minister, in 2017. Prior to that, she was industry and commerce minister.

When her mentor Arun Jaitley took ill, Sitharaman was given the charge of the finance portfolio in the newly re-elected Modi government after the 2019 general elections, when BJP won its highest seats of 303.

She became the first full-time woman Finance Minister in Independent India. Earlier, Indira Gandhi had held finance as an additional portfolio for a short duration when she was the prime minister of India.

Soon after taking over, the first major reform was a cut in base corporate tax to 22 per cent from 30 per cent to prop up the economy hit by demonetisation and GST im-

plementation.

The following year, India weathered the Covid-19 pandemic with an array of policy measures announced for the poor and continued its tag of the fastest growing major economy and a 'bright spot' in the world economy. To overcome the hardship dur-

Meet Sitharaman, feisty defender

of Modi govt to filling big shoes

ing the pandemic, the government announced a special economic package worth Rs 20 lakh crore equivalent to roughly 10 per cent of India's GDP.

She steered the economy from nearly 24 per cent contraction in the first quarter of FY21 to the fastest growing world economy. Despite fiscal expansion, she

continued to follow the path of fiscal consolidation and was successful in bringing down the fiscal deficit to 5.6 per cent of GDP from the earlier estimate of 5.8 per cent in FY24.

She also set a record by presenting the sixth Budget in a row -five annual Budgets and one interim -- a feat achieved so far only by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai

After the Modi government came to power in 2014, Arun Jaitley took charge of the Finance Ministry and presented five Budgets in a row from 2014-15 to 2018-19

In 2017, Jaitley departed from the colonial-era tradition of presenting Budget on the last working day of February to 1st of the month.

Following the footsteps of her

mentor, Sitharaman also did away with the traditional Budget briefcase and instead went for a bahikhata with the National Emblem to carry the speech and other documents

Born in Madurai on August 18, 1959 to Narayan Sitharaman (who worked in the Railways) and Savitri (a homemaker), Nirmala Sitharaman studied economics at Tiruchirapalli's Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College.

She then moved to the capital to pursue her Master's and M.Phil in the subject from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

But before Sitharaman forayed into politics, she was part of the corporate world in the UK, where she was living with her husband Parakala Prabhakar. The two had met while studying at JNU, and tied the knot in 1986; they have a daughter, Parakala Vangmayi.

Sitharaman's political career began in 2008 when she joined the BJP (she returned to India in the early 1990s), and in two years became the party's second woman spokesperson after Sushma Swaraj, fielding questions from journalists at the party headquarters and also becoming a familiar face on television debates.

Prior to taking the political plunge, she served as a deputy director of the Centre for Public Policy Studies in Hyderabad, and also started a school in the city.

From 2003 to 2005, she was also a member of the National Commission for Women. (PTI)

PNB to expand overseas footprint, to open representative office in Dubai

NEW DELHI, June 9: State-owned Punjab National Bank plans to open a representative office in Dubai, as part of its plan to expand its global footprint.

The bank has got the board of directors' approval for opening a representative office in Dubai and the process is on for seeking regulatory clearance, PNB managing director Atul Kumar Goel told PTI.

Hopefully, he said, the representative office should come up during the current financial year, if all regulatory approvals are in place.

As on March 31, 2024, PNB had presence in six countries by way of two subsidiaries (London-UK and Bhutan), one joint venture (Nepal), two representative offices (Myanmar and Bangladesh).

Talking about the strategy to improve profitability, he said, the focus would be on expanding retail, agriculture, MSME (RAM) portfolio, extending good corporate loans, controlling slippages and improving recovery.

Besides, he said, the thrust would also be on improving the forex income and garnering higher fee income from selling third-party products to augment non-interest income.

With regard to improving interest income, he said, the focus would be to increase low cost deposit CASA (Current Account Savings Ac-

Mcap of 8 most valued firms jumps ₹ 3.28 trn; HUL, Reliance lead winners NEW DELHI, June 9: Eight of the 10 most valued domestic firms together added ₹ 3.28

has a balance reserve of 80 million

tonnes (610 million barrels) of oil

and over 40 bcm of gas and hence

needs partners who can help tap

decline in output, a stake sale had

With the field seeing a steady

trillion to their market valuation last week, with blue-chips Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest winners.

In an eventful week, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,732.05 points or 3.69 per cent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,720.8 points or 2.29 per cent to hit a new record peak of 76,795.31 in intra-day trade on Friday. The benchmark ended at a record high of 76,693.36, up 1,618.85 points or 2.16 per cent.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and ITC were the gainers. These companies added a total of ₹ 3,28,116.58 crore to their market valuations

State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the laggards from the top-10 pack. The market valuation of TCS zoomed ₹

80,828.08 crore to ₹ 14,08,485.29 crore, emerging as the biggest gainer from the pack.

Hindustan Unilever added ₹ 58,258.11 crore taking its market capitalisation (mcap) to ₹ 6,05,407.43 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries jumped ₹ 54,024.35 crore to ₹ 19,88,741.47 crore and that of Infosys rallied by ₹ 52,770.59 crore to ₹

to an official report.

of Statistics and Programme

Implementation (MoSPI),

which monitors infrastructure

projects worth ₹ 150 crore and

above, out of 1,838 projects,

448 reported cost overruns and

implementation of the 1,838

projects was ₹ 27,64,246.50

The total original cost of

792 projects were delayed.





6,36,630.87 crore.

The mcap of HDFC Bank soared ₹ 32,241.67 crore to ₹ 11,96,325.52 crore and that of Bharti Airtel climbed ₹ 32,080.61 crore to ₹ 8.10.416.01 crore.

ITC's valuation surged ₹ 16,167.71 crore to ₹ 5,48,204.12 crore and that of ICICI Bank went up by ₹ 1,745.46 crore to ₹ 7,88,975.17 crore.

However, the mcap of LIC declined by \mathbf{R} 12,080.75 crore to ₹ 6,28,451.77 crore and that of State Bank of India went lower by ₹ 178.5 crore to ₹ 7,40,653.54 crore.In the ranking of the most valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of number one company followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC. (PTI)

Pakistan and IMF disagree over new income tax rates that will burden salaried class

ISLAMABAD, June 9: Talks between Pakistan and the IMF have ended inconclusively due to a disagreement over new income tax rates for salaried and nonsalaried persons and the imposition of a standard 18% sales tax on agriculture and health sector goods, according to a media report on Sunday.

On Friday, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) authorities discussed the outstanding issues related to taxation and the energy sector.

Citing sources, the Express Tribune newspaper reported that both sides could not resolve their differences on the income tax threshold, the merger of salaried and non-salaried rates and the maximum income tax rate for individuals.

Discussions are revolving around whether to charge a new backbreaking 45% income tax from salaried and non-salaried individuals on a monthly income of just over Pakistani ₹ 4,67,000, sources said.

At present, the maximum rate of 35% applies to a monthly income of over Pakistani ₹ 5,00,000.

However, both sides have converged on the issue of increasing the income tax burden on exporters in the next budget who paid a paltry sum of Pakistani Rs 86 billion this year, which is 280% less than the taxes paid by the salaried people. Pakistan also showed a willingness to tax pensions beyond a certain income threshold. In the latest talks, the international money

the maximum rate for salaried individuals to 45% but showed flexibility to keep the taxable income threshold at the current Pakistani ₹ 6,00,000. It is also asking to keep the salaried and non-salaried slabs separate but is willing to increase the highest tax rate for nonsalaried persons to 45%, said the sources.

The non-salaried business individuals pay tax after excluding expenses while the salaried persons pay tax on their gross income without excluding the expenses. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is until now unwilling to increase the burden on the salaried class.

According to a proposal, if the taxable income threshold is increased to Pakistani ₹ 900,000 per annum, the income tax rate can be up to 7.5% on a monthly income of Pakistani ₹ 100,000. The current rate is 2.5% for this category.

For the next slab, if the monthly income is up to Pakistani ₹ 133,000, the under-discussion tax rate is 20%. The current rate is 12.5%, that too for up to a monthly income of Pakistani ₹ 200,000.

The IMF wants a higher rate at the lower income level. This slab will directly hit Pakistan's middle-income group.

At present, on an income of over Pakistani ₹ 500,000, a 35% tax rate is charged. The salaried class has until now paid Pakistani ₹ 325 billion in income tax in 11 months, which is expected to rise to around Pakistani \checkmark 360 billion at the end of the current fisca

Reliance

count).

CASA as a percentage of total deposit stood at 41.4 per cent at the end of March 2024, he said, the target is to improve beyond 42 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year.

The bank intends to keep credit cost below 1 per cent during this financial year.

With all these efforts, he said, the Return on Assets (ROA) is expected to increase to 0.8 per cent during the year and touch 1 per cent by the end of March 2025, translating into a substantial jump in profit.

Asked about anticipated business growth in the current financial year, Goel said, credit growth is expected to be 11-12 per cent, while deposit would be 9-10 per cent.

To fund this business growth, the bank has taken approval of raising capital to the tune of ₹ 17,500 crore from Tier I and Tier II bonds and share sale through private placement during the year

During FY'24, the bank had raised ₹ 10,000 crore from Tier I and Tier II bonds at a very competitive rate, he added. (PTI)

448 infra projects hit by cost overrun of over ₹ 5.55 trn in April

NEW DELHI, June 9: As crore, and their anticipated commany as 448 infrastructure pletion cost is likely to be ₹ 33,19,601.84 crore, which reprojects, each entailing an investment of ₹ 150 crore or flects an overall cost overrun of above, were hit by a cost overover ₹ 5,55,355.34 (20.09 per run of more than ₹ 5.55 lakh cent of original cost), the mincrore in April 2024, according istry's latest report for April 2024 showed. According to the Ministry

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till April 2024 is ₹ 1,692,997.5 crore crore, which is 51 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects. However, the number of de-

laved projects decreased to 514 if the delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion, it added. Of

the 792 delayed projects, 220 have overall delays in the range of 1-12 months, 192 have been delayed for 13-24 months, 259 projects for 25-60 months, and 121 projects for more than 60 months. The average time overrun in these

792 delayed projects is 35.4 months.

Reasons for time overrun, as reported by various project implementing agencies, include land acquisition, environmental clearance, financial issues. contractual/internal issues, manpower shortage and litigation issues. (PTI)

lender insisted on merging the slabs related to salaried. non-salaried and other incomes.

On the government's proposal of increasing the annual threshold of taxable income to Pakistani ₹ 9,00,000, the IMF is asking for the maximum income tax rate to be increased from 35% to 45%.

However, the government is unwilling to increase

Contd. from Page 1... Modi begins 3rd term as

his party had been claiming, as the Congress and its allies in the INDIA bloc fought a doughty rearguard battle to shock the BJP in its strongholds such as Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is, however, a tribute to his towering political presence that the BJP's third-best tally of 240 seats is being seen as a disappointment by the party's ardent supporters and projected as a "moral defeat" by the Congress whose own tally of 99 seats, its third worst, is being hailed by the opposition party.

The National Democratic Alliance(NDA) won 293 seats out of 543, which Modi has noted is the biggest success for any pre-poll alliance when a single party did not get a majority. Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region -- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif -- were special guests at the function.

In addition to political leaders and eminent persons from different walks of life, members from the transgender community as well as sanitation workers and labourers, who were involved in the construction of the new parliament building, also attended the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the new council of ministers. Nearly 9,000 people were estimated to be present at the forecourts of the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the grand event. (PTI)

Fed rate, US inflation, global cues to drive markets this week: Analysts

NEW DELHI, June 9: The US Fed interest rate decision, domestic inflation data and global trends would be key driving factors in dictating movement in the market this week, as the Lok Sabha elections outcome and the RBI policy decision are behind us, analysts said.

The past week was a rollercoaster ride for investors as markets swung sharply in both directions before closing with

NAME CORRECTION

My actual and correct name is Mohammad Kolim Uddin S/O- Motahir Ali ,DOB-28-06-1989.Vill-Kachari Para P.O. & P.S.- Doboka, Dist- Hojai (Assam).

That wrongly my father name has been written in my passport No. J4089198 as Mohammad Motahir Ali and DOB 28-06-1981 which is not correct. My father actual and correct name is Motahir Ali and DOB 28-06-1981.



In an eventful week, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,732.05 points or 3.69 per cent and the Nifty zoomed 759.45 points or

3.37 per cent. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,720.8 points or 2.29 per cent to hit a new record peak of 76,795.31 in day trade on Friday. The benchmark ended at a record high of 76,693.36, up 1,618.85 points, or 2.16 per cent. "Now the Lok Sabha elections

strong gains.

and the RBI policy decision are settled, attention now turns to global factors. Key areas to watch include the US Fed interest rate decision, the rupee's movement

against the dollar, crude oil prices and commodity prices. "Additionally, investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and domestic institutional investors (DIIs) will remain under close observation," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Globally, significant events are scheduled for June 12, 2024, including announcement of the US core and consumer price inflation figures, alongside the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) economic projections, he added.

Additionally, on June 14, 2024, the Bank of Japan will announce its interest rate decision. Gour said.

"Domestically, India's economic calendar is also marked with key releases. On June 12, 2024, both India's industrial production data and inflation data will be unveiled." Gour added

Trading activity of foreign investors would also be crucial in dictating terms in the market.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by major domestic and global economic data. India WPI inflation, China CPI inflation, UK GDP data, US CPI data, and the US Fed interest decision will guide the market this week," Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Services Ltd, said. (PTI)

the suggestion of the expert committee, headed by Justice A M Sapre, made in its report on the PIL in Adani-Hindenburg matter. The top court had said the Centre and the SEBI should constructively consider the suggestions of the expert committee and take any further action necessary to strengthen the regulatory framework, protect investors and ensure the orderly functioning of the securities market.

Plea in SC seeks Centre, SEBI

"It is said that after announcements of exit polls in respect to the Lok Sabha 2024 results, the share market went high, but when the actual results were announced the market crashed," the plea said.

"Stock market volatility again emerged. As per news reports, the loss was Rs 20 lakh crore. This again has raised question mark on the regulatory mechanism... despite this court's direction, nothing has changed," the petition said.

Following the exit poll prediction of a resounding BJP victory, BSE benchmark Sensex shot up on Monday by 2,507 points or 3.4 percent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,469.

However, a day later on Tuesday, the equity markets witnessed a bloodbath, with the Sensex tanking 4,390 points or 6 percent to settle at 72,079. This was the worst single-day fall in four years. (PTI)

NCP turns down MoS rank

Fadnavis, Maharashtra deputy chief minister, said. NCP president Ajit Pawar said he supported the NDA and was seen at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi. (PTI)

Shah, Shivraj, Scindia, Paatil

Among others who figured in the list of top 10 candidates who trounced their opponents were Indore MP Shankar Lalwani of the BJP. He won by a margin of 11.72 lakh votes.

Congress' Rakibul Hussain scored the second-highest victory margin of 10.12 lakh votes from Dhubri in Assam Among other candidates who won by a margin of more than 5 lakh votes were BJP's Gujarat candidates Rajpalsingh Jadav from Panchmahal (5.09 lakh) and Hemang Joshi from Vadodara (5.82 lakh), its Bhopal nominee Alok Sharma (5.01 lakh) and Sudheer Gupta from Mandsour (over 5 lakh).

BJP's Mahesh Sharma won from Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar by a margin of 5.59 lakh votes while the saffron party's candidate from Raipur in Chhattisgarh Brijmohan Agarwal secured a victory margin of 5.75 lakh votes. Former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb of the BJP won from Tripura West by a margin of more than 6 lakh votes while Kriti Dev Debbarman of the saffron party won the Tripura East constituency by more than 4.86 lakh votes. (PTI)

If the revised income tax rates are accepted, the tax contribution of the salaried class will jump to Pakistani ₹ 540 billion in the next fiscal year, said the sources. To absorb this increase in the tax rates, even a 30% pay hike will not be sufficient. (PTI)

REGION

The MP's journey from student leader to ministerial office reflects political tenacity & party loyalty Sarba inducted into Modi cabinet for third time

GUWAHATI, June 9: Assam MP Sarbananda Sonowal, a fire-brand student leader who battled odds to become chief minister, was on Sunday inducted into the Narendra Modi-led cabinet for the third time.

Sonowal was the minister of State for Sports & Youth Welfare for two years from 2014, as the northeast's sole representative in the Union Council of Ministers, before he scripted BJP's historic win in Assam to become the CM, only to relinquish the post and become a cabinet minister in the Modi 2.0 government in 2021.

From the rough and tumble of student politics to becoming a minister thrice, Sonowal's political journey has been punctuated by twists and turns along the way.

As a dynamic student leader who went on to join the state's most prominent regional party, the Asom Gana Parishad, and later switched over to the BJP, Sonowal was Modi's obvious choice as the chief minister of Assam when the saffron party won for the first time in the northeast in 2016.

However, during the 2021 assembly elections, the party opted not to project Sonowal or any other leader as the chief ministerial candidate.

Instead, the powerful minister in his cabinet, Himanta Biswa Sarma, was elevated to the top post after the elections.

Nevertheless, Sonowal didn't remain sidelined for long. He was soon promoted to the Union cabinet with significant portfolios including Shipping, Waterways,



Port, and Ayush in the subsequent reshuffle that same year.

The Rajya Sabha MP, a law graduate, is considered an honest politician who furthered the party's fight against corruption in the state and united communities with his oft-repeated lines 'Barak-Brahmaputra-Plains-Hills', symbolising his role as the unifier of the diverse indigenous population of the state. His tenure faced its toughest test during the widespread protests against the Citizenship Amend-

ment Act (CAA), with his former allies from the All Assam Students Union (AASU) accusing him of failing to protect the interests of the indigenous populace. Sonowal, 62, was accused of

failing to convince the BJP govern-

Students' Organisation (NESO) from 1996 to 2000.

From AASU, he predictably went on to join the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) in 2001, founded by his erstwhile seniors in the students' organisation, and was elected the party's MLA from Upper Assam's Moran constituency in 2001.

In 2004, he went on to successfully contest the Lok Sabha polls, wresting the Dibrugarh parliamentary seat for the first time from the Congress by defeating former Union minister Paban Singh Ghatowar Sonowal left the AGP in January

2011 following differences with the party leadership, and joined the BJP a month later in the presence of then party president Nitin Gadkari.

He went on to become the BJP state unit president in 2012, and was credited with raising the party's tally to seven from the earlier four in the 2014 parliamentary polls.

He, himself, wrested the Lakhimpur constituency from former Union minister Ranee Narah of the Congress and was made the Union minister of State for Sports and Youth Development.

After becoming a Union minister in 2021, Sonowal was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the state. Born on October 31, 1962 in Mulukgaon in Dibrugarh district, Sonowal is a bachelor and a devout follower of Assam's Vaishnav saints Sankardeva and Madhavdeva. (PTI)

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June 9: The North East Liver Foundation Society organised the '4th North East Medicon, 2024' at Hotel Ratnamouli Palace, Guwahati on Saturday. Approximately 200 practicing doctors and individuals from the medical fraternity from different parts of the country, along with eminent stalwarts of hepatology, pancreatology, and interventional radiology, graced the event. The program commenced at 6:30 pm in the evening with the felicitation of the chief guest, Sarangapani Sarmah, additional secretary, Sports and Youth Welfare, government of Assam. The event was honoured by guest of honours, Jharna Patgiri, ACS, Dr Bikash Narayan Choudhury, HOD, department of gastroenterology, GMCH, Dr Piyush Ranjan, senior gastroenterologist and vice chairman, department of gastroenterology, Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Ushasht Dhir, vice chairman, Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology, GI and HPB Oncosurgery, and Liver Transplantation, Sir



consultant of internal medicine and rheumatology in Assam.

North East Liver Foundation

Society hosts 4th North East

Medicon'2024

Eminent doctors and medical experts

convene for deliberations

masekhar Rao, Dr Rupjyoti Talukdar, and Dr Naresh Bansal. A display of historical designs of traditional Assamese jewelry by the famous designer Waheeda Rehman and a display of traditional Muga textile of Assam by Jugal Bharali representing the brand Marvella were organised between the scien-

Gaurav Chayan Das, Dr K So and respected personalities of Assam. The Lifetime Achievement Award for service to humanity in the field of medical science and education was conferred upon Dr Bhabani P Chakravarty, a senior

Deliberations on various scien-Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi, tific topics were delivered by Dr tific sessions.

Founder and headmaster of school retires sans salary Singh's unpaid dedication highlights plight of non-provincialised schools in Margherita

Vivekananda Kendra prepares extravagant celebration for International Yoga Day



HT Bureau GUWAHATI, June Satra across various locations. The

to 7:30 am. Noteworthy dignitaries are expected to grace the event and

join the mass yoga practices. A planning meeting for the entire program was held at the Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture in Uzan Bazar to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Highlighting the significance of

Bill in Parliament, which they

claimed compromised the interests

This was viewed by the students

organisation, youths and many in

the state as the "ultimate betraval"

by a man who was once bestowed

the title of 'Jatiya Nayak' (Leader

of the Community) after the scrap-

ping of the controversial Illegal

Migrants' Determination by Tribu-

nal (IMDT) Act by the Supreme

Court in 2005, which Sonowal had

Sonowal's foray into politics

began with his joining the All

Assam Students' Union (AASU)

where he served as its president

from 1992 to 1999, and also be-

came the chairman of North East

challenged as AASU president.

of the indigenous population.

yoga in Vivekananda Kendra's ethos, it is emphasised that the organisation considers yoga as its core element. Vivekananda Kendra conducts regular yoga sessions, known as Yoga Varga, across the nation. In Guwahati alone, yoga varga practices are ongoing at 22 locations. Vivekananda Kendra ex-

Karbi Anglong District Open Chess Championship organised

H<u>T Bureau</u>

DIPHU, June 9: The Karbi Anglong District Chess Association, affiliated with the Assam Chess Association (ACA), organised the Karbi Anglong District Open Chess Championship competition on Saturday and Sunday at Klirdap Sankar Dev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Thana Road.

Uttom Tokbi secured the championship title, while Alwin Teron and Jashwell Borah secured the first and second runners-up titles respectively. Thong Teron, Robising Teron, Ronjit Ingti, Semsing Ingti, Sarjon Rongphar, Akon Dera, and Sarmen Hanse secured



HT Correspondent MARGHERITA, June 9: Lal Babu Singh, the

disappointment, revealing that although the lower primary section of the school was provincialised, the middle english (ME) and high school sections remained non-provincialised.

Singh, who was appointed as the founder headmaster on January 2, 1988, highlighted his efforts to seek provincialisation for the school. Despite repeated appeals to the Education minister and current chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, assurances of provincialisation were not fulfilled. Singh lamented the lack of action, citing unkept promises that "not a single school of Assam shall remain non-provincialised.

"The school was established in 1988 and I have been the headmaster since then. The school was promised to be turned into a government school. However, in the last two elections, candidates promised to take this school under the state government. Elections have passed twice, but none cared to visit the school or uplift us after the elections were over," said Singh.

Singh also drew attention to the broader issue in the Margherita sub-division, where 15 high schools and

Vivekananda Kendra, a prominent spiritual and service-oriented organization headquartered in Kanyakumari, has announced plans for a grand celebration of International Yoga Day on June 21, 2024. In a bid to promote the ancient practice of yoga and its profound benefits, Vivekananda Kendra's Kamrup Vibhag, based in Guwa-

Two young girls drown in river

MORIGAON, June 9: Two students from the 420 No Tengatoli Anganwadi Centre (AWC) under Haibargaon GP, Baralamari, Laharighat ICDS Project, Morigaon, drowned in the Brahmaputra river on Saturday evening while playing nearby. The bodies of the deceased girls, Rosdana Ferdous (5) and Tamin Sultana (6), were brought home after postmortem examinations on Sunday. A pall of gloom descended upon the community as their families received the bodies.

culmination of these events will be a massive gathering at the Latasil Playground in Uzan Bazar on June 21, where approximately 2000 yoga enthusiasts will convene to celebrate the occasion.

Participants will engage in yoga sessions following the prescribed protocol by the Ayush Mantralay, government of India, from 6:00 am

tends an invitation to all yoga enthusiasts to register in advance and participate in the event with their family and friends to make it a resounding success.

For further information and registration, interested participants are urged to contact the following mobile numbers: 86388-86384 & 70026-52295.

the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth positions respectively.

Sadya Kumar (Meitei) was adjudged the best junior player, Sarjon Terang as the best student player, Monjir Terangpi as the best women player, and Songsar Rongpi as the best emerging player.

founder and headmaster of Adarsha Vidya Mandir High School in Ledo, under the Margherita sub-division of Tinsukia district, retired on May 31 without receiving any salary despite dedicating 36 years of his life to teaching. The school where Singh worked did not receive recognition, leaving him unpaid upon his retirement.

This correspondent visited Singh's residence in Ledo to understand the circumstances surrounding his retirement without compensation. Singh expressed his

30 LP and ME schools have also not been provincialised. This has resulted in severe economic hardships for many teachers, forcing some to sell vegetables or work as private security guards, while others have sought employment in cities like Bangalore, Delhi, and Mumbai.

Despite these challenges and the pleas from teachers and educational advocates, Singh criticised the BJP-led government in Assam for not prioritising the provincialisation of schools.

AASU celebrates academic excellence Hojai residents demand urgent action HT Correspondent on dilapidated Rampurbasti Road SIVASAGAR, June 9: The AASU Sivasagar district unit HT Correspondent

HT Correspondent HOJAI, June 9: Residents of Rampurbasti in Hojai are grappling with the poor condition of the road connecting Rampur to Hojai. The road is in a woeful state, riddled with potholes and ditches, making it completely unsafe for commuters. Accidents have become a daily occurrence. During the rainy season, the situation worsens as the potholes turn into ponds, creating miserable conditions for both residents and commuters.

Notably, this road is a crucial link connecting Rampur, Amtola, Raikata, and Milikbasti to

Hojai Town within Hojai district. Hundreds of vehicles use this significant road daily. Locals have alleged that the government has ignored their difficulties, which is why no action has been taken to reconstruct this vital road for a long time.

Residents have expressed their frustration, pointing out that while the BJP claims overall development, the reality is starkly different. They fervently appealed to the chief minister and the local MLA to address the issue promptly and initiate repairs without further delay.

felicitated over 500 distinction holders in the HSLC and HSSLC Examinations 2024 in a program held at the Yuvadal auditorium on Sunday. The students were each given a coupon worth Rs 500 for purchasing books, generously donated by ONGC. The event was presided over by Sivasagar District Students' Union president Manav Hazarika. The executive director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Rakesh Tiwari, was the chief guest on the occasion. He congratulated the students and urged them to study harder.

The event was attended by AASU general secretary Shankarjyoti Barua, assistant secretary Samiran Phukan, secretary of Assam Unnati Sabha Sharat Hazarika, and ATASU leader Akhil Ahom as distinguished guests. The



event was moderated by the secretary of the Sivasagar District Students' Union, Deepankar Saikia. In his address, Shankarjyoti Barua said that the annual felicitation program of AASU aims to inspire and sensitise the students about their responsible role in the future society.

Storm affected families receive relief aid

HT Bureau

DIPHU, June 9: The Relief and Development Department of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI), in partnership with the Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention (KABC) and supported by Asia Pacific Baptist Aid (APBAid), implemented a relief intervention response to storm-affected families through the Nihang Karbi Baptist Association (NKBA) in the Panjan-Hirhiri Area of Karbi Anglong district. They distributed tin roofs to 130 families, estimating



6 tin roof sheets for each family, on Saturday

bust.

clude individuals from various religious communities. The main purpose of this relief intervention is to support in building a rostorm-resilient community. This particular region has consecutively faced violent storms, which have de-

stroyed plantations of tea, rubber, and areca nuts.

The storm hit the Panjan area under the Nilip Constituency in the last week of March, and the Relief and Development department of CBCNEI received collective information in the first week of April.

Successful students from Hindi Bhashi Society felicitated

HT Bureau DIPHU, June 9: Seventy-five students from the Hindi Bhashi society who successfully passed the High School Leaving Certificate Examination and Higher Secondary Examination this year from various institutions were felicitated in a function held at Rashtra Bhasha High School premises, Pubshil Puta on Sunday. The students were honoured with phulam gamosa and citation letters. The program was jointly organ-

ised by the Karbi Anglong Hindi Bhashi Chhatra Sanstha (KAH-BCS) and Hindi Bhashi Sanstha (KAHBS). Raju Yadav, President of KAHBCS, and Shiva Narayan Paul of KAHBS jointly presided over the program.

Madhuram Lekthe, Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) and Executive Member (EM) of Karbi



Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), attended as the chief guest. Lekthe congratulated the successful students and wished them success in their higher education. "We are striving to upgrade all high schools into higher sec-

ondary schools in Langpher. The Rashtra Bhasha High School will be upgraded to a higher secondary school by next year," the EM stated.

Also present at the function were Langpher VDC chairman,

Noren Killing; chairman of Bakalia Municipal Board, Hemsing Teron; secretary of KAHBCS, Rahul Prasad; secretary of KAHBS, Praduman Dubey, as well as headmasters of various schools, parents, and students.

Demow resident goes missing en route to Chennai

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, June 9: Ram Prasad Gowala, a resident of Dadhara Gaon near Demow, went missing on June 5 while en route to Chennai. Juri Gowala, Ram Prasad Gowala's wife, reported his disappearance to the Demow Police Station a few days ago. According to the report, Ram Prasad Gowala embarked on a journey towards Chennai with 7 to 8 companions by train from Dibrugarh Rail Junction on the morning of June 2. On June 5, around 4:00 am, it was discovered that Ram Prasad Gowala had alighted from the train near a station in Orissa during a rail crossing around 3:30 am. Unfortunately, when the train departed, he was unable to reboard. Ram Prasad Gowala did not possess a mobile phone, but two of his companions did. In her report, Ram Prasad Gowala's wife urged the Demow Police to take appropriate action.

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The beneficiaries in-

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THE HILLS TIMES VOL. XXV, ISSUE 150, DIPHU, MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

QUOTE OF THE DAY A guilty conscience needs to confess. A work of art is a confession. -Albert Camus

RaGa poised to take LoP Post in LS

he familiar drama of Congress leaders urging Rahul Gandhi to accept a prominent position has resurfaced. This time, the appeal is for Gandhi to become the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha. Despite the repeated nature of this scenario, the stakes are notably high. On Saturday, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) passed a resolution urging Gandhi to take up the LoP post. "Rahulji is the best person to lead this campaign inside the Parliament," said Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal. However, Gandhi has yet to accept the role definitively. "He would take a decision very soon," Venugopal added. Another CWC member cited Gandhi's fearless nature as a key reason for his suitability. Gandhi's recent electoral success, leading Congress to win 99 Lok Sabha seats, up from 52 in 2019, has invigorated party leaders. They are eager to position him as the LoP to leverage his momentum. Yet, Gandhi's hesitance to take on such responsibilities has been a recurring theme. His reluctance has fueled criticism regarding his confidence and commitment.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the last Congress LoP, lost his seat from Berhampore in West Bengal, creating a vacancy. Gandhi's potential ascension to this role is seen as timely. Advocates argue that Gandhi's parliamentary experience surpasses that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and this could provide a strategic advantage. The LoP position holds significant importance, equivalent to a cabinet rank and only second to the Speaker of the House. This role would afford Gandhi a platform to challenge Modi directly within the parliamentary framework, without the theatrics of his infamous hug and wink episode during a previous parliamentary session. The 'Rahul Gandhi Wink,' a moment that went viral and spawned countless memes, has become emblematic of his unconventional approach. Positioned alongside the legacies of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi, Gandhi's potential role as LoP could launch a new era for Conaress.

Congress leaders are eager for a swift appointment, ideally before Modi's next swearing-in as Prime Minister. They maintain that Modi lacks the mandate to continue as Prime Minister, and see Gandhi as a preferable alternative, at least within the parliamentary context for now. There is speculation that regional leaders like Nitish Kumar or Chandrababu Naidu might eventually undermine Modi's position. Gandhi faces a strategic decision about whether to remain an MP for Wayanad or shift to a constituency like Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh, reflecting on the varied political landscapes of northern and southern India. Despite the challenges, Gandhi has already begun to act in a leadership capacity, holding meetings with newly-elected Congress MPs and offering guidance. This proactive approach suggests he may be gearing up for the role of LoP, even if he hasn't formally accepted it yet. Congress members are united in their support for Gandhi. They credit him with the party's improved performance in the latest elections, attributing this success to his initiatives like the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The CWC is set to review the election results and the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) will elect its chairperson, a position traditionally held by Sonia Gandhi. Gandhi's acceptance of the LoP role remains a critical factor in Congress's strategy. Should he accept, he will lead a significant opposition bloc of 234 INDIA alliance MPs against the BJP's 240.

distinction is drawn in economics between de-A mand-constrained systems and resource-constrained systems (which for simplicity and symmetry we shall call supply-constrained systems). In the former, an increase in output can occur if there is a rise in aggregate demand without causing any scarcity-induced inflation; in the latter, output is constrained either by capacity being fully used up, or by the scarcity

of some critical input or of foodgrains or of the labour force, so that a rise in aggregate demand, instead of raising output, simply causes scarcity-induced inflation

Capitalism normally, that is, except in war times, is a demand-constrained system, while socialism that existed in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe was supply-constrained. In a demand-constrained system, employment too will rise if there is an increase in aggregate demand.

This distinction is important to keep in mind at present in India when unemployment has become a serious social issue, when its acuteness has been a major factor behind the BJP's humbling in the recent elections, and when its alleviation has become a matter of absolute priority.

Since there has been substantial deliberate curtailment of employment in the service sector including government services, where shortage of fixed capital stock has played no role, we cannot hold any capacity constraint responsible for the current level of unemployment. Likewise the current level of unemployment is not due to the shortage of any critical input. Foodgrains too have not been

in short supply, as is evident from the fact that even the Modi government, which debunks transfers to the poor as "freebies", has been using up existing stocks to acquire some electoral goodwill by providing 5 kgs of foodgrains per person per month to a large number of beneficiaries; true, at this moment India is

about to buy wheat in the international market to replenish depleted stocks, but this is due to mismanagement, not any basic scarcity of the grain in the country. The acute unemployment we have in India at present therefore is reflective of a demandconstrained system; its alleviation requires as an immediate measure a rise in aggregate demand, led by government spending.

There are large numbers of government jobs remaining unfilled; the education sector is understaffed to an amazing extent which is taking a heavy toll on the quality of teaching; even the armed forces have not seen their usual scale of recruitment because of which all kinds of schemes, like

the "Agniveer"

scheme, have been introduced. The government, in short, instead of taking a lead in providing employment, has ironically been cutting down on employment; the reason lies apparently in the fact that it feels fiscally constrained. Let us examine this a little more closely

The basic distinction we mentioned above is between demand and supply-constrained systems. Other than supply constraints, which we just saw do not exist, there is no such thing as an objective fiscal constraint on a sovereign state. Any such fiscal constraint is imposed upon the State by international capital and its local counterpart, the domestic corporate-financial oligarchy; it is reflective of a loss of autonomy on the part of the State, not of any objective limits on the State.

The fact that in a demandconstrained system there are no objective limits on the capacity of the State to spend was demonstrated in the economic literature more than ninety years ago when the Kaleckian-Kevnesian theoretical revolution had got going; and yet the false theory that had been debunked over nine decades ago is still resurrected today to pass off what are in effect constraints imposed by big business on the State as objective limits on the State.

The pre-eminent requirement for alleviating unemployment is that the State must shake off its thraldom to the caprices of inter-



national and domestic big capital; it must re-acquire, and act on, its resolve to serve the peo-

In a demand-constrained system larger gov-DEGREE OF THOUGHT ernment Prabhat Patnaik spending even if

t is financed by a fiscal deficit still overcomes unemployment; its main harmful effect arises not because of any "crowding out" of private investment or other such bogus claims made against it, but because it gratuitously increases wealth inequality. If the government spends, say, ₹ 100, and finances it by a fiscal deficit, that is, by borrowing, then, in effect, it puts the ₹ 100 in the hands of the capitalists through its spending (since the working people more or less spend what they earn), and then borrows it from them.

This is easily seen if we break up the economy into three mutually exclusive and all-exhaustive parts: the government, the working people, and the capitalists (let us for simplicity abstract from all external transactions by assuming a closed economy). The deficits of the three parts must necessarily, as a mathemat-ical identity, add up to zero in any period.

Since the working people generally consume whatever they earn, their deficit (or surplus) is zero, if the government runs a deficit then it must automatically create an equivalent amount of surplus with the capitalists without their doing anything consciously about it. If the government spends by borrowing the ₹ 100 from banks to start with, then by the end of the period it can borrow the ₹ 100 of

would have gratuitously accrued to them, and pay back the banks. This surplus accrues to capitalists because of the larger demand for their goods generated by government spending. It is a gratuitous addition to their savings and wealth, and hence accentuates wealth inequality. To prevent such accentuation of wealth inequality, the government should tax away these Rs 100 from them, and finance its spending by an equivalent tax on the capitalists, which does

not even reduce their wealth compared to the initial situation. It follows that larger State spending financed by taxing the capitalists can increase employment without even impinging on the capitalists whose initial wealth remains unchanged. The State must have the courage to expand its expenditure and be prepared to face whatever roadblocks the domestic and foreign capitalists place against its actions (in the form for instance of capital flight) if it wishes to in-

crease employment. Expanding employment therefore requires, first, a filling up of all vacancies that exist within the government including of teachers at the school and university level, and of healthcare and nursing staff. Second, it requires an increase in the number of posts in these sectors; education in the country for instance has reached abysmal levels and it needs revival through an appropriate expansion of qualified staff

Third, it requires expanding the scope of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by removing its existing limits and making it universal and desurplus from the capitalists that mand-driven; it should also be

in Bengal after Lok Sabha results

extended to urban areas and wages must be fixed at appropriate levels, well above the pittance currently being paid.

This itself will generate demand for a whole range of goods in the economy which will be met partly through a greater utilisation of existing capacity and hence through greater employment, and partly through the setting up of new capacity, including above all in the smallscale sector (for which appropriate arrangement of loans must be made). The provision of employment by the government in other words will create additional employment in the private sector through what is known as the "multiplier".

As discussed above, this entire increase in State spending will have to be financed through larger taxes on the capitalists and the rich in general. Such taxes can be on their flow incomes or on their stocks of wealth: of the two however a tax on their wealth, which includes real estate and cash balances that earn no significant direct income, is preferable, for it then cannot even be said to have any adverse effects on productive investment.

Of course, any wealth taxation must be accompanied by inheritance taxation to prevent evasion of the former. What is shocking is that India has virtually no wealth or inheritance taxation, even when wealth inequality in the country has skyrocketed during the neoliberal era. This reprehensible fact however also implies the existence of immense scope for imposing wealth and inheritance taxation

An increase in government expenditure financed by larger wealth and inheritance taxation provides the easiest and most direct route to the generation of larger employment in the economy. It will kill several birds with one stone: provide larger employment, keep wealth inequality in check which is essential for democracy, and improve the state of education and healthcare in the country from the abysmal levels to which they have sunk. (IPA Service)

Vivekananda's vision: Modi's spiritual **Congress leadership in a depression** journey and India's path forward

By: Tirthankar Mitra

M Narendra Modi, following his highly publicized meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari, reflected, "Swami Vivekananda, a torchbearer of spiritual renaissance, has been my guiding light, my source of vigor, and the cornerstone of my spirituality." Modi stands among the myriad of Hindus profoundly influenced by Swamiji's teachings since his emergence onto the national stage in the 1890s, notably through his impactful address on Hinduism at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. Swami Vivekananda's call to Hindus, especially the youth, to embody strength intertwined with compassion resonates enduringly. This prompts the question: does Modi's spiritual path align with the steadfast ideals championed, lived, and promoted by Vivekananda?

<u>By: Dipak Kurmi</u>

Established by Vivekananda and his companions, the Ramakrishna Mission was founded to disseminate the profound teachings of their revered masters, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Sarada Maa. Over the years, the mission has diligently propagated their spiritual legacy. It's com-

mendable that the Prime Minister has revitalized himself through this spiritual journey, especially as he embarks on his third term, this time leading a comprehensive coalition government for the first time.

At the inauguration of the Parliament of Religions, Vivekananda eloquently encapsulated his profound understanding of Hinduism. He hailed Hinduism as the "mother of religions," expressing pride in belonging to a faith that champions tolerance and universal acceptance. Embracing all religions as true, he

celebrated India's tradition of sheltering persecuted refugees from across the globe. Quoting a hymn dear to him since childhood, he illustrated the unity of diverse paths leading to the divine. Vivekananda lamented the scourge of sectarianism, bigotry, and fanaticism plaguing humanity, attributing them to the earth's violence and hindrance of societal progress. He fervently hoped for the cessation of fanaticism and persecution, envisioning a world of greater harmony and advancement.

By extensively quoting Swamiji's address, I aim to underscore the timeless relevance of his message amidst our polarized era. In emphasizing tolerance and the acceptance of all religions as true. Swamiji elucidates the core tenets of Hinduism. It logically follows that every Hindu should embody these principles without tethering them to the beliefs of other faiths. Political leaders, inspired by such ideals, must demonstrate their commitment through meaningful policy implementations rather than mere rhetoric. However, this doesn't imply passive acceptance of deliberate contempt or distortion of the Hindu faith. It's about upholding the dignity of Hinduism while fostering interfaith understanding and harmony.

During the BJP's election campaign, there was a notice-

albeit in part. It's imperative for the political class to deliberate on how to uphold these values even amidst the fervor of campaigning. A model or moral code of conduct can only hold true if these principles remain intact throughout the electoral process. While vigorous debate and advocacy for party ideologies are inherent to politics, should campaigns veer beyond constructive discourse? While criticism and even sarcasm may fuel campaign dynamics, should they overshadow fundamental values? Undoubtedly, Swamiji would have found some leaders' remarks during the campaign appalling.

able departure from the path of tolerance and acceptance,

In a recent article, Modi reflected on his meditation at the rock memorial, noting that amidst the serene surroundings, the cacophony of political debates and verbal skirmishes faded into insignificance. However, it's essential to acknowledge that not everyone possesses the same level of spiritual maturity. For many, unkind words linger, inflicting wounds on their emotions and self-esteem. It's worth considering that inflicting anguish on large segments of society does little to rectify historical injustices. Alternative avenues must be explored to address these

grievances constructively.

Swamiji vehemently rejected sectarianism, bigotry, and fanaticism, traits that transcend religious boundaries. Similarly, the Constitution unequivocally mandates equality for all Indians, emphasizing the need for political leaders to uphold this foundational principle in governance. Merely providing equal access to economic opportunities is insufficient; people require assurance of living without fear and with dignity. Moreover, they deserve meaningful participation in governance. Regrettably, certain

political statements during the campaign echoed the very characteristics Vivekananda condemned, highlighting the importance of upholding his teachings in contemporary politics.

It's undeniable that ideological conflicts will persist in India. Over the past decade, Modi and the Sangh Parivar have strived to leave their imprint on the nation. In his post-election address to party members, Modi affirmed his commitment to advancing India's greatness. The Parivar seeks to revive India's ancient glory, steering the country in alignment with its cherished heritage. There's been a deliberate effort to reshape India's public culture, a natural evolution over time. From the Indo-Persianate influences to the British-era practices, and now, a rejection of much associated with Nehru's India.

However, these transformations are inconsequential as long as India's public culture embodies the values espoused by Swami Vivekananda in his Chicago address. This necessitates extending tolerance and acceptance to all faiths and their followers in India-a crucial element lamentably absent in some of Modi's campaign rhetoric. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmiglpltd@gmail.com)

The debacle of the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal was not at all unexpected. With only Malda (South) Lok Sabha constituency in Congress kitty out of 42 seats in the state, the Grand Old Party is a faint shadow of its former self in West Bengal. The reasons behind the retreat of Congress turning almost into a rout needs to be laid at the doors of its state and national leadership whose vacillation helped Trinamool Congress widen its support base at the expense of the Congress party.

The functioning of the state Congress unit in the 1990s when Mamata Banerjee, then a Kolkata (South) MP and heading the youth wing of the party launched successive agitations sans PCC nod against the CPI(M) -led Left Front government. The Congress's credibility with the voters who supported it took a beating and then reached bottom of the barrel when Banerjee floated Trinamool Congress in 1998.

In successive elections, the electoral success of the fledgling breakaway TMC continued to rise and fall. But it emerged as the principal Opposition outfit in the state even as the UPA government continued to receive support from the Left. Maintaining friendly ties with the Left at the Centre while opposing it in West Bengal led to erosion of Congress's credibility. But even when TMC entered into a coalition with it in 2011 assembly elections, Congress still retained some vestiges of a support base. With it's back to the wall, the Congress and Left Front read CPI(M) entered into an electoral alliance before 2016 Assembly elections. If it fetched both outfits handsome political dividend, it gave TMC an opportunity to go about the town propagating that the coalition was a pointer to the fact the Congress is the B-team of the CPI(M). The TMC leadership went about successive elections basing their campaign

on the charge that Congress being hands in glove with CPI(M). By doing so, it thinned both the influence as well as votes cast in favour of Congress nominees. Congress contested in only 12 constituencies out of 42 in West Bengal in 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The rest of the seats were allotted to Left Front indicating the disparity in areas of influ-

ence of the two INDIA coalition partners. The voting percentage of Congress in

West Bengal has dropped to 4.72 per cent in this election from 5.3 per cent in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The indication of a dwindling voting percentage in Congress's favour surfaced in 2021 Assembly when it failed to win in a single Assembly constituency. This time however, the analysis shows that in the 294 assembly segments under 42 Lok Sabha constituencies, the Congress got 11 seats, as against only one by the CPI(M), 90 by the BJP and 190 by the Trinamool Congress. In fact, the results show that the Congress still has some support base in three districts of North Bengal. Playing second fiddle to Trinamool leadership read Mamata Banerjee had been an unenviable experience for the Congress leaders when they had cobbled together a coalition in 2011 Assembly elections to end the 34 year long Left Front regime. But as Congress ministers of the TMC-Congress coalition Cabinet assumed office they found their wings clipped.

The political honeymoon was shortlived and the Congress ministers soon resigned. With TMC enjoying a majority, the government did not collapse but both the parties reached started to act as rivals TMC was in the offensive. As a result many Congress leaders and grass roots workers joined TMC. Even in state Congress, there were leaders who wanted to align with the TMC for getting safe seats, but the dominant section led by the state president Adhir Choudhury stuck to the position that any alliance with TMC will lead to the complete erosion of the Congress base. The high command had to endorse this stand of Adhir despite their own reservations.

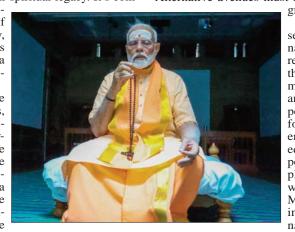
Behrampore MP and PCC chief Adhir Ranjan Choudhury himself was a stumbling block to any proximity to TMC leadership .led by Mamata. Their political difference descended almost to a personal level arising from factional feud from their days in the state Congress. Choudhury's verbal salvoes targeted at Banerjee continued even during the election campaign. It earned him a rap on the knuckles from Congress chief Mallikariun Kharge but failed to check his vitriolic criticism of the TMC chief.

Earlier, Choudhury is learnt to have conveyed to Congress chief Kharge and other senior AICC leaders that only a change of state Congress chief would trigger a cordial political relation with the TMC and it's supremo. But the national leadership of his party chose not to change on the eve of the elections knowing well it would demoralise the rank and file.

But the national Congress leadership expressed it's displeasure at the PCC chief's words and deeds. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi campaigned for Khan Choudhury at Malda(South) but skipped a rally at Behrampore though Adhir's performance as leader of Congress Parliamentary Party in the Lok Sabha was commendable.. AS a five time Lok Sabha member from Berhampore, he also did lot of work in his area

Both Choudhury and other Congress contestants read the writing on the wall. The national leadership seeks working relations with the TMC supremo. This was apparent as te top Congress leaders did not attend any rally in Behrampore. The leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, was left to fend for himself.

Lok Sabha elections are won and lost on the strength of the votes polled in the Assembly segments constituting the parliamentary constituencies. All the assembly segments including Behrampore were sans a Congress legislator leaving Choudhury, a five time MP sans any support to swing an electoral battle which was a desperate one even in 2019 elections. (IPA Service)



HEALTH

Cancer on the rise among young adults: Causes, prevention, and action

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Avoidance:

Sedentary

impaired immune function,

and compromised DNA re-

and lifestyle changes:

By: Aubaid Ahmad <u>Akhoon</u>

we unfold new frontiers in science and technology, promising breakthroughs and unprecedented achievements, we are also confronted with an equally pressing reality: the alarming rise in deadly diseases. The very advancements that propel us forward in countless aspects of life are paralleled by the emergence of health crises that demand our immediate attention. Yet, as we traverse the landscape of modernity, we find ourselves confronted with a paradox – the very advancements meant to enhance our lives have, in many ways, diminished our well-being.

In an era where technological and medical advancements should theoretically extend our lifespans and improve quality of life, we are instead witnessing a disturbing trend. The proliferation of sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy dietary choices, and exposure to environmental pollutants are contributing to a rise in non-communicable diseases, particularly among the younger population.

Day by day, as science and technology open new doors of success and opportunity, they also shed light on the stark challenges we face. The changing landscape of our lifestyles, dietary habits, and the widespread consumption of harmful substances have exacted a devastating toll on the health and well-being of

our young generation. Recent findings from a survey conducted by the "Cancer Mukt Bharat Foundation" have illuminated a concerning reality: there has been a 20% increase in cancer cases among individuals under 40 years old. This revelation underscores the urgent need for a deeper examination of our lifestyles and their impact on health.

Breaking down the data, it's revealed that 60% of these cancer patients under 40 are men, with 40% being women. The types of cancer vary, with head and neck cancer comprising 26% of cases, followed by

by the widespread conagainst disease. Aim for at sumption of ultraleast 150 minutes of modprocessed foods high in erate-intensity exercise per sugar, unhealthy fats, and week. additives, has been linked **Education and Aware**to an increased risk of canness: Raising awareness cer. These foods not only about the dangers of tolack essential nutrients but bacco, alcohol, and drug also contain harmful chemabuse is essential for pre-

and increase cancer susception on the health risks associated with these sub-**Tobacco and Alcohol** stances and offering sup-Use: The rampant use of port for smoking cessation tobacco, alcohol, and illicit and addiction recovery can drugs among the youth furempower individuals to ther exacerbates the risk of make healthier choices. cancer. Tobacco smoke Sun Protection: Protectcontains a cocktail of caring the skin from harmful cinogens that can damage

UV radiation by wearing DNA and trigger cellular sunscreen, protective clothmutations, while excessive ing, and seeking shade duralcohol consumption iming peak sun hours can help pairs immune function and prevent skin cancer. Avoid disrupts hormone regulatanning beds and sunlamps, tion, increasing susceptibilwhich emit dangerous UV

vention. Providing educa-

Lifestyle: **Environmental Aware-**Physical inactivity and pro**ness:** Minimizing exposure longed sitting have been to environmental carcinoidentified as independent gens by reducing air pollurisk factors for certain tion, avoiding direct types of cancer, including contact with hazardous chemicals, and following colon and breast cancer. Lack of regular exercise safety protocols in occupacan contribute to weight tional settings can lower gain, hormonal imbalances, cancer risk.

Access to screening and early detection:

pair mechanisms, promot-Regular cancer screening cancer development. ings and early detection are **Environmental Fac**crucial for improving treattors: Exposure to environment outcomes and surmental pollutants, such as vival rates. Encouraging air and water contaminants, individuals to undergo rouindustrial chemicals, and tine screenings for comradiation, can contribute to mon cancers, such as the development of cancer. breast, cervical, colorectal, These carcinogens can disand prostate cancer, can farupt cellular processes and cilitate early intervention trigger genetic mutations and timely treatment. that lead to cancer forma-**Bottom line:**

Addressing the surge in **Preventive** measures cancer cases among young adults requires a compre-Healthy Diet: Promothensive approach that ading a diet rich in whole dresses both individual foods, fruits, vegetables, behaviors and systemic and lean proteins can help factors. By promoting mitigate cancer risk. Emhealthy lifestyles, advocatphasizing the importance ing for tobacco control of nutrient-dense, plantmeasures, and improving based foods and minimizaccess to preventive care ing the consumption of and treatment, we can mitprocessed and sugary foods igate the impact of cancer can support overall health and reduce cancer inci-

Tobacco and Alcohol It is imperative that gov-Quitting healthcare ernments, smoking and avoiding toproviders, communities, bacco products altogether and individuals work tocan significantly reduce the gether to combat this growrisk of cancer. Similarly, ing public health crisis. Supporting policies and limiting alcohol consumption to moderate levels (if initiatives aimed at reducnot abstaining entirely) can ing air and water pollution

The essentials of headache: Causes and care

By: Dr Amit Shrivastav

eadaches are among the most widespread neuro-Llogical complaints worldwide, with half of the global population experiencing at least one headache annually. Defined as pain originating from the head or upper neck, headaches can radiate to the eyes, face, shoulders, and arms. Contrary to conventional wisdom, headache pain does not actually arise from the brain itself but from the surrounding tissues and structures. **Types of Headaches**

There are approximately 200 types of headaches, broadly classified into primary and secondary headaches.

Primary Headaches

Primary headaches include tension-type headaches, migraines, and the rare cluster headaches, making up about 90% of all headaches.

Tension-Type Headaches: The most common type, often affecting women more than men, is often exacerbated by stressful and sedentary lifestyles. Symptoms include mild to moderate bandlike tightness around the head. sleep difficulties, chronic fatigue, disturbed concentration, and muscle aches.

Migraines: These affect children and adults, with a higher prevalence in women post-puberty. Symptoms include moderate to severe throbbing pain on one side of the head, nausea, vomiting, and light sensitivity.

Cluster Headaches: These rare headaches typically affect men in their late 20s but can also occur in women and children. They manifest quickly with excruciating pain around one eye, excessive tearing, and facial sweating. Cluster headaches can trigger strokes, especially migraines with aura. Secondary Headaches

Secondary headaches stem from underlying structural issues in the head or neck, encompassing a broad spectrum of medical conditions. These range from dental or sinus infections to severe ailments like brain bleeding or infections such as encephalitis or meningitis.

Traumatic headaches, including post-concussion headaches, also fall into this category, alongside headaches linked to substance abuse or excessive use of headache medications. Additionally, "hangover" headaches result from alcohol consumption, compounded by alcohol's effects and hydration.

Identifying serious headaches

Differentiating between benign primary headaches and potendangerous secondary tially headaches is paramount. Red flags indicating sinister headaches encompass various symptoms, including a severe and swiftly advancing headache, coupled with additional indicators such as fever, drowsiness, double vision, projectile vomiting, or focal weakness. Furthermore, a notable escalation in headache intensity or frequency, particularly in individuals already diagnosed with headache disorders, warrants careful attention as it could signify an underlying and potentially serious medical condition

Effective Headache Manage-Involves Lifestyle ment Changes and Medical Treatments

Relaxation techniques such as meditation, deep breathing, and other methods can help manage headaches, while regular physical activity promotes a healthy lifestyle and reduces stress. Additionally, managing stress by avoiding stressful situations and noisy environments can prevent severe headaches.

Massaging the neck and temples can also help as it improves blood circulation. Monitoring one's diet and limiting caffeine

and alcohol intake can also reduce the frequency and severity of headaches.

Contrary to the belief that migraines are untreatable, significant advancements in migraine treatment offer effective prophylactic medications and interventions. Combining relaxation techniques, avoiding triggers, meditation, biofeedback, stress relief, and a disciplined lifestyle can significantly control the frequency and intensity of migraines.

Frequent use of painkillers for headaches can lead to Medication Overuse Headache (MOH), a condition challenging to treat and with significant side effects. Long-term headache relief requires proper management rather than habitual painkiller use.

Most headaches are benign and can be managed effectively through lifestyle changes and medications. Stress is a common cause, but it's crucial to identify and address secondary headaches promptly. Consulting a specialist for serious headache symptoms is essential for timely and appropriate treatment. (The author is the Director and Head of Department, Neurology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida)

10 ways sugar harms your body By Dr Anu Gaikwad

re you guilty of consuming more than two or three cups of chai or coffee in

Do you regularly crave for sugar or dessert

Do you wake up in the middle of the night for a scoop of your favourite ice-cream or

Remember, the body craves for sugar when there is an imbalance or fluctuations in the

Your body may also demand sugar due to stress, hormonal imbalance or due to an existing health condition.

If vou are not obese or diabetic, you can cer-

However sugar, especially in excessive amounts, can have several detrimental effects on your health. Here are 10 ways sugar can harm your body:

1. Weight gain

Excessive sugar consumption contributes to weight gain and obesity. Sugary foods and beverages are high in calories and can lead to

A high sugar intake can lead to insulin resistance, which is a major risk factor for Type 2 diabetes. Over time, the pancreas cannot keep up with the body's need for insulin, leading to high blood sugar levels.

3. Heart disease

Diets that are high in sugar are associated with increased risk of heart disease. Regular, uncontrolled consumption of sugar can raise blood pressure, increase inflammation and contribute to obesity, all of which strain the



known to promote cancer growth. 7. Joint pains

Increased sugar consumption has been linked to an increased risk of developing arthritis. Sugar can cause inflammation, which

exacerbates joint pain. 8. Skin ageing

High sugar levels in the blood can lead to the formation of advanced glycation end products (AGEs), which damage collagen and elastin, proteins that keep skin firm and youth-

9. Addiction and cravings

Sugar can trigger the release of dopamine in the brain, similar to addictive substances. This can lead to cravings and overconsumption, creating a cycle of addiction.

10. Impaired immune function

High sugar intake can suppress the immune system, making it harder for the body to fight off infections.

This effect can last for several hours after consuming sugar. Reducing sugar intake can improve overall health and reduce the risk of very few calories and a low impact on blood sugar.

4. Xylitol

Another sugar alcohol, it has fewer calories than sugar and does not spike blood sugar levels, but it can cause digestive issues in large amounts.

5. Honev

A natural sweetener with some antioxidants and nutrients, honey must be used in moderation, as it still contains sugars.

6. Maple syrup

Made from the sap of sugar maple tree, concentrated maple syrup contains antioxidants and minerals like zinc and manganese. However, it is still high in sugar, so should be used sparingly.

7. Coconut sugar

Contains small amounts of nutrients like iron, zinc, and calcium, but has a lower glycaemic index than regular sugar. 8. Date sugar

Made from ground dried dates, it retains the fibre and nutrients of dates, offering a health-

a day? after every meal? chocolate?

blood sugar levels.

tainly indulge in sweet treats occasionally.

increased fat accumulation.

2. Type 2 diabetes

and safeguard the health and well-being of future generations.

gastrointestinal cancers like colon, stomach, and liver at 16%, breast cancer at 15%, and blood cancers at 9%. These numbers paint a stark picture of the diversity of cancers afflicting our youth. Each diagnosis is a stark reminder of the fragility of life and the urgent need for collective action.

Causes of rising cancer cases among young adults:

Habits: Our Dietary modern diet, characterized lower the risk of alcoholpromoting renewable enrelated cancers.

ergy sources, and preserv-Regular Exercise: Ening natural ecosystems can gaging in regular physical create healthier living enviactivity, such as brisk walkronments for all. (The auing, jogging, cycling, or thor is an accomplished swimming, can lower can-Educational Columnist, cer risk by maintaining a Motivational Speaker, and EDP Head at SKIE healthy weight, improving circulation, and boosting Classes Khanyar & Soura Branch. He is also an Asimmune function. Incorporating daily exer-

sociate Editor of the cise routines. leisure activweekly educational publiities, and outdoor playtime cation 'Education Quill.' can promote physical fit-He can be reached at ness, mental well-being, akhoon.aubaid@gmail.co overall resilience **m**)

heart.

4. Dental problems

Sugar is a major cause of dental cavities and tooth decay. It provides food for harmful bacteria in the mouth, which produce acids that erode tooth enamel.

5. Liver disease

Excessive fructose (a type of sugar) can overload the liver, leading to non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). This condition can progress to liver inflammation and damage

6. Increased risk of cancer

Some studies suggest that high sugar diets can increase the risk of developing certain types of cancer. Insulin resistance and inflammation, both linked to high sugar intake, are many chronic diseases.

Other alternatives to sugar

While there are several alternatives to conventional sugar, some healthy and some not, it is important to consider how you make a healthy switch.

1. Stevia

A natural sweetener derived from the leaves of the Stevia plant, it has no calories and does not affect blood sugar levels.

2. Monk Fruit Sweetener

Made from monk fruit extract, it's a zerocalorie sweetener that's much sweeter than sugar.

3. Ervthritol

A type of sugar alcohol with about 70 per cent of the sweetness of sugar, erythritol has

ier alternative to refined sugar. 9. Agave nectar

Sweeter than sugar and has a lower glycemic index, but high in fructose, so use it sparingly

10. Molasses

A by-product of sugar production, molasses retain some of the vitamins and minerals, including iron, calcium and magnesium.

Remember to consult with your dietician or healthcare professional before switching to these alternatives.

A healthy choice of sugar can help reduce vour overall sugar consumption leading to significant health benefits, improving both shortterm wellness and long-term health outcomes. (Courtesy: Rediff.com)

MNT.



By: Erika Watts

tetting a good night's sleep is not always as simple as it sounds. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adults ages 18 to 60 get at least 7 hours of sleep per night, around 30% of adults get less than the recommended amount of sleep.

A number of things can affect sleep patterns, including sleep hygiene and mental health issues.

Researchers from Finland's University of Helsinki, National Institute for Health and Welfare, and Turku University of Applied Sciences recently examined how total sleep duration might influence dietary choices.

Their study, which appears in Frontiers in Nutrition, found that people who eat around 460 grams of fruits and vegetables per day were more likely to get an ideal amount of rest than those who ate fewer of these foods.

The researchers observed that lower consumption of these foods was associated with sleeping for inadequate or excessive amounts of time, both of which have negative implications.

self-question-Analyzing

naires and sleep chronotypes When people sleep, their bodies undergo cell repair, hormone regulation, and store new memories. Not getting enough sleep can disrupt these natural processes.

As the National Institutes of Health explains: "During sleep, your body is working to support healthy brain function and maintain your physical health.

While some people have no problem sleeping, others experience trouble with sleep due to poor sleep hygiene, sleep apnea, and insomnia. Also, some people sleep excessively - more than 9 hours per night, and according to the Sleep Foundation, this can contribute to mental health and heart is-

The current study examined the sleep and nutrition habits of 5.043 adults in Finland. During various questionnaires,

the participants provided information about their sleep duration and food intake.

The participants also provided information about their socioeconomic status, body mass index, physical activity, and health problems.

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day,

or 400 grams, the researchers wanted to see which people were coming close to that recommendation

The researchers also analyzed the participants' chronotypes, as a prior study found no influence of chronotypes (sleep timing) on fruit and vegetable intake the following day. According to the scientists, chronotype "reflects an individual's preference for timing of activities during the day (morning or evening pref-

erence).' Fruit and vegetable intake matter

After analyzing the selfquestionnaires, the researchers divided people into groups based on how long they reported sleeping each night: Short sleepers (21% of participants) slept an average of 6

hours per night. • Normal sleepers (76.1% of participants) slept an average of 7.7 hours per night. • Long sleepers (2.9% of

participants) slept an average of 10.1 hours per night. The researchers found that

'normal sleepers" who slept 7 to 9 hours per night had a higher fruit and vegetable intake than the other groups. "Normal sleepers" consumed an average of 463.1 grams of fruits and vegetables per day, which was higher than significantly between long and both the short and long sleeper groups.

Short sleepers consumed an average of 37 fewer grams per day than normal sleepers. Both short and normal sleepers fell within the WHO's recommended daily intake but consumed less than the Nordic Council of Ministers' recommendation of 500 to 800 grams daily.

Long sleepers consumed an average of 73.4 fewer grams compared to normal sleepers. Upon further analysis, the researchers noted some differences in the consumption of specific types of foods.

When dividing vegetables into subgroups, they noticed 'significant differences" in the amount of green leafy vegetables, root vegetables, and fruit vegetables (such as tomatoes and cucumbers) in short sleepers compared to the normal sleepers. Long sleepers also consumed fewer green leafy vegetables and fruit vegetables than normal sleepers.

In fruit subgroups, researchers also observed significant differences in berries as well as other fresh and canned fruit varieties in short sleepers compared to normal sleepers. Apples were the only fruit subgroup that appeared to differ

tions.' normal sleepers.

The researchers also examined whether the subjects' selfreported chronotypes factored into their sleep duration. They sorted people into the following categories based on whether the participants considered themselves most productive in the morning, evening, or somewhere in between.

• morning type

 intermediate type evening type

This analysis suggests there is little influence of chronotype on the link between sleep patterns and dietary choices.

"Its impact on the specific relationship between sleep duration and [fruit and vegetable] consumption is minimal,' write the authors.

Overall, the study findings emphasize the need to focus on nutrition to improve sleep. For those looking to improve their diet quality, it may be helpful to keep a food diary to assess fruit and vegetable intake and adjust accordingly.

While the researchers acknowledge that relying on selfreported data is a limitation of the study, they encourage longitudinal studies "to better understand these associations and their public health implica-

The study raises more questions

Sudha Tallavajhula, MD, a neurological sleep disorders physician at UTHealth Houston, spoke with Medical News Today about the study. "The conclusions from this

study should be interpreted in the context of associations and not necessarily causation," Tallavajhula commented.

"Poor sleep behavior is associated with poor food choices,' Tallavajhula explained. "Poor sleep usually translates into less daytime energy levels; this may lead patients to pick 'easy' foods like canned and processed items rather than fresh ingredients that may

need more work. Tallavajhula also commented on what this study means from a public health perspective.

'The main implication for public health is that when introducing interventions to improve dietary lifestyle, we cannot ignore the importance of sleep and other lifestyle parameters." - Sudha Tallava-

jhula, MD Devika Bhushan, MD, a pediatrician, public health leader, and chief medical officer of Davbreak Health based in San Francisco, also spoke with *tesy: Medical News Today*)

"The association here with atypical sleep patterns – both less than and more than what's normative or healthy - and lower fruit and vegetable consumption makes a lot of sense," Bhushan noted.

"But for me, it raises the question of which came first the sleep atypicality or the lower fruit and vegetable intake – and whether both are in fact referable to underlying stress biology," Bhushan continued.

Bhushan explained how stress-related conditions can impact sleep and contribute to people's food choices.

"Many stress-related health conditions ranging from depression to chronic pain to heart and lung disease can disturb healthy sleep habits and lead to atypical sleep duration," noted Bhushan.

"And stress pathway activation can also promote cravings for higher-calorie, higher-fat, and carbohydrate-rich foods. often decreasing overall fruit and vegetable intake.

"So while these findings make intuitive sense, it is hard to draw causal inferences and infer the direction of the associations from these findings alone," said Bhushan. (Cour-

World

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

Cargo ship hit in suspected

attack by Yemen Houthi rebels

DUBAI, June 9: A missile struck an Antigua and

Voting in 20 EU countries for European Parl enters final day

'Right is good': Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban

BRUSSELS, June 9: Tens of millions across the European Union voted Sunday in EU parliamentary elections in a massive exercise of democracy that is expected to shift the bloc to the right and redirect its future.

The war in Ukraine, migration, and the impact of climate policy on farmers are some of the issues weighing on voters' minds as they cast ballots to elect 720 members of the European Parliament.

Surveys suggest that mainstream and pro-European parties will retain their majority in parliament, but they will lose seats to hard right parties like those led by Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, Geert Wilders in the Netherlands and Marine Le Pen in France.

That would make it harder for Europe to pass legislation and could at times paralyse decision-making in the world's biggest trading bloc.

"I do hope that we will manage to avoid a shift to the right and that Europe will somehow remain united," voter Laura Simon said in Berlin.

EU lawmakers have a say in issues from financial rules to climate and agriculture policy. They approve the EU budget, which bankrolls priorities including infrastructure projects, farm subsidies and aid delivered to Ukraine. And they hold a veto over the appointment of the powerful EU commission. This elections come at a testing time



for voter confidence in a bloc of some 450 million people. Over the last five years, the EU has been shaken by the coronavirus pandemic, an economic slump and an energy crisis fuelled by the biggest land conflict in Europe since the Second World War. But political campaigning often focuses on issues of concern in individual countries rather than on broader European interests.

Sunday's voting marathon winds up a four-day election cycle that began in the Netherlands on Thursday.

An unofficial exit poll there suggested that Wilders' anti-migrant hard right party would make important gains in the Netherlands, even though a coalition of

pro-European parties has probably pushed it into second place.

Casting his vote in the Flanders reion, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency until the end of the month, warned that Europe is "at a crossroads" and "more under pressure than ever."

Since the last EU election in 2019, populist or far-right parties now lead governments in three nations - Hungary, Slovakia and Italy — and are part of ruling coalitions in others including Sweden, Finland and, soon, the Nether-Polls give the populists an lands. advantage in France, Belgium, Austria

and Italy. "Right is good," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who leads a stridently nationalist and anti-migrant government, told reporters after casting his ballot. "To go right is always good. Go right!'

After the election comes a period of horse-trading, as political parties reconsider in their places in the continentwide political alliances that run the European legislature.

The biggest political group — the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) — has moved right during the present elections on issues like security, climate and migration.

Among the most watched questions is whether the Brothers of Italy - the governing party of populist Meloni, which has neo-fascist roots — stays in the more hard-line European Conservatives and Reformists group or becomes part of a new hard right group that could form the wake of the elections. Meloni also has the option to work with the EPP.

A more worrying scenario for pro-European parties would be if the ECR joins forces with Le Pen's Identity and Democracy to consolidate hard-right influence.

The second biggest group - the centre-left Socialists and Democrats - and the Greens refuse to align themselves with the ECR.

Questions also remain over what

group Orban's ruling Fidesz party might join. It was previously part of the EPP but was forced out in 2021 due to conflicts over its interests and values.

The far-right Alternative for Germany was kicked out of the Identity and Democracy group following a string of scandals surrounding its two lead candidates for the European Parliament.

The election also ushers in a period of uncertainty as new leaders are chosen at the helm of the European institutions. While lawmakers are jostling over places in alliances, governments will be competing to secure top EU jobs for their national officials.

Chief among them is the presidency of the powerful executive branch, the European Commission, which proposes laws and watches to ensure they are respected. The commission also controls the EU's purse strings, manages trade and is Europe's competition watchdog.

Other plum posts are those of European Council president, who chairs summits of presidents and prime ministers, and EU foreign policy chief, the bloc's top diplomat.

Unofficial estimates are due to trickle in from 1615 GMT. Official results of the polls, which are held every five years, will be begin to be published after the last polling stations in the 27 EU nations close in Italy at 11 pm (2100 GMT), but a clear picture of what the new assembly might look like will only emerge clear on Monday. (AP)

Barbuda-flagged cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden on Sunday in a suspected attack by Houthi rebels in Yemen, authorities said. The missile hit the ship's forward station, starting a fire that those on board later put out, the private security firm Ambrey said. A second missile fired at the ship missed and people "on board small boats in the vicinity opened fire on the ship during the incident," Ambrey added, though no one was hurt onboard. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center similarly reported an attack late Saturday in the same area off

Aden, but provided no further details. Suspicion for the attack immediately fell on the Houthis. The rebels did not immediately claim the assault, though it can sometimes take hours or even days for them to acknowledge their attacks. The Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital nearly a decade ago and have been fighting a Saudi-led coalition since shortly after, have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. They say the attacks are aimed at stopping the war and supporting the Palestinians, though the attacks often target vessels that have nothing to do with the conflict.

The war in Gaza has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians there, while hundreds of others have been killed in Israeli operations in the West Bank. It began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage. The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, killed three sailors, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration. A U.S.-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say. (AP)

Imran Khan major hurdle in political reconciliation in Pakistan, says Nawaz Sharif



ISLAMABAD, June 9: Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has said his

successor Imran Khan was the main hurdle in political reconciliation in the country and underscored the ruling PML-N party's commitment to dialogue and not indulging in vengeance, according to media reports.

Sharif's remarks came during a meeting with party senators on Friday evening, where the issue of negotiations with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) party was extensively discussed.

Sharif, the President of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, said that Khan, also a former prime minister, himself was not displaying seriousness in the negotiation offers of friendship, indicating a pattern of reluctance to engage in constructive dialogue "I travelled to Bani Gala (Imran

Khan's house) myself. Our sincerity is considered our weakness," the former premier stressed. To underscore the importance of

dialogue despite political differences, Nawaz cited the example of his meeting with the late premier Benazir Bhutto, despite facing staunch opposition.

Since he did not believe in political vengeance, he and ex-premier Benazir Bhutto had signed the Charter of Democracy, the PML-N president added.

Sharif said he had no political vengeance or grudge against anyone, even those who had attempted to keep him out of power in the past.

"I am not the person who takes political revenge," Nawaz Sharif

said The PML-N president said that during Khan's tenure, he was threatened to get his prison cell's AC removed. However, he said he did not believe in political vengeance.

Body believed to be missing TV presenter Michael Mosley found on Greek island



ATHENS, June 9: Police said that a body believed to be that of missing British TV presenter Michael Mosley was found on a Greek island Sunday morning

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation, said the body was found on a rocky coast by a private boat and that formal identification was pending.

Mosley went missing on the island of Symi Wednesday afternoon after going for a walk.

Lefteris Papakalodoukas, the island's mayor, told The Associated Press he was on the boat with members of the media representatives when they saw a body some 20 metres above the Agia Marina beach a little after 10 am. "We zoomed with the cameras and saw it was him," he said.

The mayor said that the body appeared to have fallen down a steep slope, stopping against a fence and lying face-up with a few rocks on top of it. The body had a leather bag in one hand, said Antonis Mystiloglou, a cameraman with state TV ERT, who was also on the boat.

Mosley, 67, is well-known in Britain for his regular appearances on television and radio and his column in the Daily Mail newspaper. He is known outside the UK for his 2013 book "The Fast Diet," which he co-

authored with journalist Mimi Spencer.

Gaza's Health Ministry says 274 Palestinians were killed in Israeli raid that rescued 4 hostages

DEIR AL-BALAH, June 9: At least 274 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more were wounded in the Israeli raid that rescued four hostages held by Hamas, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday. The military said its forces came under heavy fire during the complex daytime operation deep inside the territory

The killing of so many Palestinians, including women and children, in an operation that Israelis celebrated as a stunning success because all four hostages were rescued alive, showed the heavy cost of such operations, on top of the already soaring toll of the eight-month-long war ignited by Hamas' October 7 attack.

Scores of hostages are believed to be held in densely populated areas or inside Hamas' labyrinth of tunnels, making such operations extremely complex and risky. A similar raid in February rescued two hostages while leaving 74 Palestinians dead.

The complex raid deep into Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, was the largest rescue operation since October 7, when Hamas and other militants stormed across the border, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage.

most widely recognised hostages after being taken, like the three others, from a music festival. The video of her abduction showed her seated between two men on a motorcycle as she screamed,

"Don't kill me!" Her mother, Liora, who has brain cancer, had released a video pleading to see her daughter. Israel's Channel 13 said Argamani was moved to the hospital where

her mother is treated. In Gaza, medics described scenes of horror and chaos as wounded people poured into nearby hospitals that were already struggling to treat the wounded from days of heavy Israeli strikes in the area.

"We had the gamut of war wounds, trauma wounds, from amputations to eviscerations to trauma, to TBIs (traumatic brain injuries), fractures, and obviously, big burns," said Karin Huster of Doctors Without Borders, an international charity working in the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, one of the facilities that received dead and wounded.

"Kids completely grey or white from the shock, burnt, screaming for their parents. Many of them are not screaming because they are in shock The Israeli military said it had attacked "threats to our forces in the area," and that a special forces officer was killed in the rescue

bourhood.

He said the military responded with heavy force, including from aircraft, to extract the rescuers and freed hostages. Israel's Foreign Minister Israel

Katz lashed out at critics of the operation in a post on X, saying "only Israel's enemies complained about the casualties of Hamas terrorists and their accomplices.

Of the 250 hostages abducted on October 7, about half were released in a weeklong cease-fire in November. About 120 hostages remain, with 43 pronounced dead. Survivors include about 15 women, two children under 5 and two men in their 80s.

Saturday's operation brought the total number of rescued hostages to seven, including one who was freed shortly after the October attack. Israeli troops have recovered the bodies of at least 16 others, according to the government. The latest rescue lifted some spirits in Israel as divisions deepened over the best way to bring hostages home. Many Israelis urge Netanyahu to embrace

process, which posed a significant challenge to fruitful discussions.

He questioned the feasibility of negotiations when one party involved was not committed to the process.

"How can one negotiate when he is not serious?" Nawaz responded to the party lawmakers. Sharif, 74, referenced past instances where Khan had rejected

In fact, the three-time prime minister said that he did not even think about it as Khan is serving his jail sentence now.

Khan has repeatedly said he would hold talks with the "real stakeholders" only.

Khan has accused the PML-N of stealing his party's mandate to form the government with the Pakistan Peoples Party. (PTI)

The book proposed the so-called "5:2 diet," which promised to help people lose weight quickly by minimising their calorie intake two days a week while eating healthily on the other five.

He subsequently introduced a rapid weight loss programme and has made a number of films about diet and exercise.

Mosley has often pushed his body to extreme lengths to see the effects of his diets and also lived with tapeworms in his guts for six weeks for the BBC documentary "Infested! Living With Parasites."

Mosley has four children with his wife Clare Bailey Mosley, who is also a doctor, author and health columnist. (AP)

ing children, and other aid via the

rael to reopen land routes that could

bring in all the needed aid. Israel

says it has allowed hundreds of

trucks to enter through a southern

checkpoint and pointed the finger at

the U.N. for not distributing aid. The

U.N. says it is often unable to re-

month if hostilities continue.

down the pier on May 17.

USD 320 million, but the Penta-

Britain and because the cost of

contracting trucks and other

equipment was less than expected.

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Relief agencies have pressed Is-

sea route.

situation

Israel launched a massive offensive in response that has killed over 36,700 Palestinians, according to the ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its counts.

It said nearly 700 people were wounded in Saturday's raid. The ministry did not say how many of the casualties were women and children, but Associated Press reporters saw several being treated at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the nearby town of Deir al-Balah in the aftermath of the raid. Israelis celebrated the return of

Noa Argamani, 26; Almog Meir Jan, 22; Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 41, after Israeli forces raided two locations at once while under fire.

Argamani had been one of the

operation. Israel's military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, told reporters Saturday that the hostages were being held in two apartments, about 200 metres (219 yards) away from each other, in the heart of the Nuseirat camp. He said the forces had trained repeatedly on a model of the apartment buildings.

Hagari said the forces moved in simultaneously in broad daylight on both apartments, believing this ensured the best element of surprise. But he said the rescuers came under heavy fire as they moved out, including from gunmen firing rocket-propelled grenades from within the neigh-

Ukraine says it struck one of

a cease-fire deal US President Joe Biden announced last month, but far-right allies threaten to collapse his government if he does.

Netanyahu, whose support has fallen, rushed to the hospital to greet the freed hostages and his office released a stream of photos and videos of him meeting the families. But thousands of Israelis again gathered Saturday evening for the latest anti-government demonstration and calls for a cease-fire agreement.

It was unclear what effect the rescue might have on apparently stalled cease-fire efforts.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return to the Middle East next week, seeking a breakthrough.

International pressure is mounting on Israel to limit civilian bloodshed in its war in Gaza. Palestinians also face widespread hunger because fighting and Israeli restrictions have largely cut off the flow of aid. (AP)

WASHINGTON, June 9: Badly needed aid has been delivered into Gaza from a newly repaired American-built pier, a U.S. official said Saturday, following problems that had plagued the effort to bring supplies to Palestinians by sea.

The pier constructed by the American military was only operational for about a week before it was blown apart in high winds and heavy seas on May 25. The damaged section was reconnected to the beach in Gaza on Friday after undergoing repairs at an Israeli port.

Crews delivered about 1.1 million pounds (492 metric tons) of humanitarian aid to Gaza via the pier on Saturday, the U.S. official said. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement of the delivery.

It came the same day that Israel mounted a heavy air and ground assault that rescued four hostages, who had been taken by Hamas during the October 7 assault that launched the war in Gaza. At least 210 Palestinians, including children, were killed, a Gaza health official said.

It brings back online one way to get desperately needed food and other emergency supplies to Palestinians trapped by the eight-monthold Israel-Hamas war. Israeli restrictions on land crossings, and fighting, have greatly limited the flow of food and other vital supplies into the territory.

The damage to the pier was the



Crews delivered about 1.1 million pounds (492 metric tons)

of humanitarian aid to Gaza via the pier on Saturday

Aid is delivered to Gaza from newly

repaired US-built pier: US official

latest stumbling block for the project and the persistent struggle to get food to starving Palestinians. Three U.S. service members were injured, one critically, and four vessels were

beached due to heavy seas. Early efforts to get aid from the pier into the Gaza Strip were disrupted as crowds overran a convoy of trucks that aid agencies were using to transport the food, stripping the cargo from many of them before they could reach a U.N. warehouse. Officials responded by altering the travel routes, and aid began reaching those in need.

Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, told reporters on Friday that the lessons learned from that initial week of operations made him confident greater amounts of aid could be delivered now.

gon officials said.

Development is working with the U.N. World Food Program and their humanitarian partners working in Gaza to distribute food, high-nutrition emergency treatment for starv-

Russia's most advanced warplanes trieve the aid because of the security **KYIV, June 9:** Ukraine on Sunday said its forces hit an U.N. agencies have warned that ultra-modern Russian warplane stationed on an air base over 1 million Palestinians in Gaza nearly 600 kilometers (370 miles) from the front lines, could experience the highest level of starvation by the middle of next after its Western allies allowed Kyiv to use their weapons

for limited strikes inside Russia. Kyiv's main military intelligence service shared satellite photos it said showed the aftermath of the attack. If confirmed, it would mark Ukraine's first known successful strike on a Su-57 fighter plane, a twin-engine stealth fighter lauded as Moscow's most advanced military air-Biden, a Democrat, announced craft. In one photo, black soot marks and small craters can his plan for the U.S. military to be seen dotting a concrete strip around the parked aircraft. According to the Main Intelligence Directorate of build a pier during his State of the Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, the strike took place on Union address in early March, and Saturday at the Akhtubinsk base in southern Russia, some the military said it would take about 60 days to get it installed and oper-589 kilometers (366 miles) from the front line.

It wasn't immediately clear what weapons were used, ational. It took a bit longer than but the airfield's distance from Ukraine suggests that it planned, with the first trucks carrying aid for the Gaza Strip rolling was likely hit by drones.

The strike comes after the United States and Germany The initial cost was estimated at recently authorized Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv. Ukraine has already used U.S. weapons to strike ingon said this past week that the price had dropped to USD 230 side Russia under newly approved guidance from Presimillion, due to contributions from dent Joe Biden that allows American arms to be used for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

The Ukrainian agency said that the plane, which is capable of carrying stealth missiles across hundreds of kilometers (miles), was among "a countable few" of its type in Moscow's arsenal. According to reports by Russian agencies, Moscow's armed forces obtained "more than 10" new Su-57s last year, while 76 are set to be produced by 2028. Moscow did not immediately comment on the reports. Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday claimed its forces downed three Ukrainian drones in the Astrakhan region, home to the Akhtubinsk airstrip.

Since Moscow's full-scale invasion more than two years ago, Kyiv has ramped up domestic drone production and used the drones to strike deep inside Russia, including a gas terminal near St. Petersburg that lies over 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) north of the Ukrainian border.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian forces kept up drone attacks on Russia's southern border regions, according to local Russian officials.

Three drones hit Belgorod province late on Saturday, damaging a power line and blowing out windows but causing no casualties, said Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov. The Russian Defense Ministry said another drone was shot down over the nearby Bryansk region.

Across Ukraine's front-line provinces, Russian shelling killed at least three civilians and wounded at least nine others on Saturday and overnight, according to reports by regional officials. A man died and two women suffered wounds in the village of Khotimla in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, where shelling damaged the local school, a council building and a shop, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. (AP)

President Joe Biden's administration has said from the start that the pier wasn't meant to be a total solution and that any amount of aid helps

(AP)

He said the goal was to get to 1

million pounds (500 tons or 450 metric tons) of food and other supplies moving through the pier into Gaza every two days. Before the causeway broke apart in the storm, more than 1,100 tons (1,000 metric tons) of aid were delivered, Penta-

The U.S. Agency for International

NORTHEAST

Tripura: Three

Rijiju takes oath as cabinet minister in 3rd Modi government

Honour to serve Modi ministry as a tribal, minority: Kiren Rijiju

Rijiju, who continues as a min-

NEW DELHI, June 9: Kiren Rijiju, who took oath as a cabinet minister in the third Narendra Modi government on Sunday, said he will continue to work with all sincerity and dedication to fulfill the Prime Minister's dream of a developed India

Ex-PM Rajiv Gandhi's statue found vandalised in Tripura

AGARTALA, June 9: A statue of former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi was found vandalised in Tripura's Unakoti district, a Congress MLA said on Sunday.

Congress legislator Birajit Sinha alleged that BJP-backed goons were behind the vandalisation of the three-foot statue of Gandhi, which was laid on a concrete structure in Kailashahar subdivision's Govidapur area in 2009 as a mark to pay respect to the former PM.

The statue of ex-Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was found vandalised on Sunday morning. I suspect that the statue was vandalised by a few BJP-backed goons,' Sinha told reporters.

The legislator demanded the arrest of those involved in the vandalisation of the statue.

serve as a minister under Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the third time," he told PTI.

Rijiju said as a tribal and a member of the minority Buddhist community and hailing from a remote state, Arunachal Pradesh, he is immensely happy to serve the people of the country.

"I will do my best with all sincerity and dedication to fulfill the dream of the prime minister for a Viksit Bharat (developed India), he said. Earlier, in a post on X, Rijiju

said he would take oath as cabinet minister in the Modi government and vowed to serve the nation with zeal and devotion. "I will take oath as cabinet min-

ister around 7.30 pm on 9th June 2024," said Rijiju, the earth sciences minister in the outgoing government

Rijiju said he had taken oath as a minister of state in 2014, minister of state with independent charge in 2019, and as a cabinet minister in 2021.

"Thank you Arunachal Pradesh, @narendramodi ji, @BJP4India and people of India. I will serve the nation with greater zeal and devotion," he said.

Rijiju won a fourth term from the Arunachal West Lok Sabha seat in the recent general elections.

"It is a privilege and honour to

ister for the third consecutive time

-- first as a minister of state and

then a cabinet minister -- said he is

thankful to the Prime Minister for

giving him the opportunity to serve

in his ministry.



sons died in Tripura's Sepahijala district after they inhaled poisonous gas that emanated from a well while cleaning it, police said on Sunday The incident took place on Ne-

oramura J B School premises on Saturday morning, when villagers in Sonamura took a call to clean the well due to water scarcity in the area, they said.

"At first, one labourer had gone down to clean the well, but when he did not respond, two others also went inside it... Later, they were found motionless in the well," SDPO (Sonamura) Sashi Mohan Debbarma said.

A rescue team rushed to the spot and took the three labourers to hospital, where they were declared brought-dead, he said.

"It appears that they died of suffocation inside the well, which was full of poisonous gas. The actual cause will be ascertained after the post-mortem examination,' the SDPO said. (PTI)

Manipur: Situation 'tense' but 'under die after inhaling control' in violence-hit Jiribam toxic gas while cleaning well

Over 70 houses set ablaze in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages

Meanwhile, an irate mob

stopped a truck at Sorok Atingbi

Khunou late on Saturday and re-

portedly torched essential com-

modities it was carrying, a police

state police commandos was air-

lifted from Imphal to Jiribam to as-

sist security personnel in their

operations against militants, he

Around 239 Meitei people,

mostly women and children, have

been evacuated from peripheral

areas of Jiribam on Friday, and

moved to a newly set up relief

camp at a multi-sports complex in

transferred Jiribam SP A

Ghanashyam Sharma to the post of

additional director of the Manipur

Police Training College, according

to an order issued by the Depart-

ment of Personnel and Administra-

The state government has also

the district, officials added.

A contingent of more than 70

officer said.

said.

IMPHAL, June 9: The situation in Manipur's Jiribam district remained "tense" but "under control" on Sunday, after suspected militants torched two police outposts and at least 70 houses in a fresh bout of violence in the state, police said.

Additional security forces have been deployed in the affected areas following the incident on Saturday, they said.

"The situation is tense but under control in the wake of violent disturbances that broke out in Jiribam district in which miscreants torched two police pickets, a forest beat office... and several houses belonging to both Meitei and Kuki communities," the Manipur Police said in a statement.

More than 70 houses were set on fire in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages, a senior police officer said.

"Police is also actively monitoring social media updates, which may incite communal feelings amongst the communities and requests general public to refrain from spreading unfounded/unverified information," it said.

Violence broke out in Jiribam in the ethnic strife-torn state on Thursday evening, after suspected militants killed a 59-year-old man.

The person, identified as Soibam Saratkumar Singh, went missing after he had gone to his farm on June 6 and later, his body was found with wounds made by a



sharp object, an official had said. tive Reforms.

The transfer order was issued hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra, and the Goakhal forest beat office were set afire on Saturday morning, they said. Reacting to the incidents of fresh violence, newly elected Congress MP from the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat, Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, urged the Manipur government to protect the lives and properties of the people of Jiribam. Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition of Meiteis, Mus-Nagas, Kukis and lims, non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife that has been raging in the

The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people, and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

northeastern state since May last

NIA makes first arrest in January killing of 4 civilians in Manipur

NEW DELHI, June 9: The NIA has arrested a militant currently lodged in an Assam jail for his alleged involvement in the killing of four civilians in Manipur's Bishnupur district earlier this year, the probe agency said in a statement on Sunday.

Lunminsei Kipgen alias Langinmang alias Mang alias Levi, a resident of Manipur, was arrested on Saturday by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Central Jail, Lokhra, in Guwahati under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act, it said.

He is the first accused to be arrested for the gruesome killings on January 18, when armed assailants brutally murdered four civilians near the water treatment plant at Ningthoukhong Kha Khunou,



"The NIA on Saturday arrested one person, currently in Guwahati jail in another case, in connection with the killing of four civilians in Manipur's Bishnupur district," it added.

The assailants had opened indiscriminate fire from sophisticated weapons, leading to the civilians' deaths, the probe agency said.

the investigation that Lunminsei Kipgen was actively involved in the attack, which was part of the ongoing ethnic unrest and violence in the northeastern state.

Previously a cadre of the Kuki militant outfit KNF(P), he joined another Kuki militant organisation -- the United Kuki National Army during the current spate of vio-

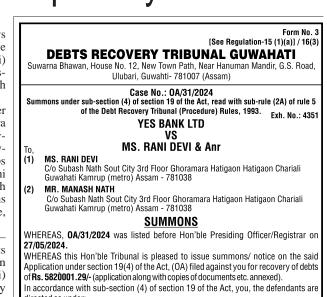
Mitali Express between India -Bangladesh temporarily cancelled

<u>HT Bureau</u>

GUWAHATI, June 9: The Indian Railways has decided to cancel the services of the (New Jalpaiguri - Dhaka - New Jalpaiguri) Mitali Express due to celebration of Eid festival in consultation with the Bangladesh Railwav

On the other hand, the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) has decided to clear extra rush of passengers by continuing the services of two pairs of special trains, the (Mysuru - Muzaffarpur - Mysuru) for two trips each. The (Rani Kamlapati-Agartala - Rani Kamlapati) will run for twenty-six trips each in both directions respectively. These trains will run with the existing days of service, timings and stoppages.

Accordingly, the (New Jalpaiguri Dhaka) Mitali Express commencing on its journey on June 12, 16 and 19 will remain cancelled. The (Dhaka – New Jalpaiguri) Mitali Express commencing on its journey



Sinha also claimed that some miscreants vandalised a CPI(M) party office in Srirampur in the Kailashahar Police Station area soon after the announcement of the Lok Sabha election results.

A statue of Himadri Deb, a renowned cultural activist, was damaged by miscreants on Friday in Kagirgaon under the Kailashahar Police Station limits.

"These are cowardly acts. I vehemently condemned such acts," he added. (PTI)

Village head shot dead, **Business Owners Association** calls shutdown

HT Correspondent DIMAPUR, June 9: The gaon burha or village chief of New Market area in Dimapur has been shot dead by unidentified assailants.

The gunmen, who reportedly came in a car, fired three to four shots at Abdul Kayum Talukdar's chest at an ATM booth in Signal Basti Shaam Bazaar area in Dimapur on June 7. He was rushed to a private hospital immediately where he was declared brought dead.

Police said a combing operation has been launched to nab the culprits. No arrest has been made till the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, no group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Business Owners Association of New Market called an indefinite shutdown of the market from Saturday, demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for the murder of Talukdar (60).

Local MLA and adviser to labour, employment and skill development and excise, Moatoshi Longkumer and the Muslim Council Dimapur condemned the killing.

Condemning the killing, Longkumer on Saturday said such heinous murder and barbaric acts of violence disrupt the value of peace and harmony and also threaten the very fabric of the so-

ciety. "We must stand together against such brutality and work together to create a safe society for all," he said.

The NIA, which had registered lence and participated in the Bishnupur, the NIA statement said. a case on February 9, found during killings, it added. (PTI)

on June 13, 17 and 20 will remain cancelled.

Consultative meeting on substance abuse held in M'laya

Meeting held as part of Drug Reduction Elimination and Action Mission (DREAM) launched by the state govt in June, 2023

<u>HT Bureau</u> GUWAHATI, June 9: A high level

consultative meeting on substance abuse took place at the State Convention Centre in Shillong.

MLAs, members of district councils (MDCs) and representatives from 76 Dorbar Shnongs across the Greater Shillong area participated in the consultative meeting held recently.

The state social welfare department, in collaboration with the home (police) department and the deputy commissioner of East Khasi Hills District organised this meeting as part of the Drug Reduction Elimination and Action Mission (DREAM) launched in June 2023.

DREAM is a targeted mission to build a 'Drug Free Meghalaya' through a multifaceted coordinated strategy that leverages the combined efforts of the state and local communities to eliminate the incidence of substance use in the state.

Recognizing that drug use is a social problem that cannot be handled by a single entity, the primary objective of this consultative meeting was to foster a collaborative approach to tackle the problem of substance abuse. The meeting emphasized the necessity for distributed leadership and collective action at various levels. The focus was not only on regulatory measures, but also on developing comprehensive strategies to prevent young people from initiating substance use. In line with this vision, communities have been requested to set up additional rehabilitation centers that will be supported under DREAM.

State social welfare minister Paul Lyngdoh remarked that it has become evident through a series of meetings that there is a pressing need to revisit and reorganise the village defence parties (VDPs), especially considering that the number of registered



NUCTION ELIMINATION & ACTION MISSION

communities is only 11. The Minister announced that within the next two weeks, further meetings will be held with various other stakeholders, including faith institutions and schools focusing on providing sensitive support provisions.

An interactive session also took place where concerns from the dorbars were voiced, and queries were raised. A notable recommendation came from M. Kharkrang, headman of Durbar Shnong Ratsanthia regarding the need for stricter enforcement measures as he drew from previous experiences in combating illicit liquor smuggling, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. Another suggestion involved improving witness cooperation by fostering closer collaboration between the police department and local communities which is critical to achieve successful prosecution.

Sampath Kumar, principal secretary and development commissioner of the state social welfare department, emphasised the importance of an empathetic and sensitive approach to help individuals reintegrate back into society. He highlighted that many individuals struggling with

substance abuse can recover with the right support and that it is crucial not to stigmatize them, but to provide the necessary assistance for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. As part of the lifecycle approach, he stressed that early childhood, partic-

ularly from zero to eight years, is a critical stage where investing time and guidance ensures that children do well later in life. Whereas, during adolescence, substantial support is required and focusing on youth and adulthood is as essential to tackling the root of substance abuse issues in the state.

During the meeting, it was also highlighted that communities will take the initiative to set up VDPs in their respective localities, with guidance and training provided by the DREAM Mission. There was a strong request for additional rehabilitation centers in communities, similar to the initiative undertaken by the Mawlai town dorbar that will be supported by the DREAM Mission. The state government will introduce revised VDP rules to ensure more ownership and responsibility within the community, aimed at facilitating greater community involvement and empowerment.

Vivek Syiem, special superintendent of police (CID), delivered an insightful perspectives on the role of VDPs in combating drug-related issues. He emphasized the collaborative efforts between VDPs and law enforcement agencies, shedding light on the region's drug-related challenges. His presentation delved into the surge in drug cases since 2018, with a focus on increased seizures and the hurdles posed by new psychoactive substances. Furthermore, it underscored VDPs' role as frontline responders in emergencies, stressing their significance in crime prevention and public safety.

Bethabara Decruse, project director of the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, presented data indicating that the HIV prevalence in Meghalava is 0.39%, surpassing the national average of 0.2%.

The consultative meeting was attended by several dignitaries, including State Social Welfare Minister Paul Lyngdoh, Sampath Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary & Development Commissioner of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, Israel W. Ingty, IAS, Secretary of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, Vivek Syiem, IPS Special Superintendent of Police (CID) in Shillong, Meghalaya, as well as representatives from Madanryting Village Defence Parties, along with various MLAs and MDCs, and the Dorbar Shnongs of the Greater Shillong area. Among the MDCs present were Mr. Latiplang Kharkongor, representing Nongthymmai Constituency, Mr. Pynshngainlang Syiem, representing Mawkhar-Pynthorumkhrah Constituency, and Teiborlang Pathaw, representing Mawlai Constituency. In addition, the meeting was attended by Brightstarwell Marbaniang MLA, Adelbert Nongrum MLA, and Sanbor Shullai MLA.

rected as under: i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons **Publication** there of as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and asset specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application: i) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such oth assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordina course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is create and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal: You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secure assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. 'ou are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to th applicant and to appear before Registrar on 28/06/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing whic he application shall be heard and decided in your absence Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 30/05/2024. Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summer Registrar Seal **Debts Recovery Tribun** Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable Guwahati Form No. [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)] / 16(3 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL GUWAHATI warna Bhawan, House No. 12, New Town Path, Near Hanuman Mandir, G.S. Road Ulubari, Guwahti- 781007 (Assam) Case No.: UA/131/2U24 Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No.: 435 Case No.: 0A/131/2024 YES BANK LTD MD ALAL UDDIN & Anr (1) ALAL UDDIN S/o Asmat Ali R/o Chenimari Bill Chitalmari Beel Rupahi Nagaon Juria - 782124 MANOWARA KHATUN W/o Alal Uddin R/o Chenimari Bill Chitalmari Beel Rupahi Nagaon Juria - 782124 SUMMONS WHEREAS. 0A/131/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar c 27/05/2024 VHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the sa Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debt of **Rs.4726327.01/-** (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). n accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants a rected as under:i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons Publication there of as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and asset specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application: ii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original applicatio pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties y) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordina course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is create and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal: You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secure assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and



Lok Sabha to get LoP after 10 years

Opposition hopes deputy speaker gets elected

NEW DELHI, June 9: With the INDIA bloc parties' numbers increasing in the 18th Lok Sabha, the lower house is set to get a leader of the opposition (LoP) after ten years, and opposition leaders also hope that a deputy speaker will be elected soon, a post that had been vacant for the last five years.

The 17th Lok Sabha, which was dissolved on June 5, did not have a deputy speaker for its full term, and it was the second consecutive term of the lower house without an LoP. All eves are set at the lower house which will get an LoP, and is also expected to have a deputy speaker, a post which usually goes to the opposition ranks.

While the INDIA bloc has not yet held any coordination meeting on its strategy for the Parliament, an opposition leader said they will mount pressure that the deputy speaker's post is not left vacant this time.

"The BJP government has been rejected by people, they did not elect any deputy speaker in last five years... Hope they have learnt a lesson and will elect a deputy speaker this time," a TMC leader said.

The 17th Lok Sabha, in which the BJP was in an absolute majority with 303 seats, elected Om Birla as the Speaker. In a first, no deputy speaker was elected through its term of five years.

As per Article 93 of the Constitution, the Lok Sabha shall, as soon as may be, choose two members to be speaker and deputy speaker so often as the offices become vacant. However, it does not provide a specific time frame.

"The office of the deputy speaker is a constitutional requirement. However, a troubling trend is that legislatures, both national and state, have not filled the office of the deputy speaker. For example, between 2019 and 2024, there was no deputy speaker in the Parliament. The last Rajasthan Assembly also did not have a deputy speaker for its full five-year term," Chakshu Roy, who heads the legislative and civic engagement initiatives at PRS Legislative Research, told PTI.

"Currently, the Jharkhand legislature, whose term is scheduled to end later this year, does not have a deputy speaker," he said.

"Other than the constitutional requirement, the office of the deputy speaker by convention in the past on multiple occasions has gone to opposition parties. This convention not only strengthens democratic norms but also ensures continuity of the office of speaker, which can never remain vacant," he said.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, M Thambidurai of the AIADMK was elected LoP. (PTI)

as Deputy Speaker, 70 days after the election results.

Before this, the longest that the lower house had no deputy speaker was in the 12th Lok Sabha, when the House functioned for 269 days without one since election, data compiled by the PRS shows. The tenure of the 12th Lok Sabha, led by BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee lasted only for 13 months, from 10 March 1998 to 26

April 1999. While GMC Balayogi was elected the Speaker in the 12th Lok Sabha in March 1998, P M Sayeed of the Congress was elected the deputy speaker only in December that year. In the ninth Lok Sabha, the term of which started on 2 December 1989, Rabi Ray was elected the Speaker in December 1989, while Shivraj Patil became the Deputy

Speaker in March 1991. The 18th Lok Sabha will also have an LoP for the first time in ten years. In the previous two Lok Sabhas, the largest opposition party Congress could not get the post as it did not have the requisite numbers, which is one-tenth of the strength of the House.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, the Congress had 44 MPs, while in the 17th Lok Sabha it had 55.

"Legislative functioning depends not only on the written rules of procedure but also on precedent and convention. The position of the leader of opposition is a critical one in our legislatures," Roy told PTI.

"Their responsibility is to ensure that the voice of the opposition is effectively conveyed in legislative functioning. The position gives and recognises the opposition has a vital voice contributing to the debate. It is in recognition of this that laws have been made to give the LoP more status and also a position in selection committees of key offices," he said. The post of LoP was not recog-

nised till 1969, when Ram Subhag Singh became the first recognised LoP of the Lok Sabha.

The post received statutory recognition through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 which defines the term 'Leader of the Opposition' as that member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha who, for the time being, is the leader of that House of the party in opposition to the government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the speaker of the Lok Sabha.

This time, the leader of Congress, which is the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha with 99 MPs, will be recognised as the

Pandian quits active politics after BJD's defeat in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, June 9: Exactly six months and 13 days after joining politics, former bureaucrat V K Pandian on Sunday announced his withdrawal from active politics and said he would keep Odisha in the core of his heart and Guru Naveen Babu in his breath. In a video message, Pandian

said his only intention to join politics was to assist Naveen Patnaik, which is why he did not contest in the 2024 elections.

He also apologised to the people and BJD leaders and workers if they held him responsible for the electoral loss.

"My intent in joining politics was only to assist Naveen Babu, and now I consciously decide to withdraw from active politics. I am sorry if I have hurt anyone on this journey. I am sorry if this campaign narrative against me played a part in BJD's loss," Pandian said. During the campaign, Pandian had asserted that he would quit politics if party president Patnaik did not become the chief minister of Odisha for the sixth consecutive

time after the assembly elections. "You (BJP) say there is a BJP wave and a wave for change in Odisha, but I strongly say if the chief minister (Patnaik) does not become CM again, I will take 'sanyas' from politics," Pandian had declared at a rally in Brajrajnagar, Jharsuguda district.

successor.'



Defending his close aide, BJD dian expressed his apologies to the president Naveen Patnaik on Satentire Biju Parivar, including all urday termed the ongoing critithe workers, and conveyed his cisms against Pandian as heartfelt gratitude to the lakhs of "unfortunate" and praised him for BJD members with whom he was doing an "excellent job." associated Patnaik also clarified that Pan-

"I will always keep Odisha in dian was not his successor. "There the core of my heart and my Guru gannath made possible.

He also explained that he came

has been some criticism of Pan-Naveen Babu in my breath and pray to Lord Jagannath for their well-being and prosperity," Pandian said. Reflecting on his background, Pandian mentioned that he

to Odisha because his wife is from Kendrapara. "From the day I set foot on the soil of Odisha, I have received immense love and affection from the people... from Dharamgarh to Rourkela to Mayurbhanj to Ganjam. I have tried to work very hard for the peo-

ple," he recalled. Speaking about his entry into the power corridor, Pandian noted that 12 years ago, he joined the chief minister's office (CMO). "It was an honour to work for Naveen Patnaik. The experience and learning I had from him are for a lifetime. His grace, leadership, ethics, and above all, his love for the people of Odisha always inspired me," the former IAS officer said.

Pandian mentioned that Patnaik's expectations from him were to implement his vision for Odisha, which led to successes in health, education, poverty reduction, sports, investment, women empowerment, infrastructure, and

temple and heritage projects. "Working for the youth, school, and college children gave me great satisfaction," Pandian said, adding that his own childhood memories of studying in a government school helped him implement the chief minister's vision for school transformation under 5T.

Recalling his efforts during the Covid pandemic, Pandian mentioned how he traveled to almost 30 districts to ensure that the health

infrastructure was ready to serve the people.

"During this time, we faced two cyclones, and we worked very hard to save every precious life," he said.

"I left the IAS, taking voluntary retirement, and joined the BJD to assist my mentor, Naveen Patnaik. My only intent was to help him, as anyone would do for their mentor or family. I would like to set straight certain perceptions and narratives," he stated.

Pandian admitted that it might have been his shortcomings that he was not able to effectively counter some of the political narratives at the right time.

"I reiterate that I came into politics to help my mentor, Naveen Patnaik, ahead of the elections, and I had no desire whatsoever for a political post. Therefore, I was neither a candidate nor holding any post in the BJD," he said.

Pandian also emphasised, "Till today, the only property I have is what I inherited from my grandparents. I or my immediate family have no other property anywhere in the world. My property statement when I joined the Indian Administrative Service remains the same as it is today after 24 years.

Expressing satisfaction, he concluded by saying that the biggest earning in his lifetime has been the love, affection, and goodwill of Odisha. (PTI)





BENGALURU, June 9: JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given him an opportunity to serve as a Minister in the new Cabinet that will be sworn-in this evening, and credited the people of Kannada Naadu" for it.

While maintaining that he has not placed a demand for any portfolio, the former Chief Minister reiterated his desire to be the

ister (Amit Shah) and Defence

Minister (Rajnath Singh). They

have identified me and given me

an opportunity. The entire credit

for this has to go to people of Kan-

nada Naadu in my opinion," Ku-

Addressing reporters in New

Delhi, he said his intention was to

serve the people of the country and

the state honestly, using the oppor-

"To implement Narendra Modi's

vision I want to work honestly and

thereby bring a good name to him

The son of JD(S) patriarch H D

and to our state. This is my re-

Deve Gowda has made no secret of

his desire to become the Agricul-

ture Minister, and has repeatedly

expressed it before and after the

By winning the Mandya Lok

Sabha seat, the former CM has not

only managed to regain the JD(S)'

lost bastion, but has also success-

fully managed to retrieve his

maraswamy said.

tunity

solve."

polls.

party's lost political relevance in Karnataka, by allying with the BJP. Kumaraswamy defeated Venkataramane Gowda (also known as Star Chandru) of the Congress by a margin of 2,84,620

Noting that he has left it to the PM to decide and has made no demand for any portfolio, Kumaraswamy while replying to a question, said, "If I get it, I will be

BHUBANESWAR, June 9: The swearing-in ceremony for the first BJP government in Odisha has been rescheduled from June 10 to June 12, party leaders Jatin Mohanty and Vijaypal Singh Tomar confirmed here on Sunday. Mohanty explained that the postponement was due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitments.

Modi will be busy with his own swearing-in ceremony on Sunday and meeting party MPs the following day. Additionally, the first legislature party meeting of the newly elected members is now set for June 11.

During the election campaign, Modi had said Odisha's

first BJP government would be sworn in on June 10. BJP state president Manmohan Samal had also confirmed this on Saturday. However, the decision to change the date

Meanwhile, suspense still remains over the new chief minister. Senior BJP leader and newly elected MLA Suresh Pujari rushed to New Delhi, triggering speculation that he may be among the main contenders for the

top post, sources said. Pujari, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bargarh in the 2019 polls, won the recent election from Braarajnagar assembly constituency. His supporters believe he was called to New Delhi for discussions with central leaders. While the BJP central leadership is yet to zero in on any leader for the CM post, Odisha party unit president Manmohan Samal on Saturday told reporters to wait for two more days for a clear picture to emerge.

After returning from New Delhi. Samal said the parliamentary board of BJP would take a decision on the chief minister at its meeting.

The BJP secured a comfortable majority in the 147member Assembly, winning 78 seats. The party went to the elections under the leadership of Modi without naming a chief ministerial candidate.

Meanwhile, preparations are on to organise the oath-taking ceremony at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. (PTI)

was taken on Sunday, party sources said.

small village, and his childhood dream was to join the IAS and people of Odisha will decide my serve the people, which Lord Ja-

Announcing his decision, Pan-

dian. This is unfortunate. He joined the party and has not held any post. He did not contest the elections from any constituency. I have always clearly said when asked came from a humble family and a about my successor that it is not Pandian. I repeat again that the

Will new FM support global effort for 'billionaire' tax': Congress asks ahead of swearing-in

NEW DELHI, June 9: Will India's new finance minister support the global effort for a "billionaire tax" and will the prime minister stand with the common people or billionaires, the Congress asked on Sunday, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of a new government.

Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi will on Sunday take oath for a third consecutive term as prime minister, along with members of his council. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at the BJP-led government and asked if it has taken "too many tempos of black money" to take such a progressive step.

"This year, the one-third Pradhan Mantri has a chance to show whether it stands with the common people, or asked. with billionaires. At the G20 in Brazil, a proposal to set a Global Minimum Tax on billionaires will be

discussed, backed

by finance minis-

ters of Brazil,

South Africa, and

Congress general

secretary said in a

"Will India's

France,

Germany,"

post on X.

Spain,

the

next finance minister support the global effort for a 'billionaire tax'? Or have they taken too many tempos of black money to take any such progressive step?" he

Ramesh claimed that all around the world, billionaires manage to pay lower taxes than working people

through legal loopholes, offshore wealth, shell companies, or other schemes. To ensure that they pay their fair share, a proposal for a Global Minimum Tax on bil-

lionaires will be discussed at the G20 under Brazil's claimed.

crores" globally each year, providing critical funding for sectors such as health care, education, housing, and climate change, he noted.

"Note also that Brazil has taken over the rotational G20 presidency without any drama, and used it not for some philosophical mumbojumbo but to advance meaningful policy," Ramesh said.

"In contrast, 'Photo-Jeevi' Narendra Modi spent the entire presidency plastering every hoarding, school, and petrol pump in India with his face, to portray the G20 presidency as some kind of foreign-policy achievement. India's turn was predestined and inevitable," the Congress leader added in his post. (PTI)

Alliance': Cong's swipe ahead of swearing-in after discussion with BJP national President (JP Nadda), Home Min-

NEW DELHI, June 9: Taking a swipe at Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi, the Congress on Sunday said he will get himself sworn-in this evening as "the leader of the Narendra Destructive Alliance (NDA)" even though he lacks all legitimacy.

'Narendra Destructive

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Remember May 28th, 2023? It was the day that Narendra Modi walked into the new Parliament building with the Sengol for which a August 15th 1947 history was fabricated 'to not only justify Modi's pretensions of being Samrat but also to appeal to the Tamil electorate."

"That day itself, I had exposed Modi's fakery using archival material." he said.

"We now know the outcome of that drama. The Sengol remains a respected symbol of Tamil history but the Tamil electorate and indeed India's electorate has rejected Mr. Modi's pretensions," Ramesh said. (PTI)

Agriculture Minister happy, because I've been inter 'Under Narendra Modi's leaderested in Agriculture since beginship a decision has been made,

ning." "The Prime Minister has reposed faith in me, he has respect towards my father. I'm not interested in making money. Under Modi's leadership, I want to stay among people. I want to connect with people to resolve their issues. if I get such a portfolio, it will help me to serve as a Minister better, he said.

Kumaraswamy asserted that JD(S) performance in the Lok Sabha polls and his win is a "revival" for the party.

"Narendra Modi's leadership and Kannadigas have given me and my party a revival. Kannadiga's have accepted the BJP-JD(S) alliance and have given me the strength. I thank the people of the state, especially voters of Mandya and Bangalore Rural segments," he said.

Citing health reasons for his father Deve Gowda's inability to travel to Delhi, Kumaraswamy said if he is able to successfully work and stay good to the faith that the people have reposed in him, he will be "happy". (PTI)

presidency in November 2024, he Such a tax would raise "21 lakh 7 leaders from India's neighbourhood, Indian

Ocean region attend Modi's oath ceremony

NEW DELHI, June 9: Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday graced the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union council of ministers.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Sevchelles Ahmed Afif also attended the glittering event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Modi took the oath for the third straight term, days after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance secured 293 seats out of 543 in the Lok Sabha polls.

Along with Modi, senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar were sworn in as cabinet ministers, indicating the Prime Minister's emphasis on continuity and experience as they held senior positions in his second term.

Party president J P Nadda returned to the cabinet after five years, while former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and ex-Harvana CM Manohar Lal Khattar were among the fresh faces in the Modi cabinet.

BJP leaders Piyush Goyal, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav, who were earlier in the Rajya Sabha but have now been



elected to the Lok Sabha, were among those retained as ministers.

The foreign leaders were sitting in the front row at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

While Hasina and Afif reached Delhi on Saturday, Muizzu, Prachanda, Wickremesinghe, Jugnauth and Tobgay arrived on Sunday.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the leaders of the seven countries were invited to the ceremony in keeping with the highest priority accorded by India to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and 'SAGAR' vision.

India has been cooperating with the countries of the Indian Ocean region under the broader policy framework of SAGAR or Security and Growth for all in the Region.

The leaders of regional grouping SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries attended Modi's first swearing cer-

emony when he took the reins as the prime minister after a massive electoral victory for BJP in 2014.

Leaders of the BIMSTEC countries attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony, in 2019 when he became prime minister for the second consecutive term.

Besides India, the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises Sri Lanka. Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

Among the foreign leaders, the decision to invite Muizzu assumed significance as it came against the backdrop of the strained ties between India and the Maldives.

It is Muizzu's first visit to India after he became the island nation's president on November 17 last year

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office.

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

Modi is likely to hold separate bilateral meetings with the foreign leaders.

Though the BJP could not get a majority on its own in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the party-led alliance secured 293 seats. The majority mark in the lower house is 272. (PTI)

Deve Gowda slams Cong's 'arrogance', backs Modi govt

NEW DELHI, June 9: In a scathing attack on the Congress, Janata Dal (Secular) chief H D Deve Gowda on Sunday slammed the opposition party for its "arrogance and negativity" while extending his party's full support to the new NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gowda's remarks came as he

thanked PM Modi for offering a Cabinet position to the JD(S), assuring that his party's minister will serve the coalition with "total commitment".

His son and former Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy will make a debut in national politics and take oath as part of PM Modi's new Council of Ministers. In a strongly worded letter, the former prime minister congratu-

lated PM Modi on his "historic" third consecutive term, attributing



the poll victory to "the almighty's extraordinary blessing" on the prime minister.

Gowda expressed confidence that PM Modi will continue to serve the nation with the same dedication as the past decade.

"It is a truly historic occasion. As I have said many times in the past, this is the result of his almighty's extraordinary blessing on you. I have no doubt that you

will continue to be showered with the lord's blessing, and will continue to serve our great nation with absolute dedication that we have all become familiar with for a decade," Gowda wrote.

Dismissing the Congress' claims of an improved performance, Gowda argued that the party had floundered in states under its rule like Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh. He suggested the party's relative success elsewhere was due to their allies, questioning how long such tie-ups will last.

Regretting his inability to attend the swearing-in ceremony due to health issues, Gowda thanked PM Modi for the invitation. He said the JD(S), as an NDA member, looked forward to working with the Modi government on its 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' agenda of inclusive development. (PTI)

5'

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

NATION

Canada's intelligence chief made unannounced visits to India twice this year RCMP.

NEW DELHI, June 9: Canada's intelligence agency chief David Vigneault paid two quiet visits to India in February and March to apprise Indian officials of the case relating to the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, people familiar with the matter said. Vigneault, the director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), is learnt to have shared information that emerged during Ottawa's investigation into the killing

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd".

Vigneault's unannounced visits to India came weeks before Canada arrested three Indian nationals -- Karanpreet Singh (28), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and Karan Brar (22)-- on charges of alleged involvement in Nijjar's killing. Subsequently, a fourth Indian,

Amandeep Singh, was arrested by the Canadian authorities.

Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead out-



side a gurdwara in British Columbia in Surrey on June 18 last year. through multiple channels," he The murder is being probed by said

the Royal Canadian Mounted Po-"This has also been noted by Prime Minister Trudeau and lice (RCMP).

A government of Canada offi-Canada's minister for public cial said: "We can confirm that the safety on the public record," he Director of CSIS, David Viadded. The official said, "Canada's prigneault, has travelled to India but we do not comment on the nature orities from the start have been to or substance of closed-door meetensure truth and accountability. This is in both our countries' inings. terest. In this regard, Canada con-

"With that said, since Canada became aware of the credible allegations, we have consistently provided all the information we can There was no comment from

the Indian side when asked about Vigneault's visits. The people cited above said be-

sides Vigneault, some other Canadian officials also visited India this year apparently to discuss various aspects of the case related to Nijjar's murder.

India has officially been maintaining that it has not received any specific information relating to the case from Canada.

New Delhi has been maintaining that the main issue has been that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistani elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity In the last few months, India

has been expressing concerns over the security of its diplomats in Canada and calling on Ottawa to ensure that they can carry out their responsibilities without fear.

There have been instances of pro-Khalistani elements threatening to harm Indian diplomats.

Days after Trudeau's allegations last year, India asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity. Canada subsequently withdrew

41 diplomats and their family members from India. (PTI)

Ved Lahoti from Delhi zone tops JEE-Advanced, scores highest ever marks

NEW DELHI, June 9: Ved Lahoti from the Delhi zone has topped the IIT entrance exam JEE-Advanced securing 355 out of 360 marks, the highest ever, officials said on Sunday. The previous highest was 352 in 2022

According to IIT Madras, which conducted the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced this year, Dwija Dharmeshkumar Patel from IIT Bombay zone is the topper among female candidates with 332 marks. Her all-India rank is seven.

Four of the top 10 rank-holders are from IIT Madras. The second rank has been bagged by Aditya (Delhi zone) followed by Bhogalpalli Sandesh (Madras zone) at the third position.

Rhythm Kedia (IIT Roorkee zone), Putti Kushal Kumar (IIT Madras), Rajdeep Mishra (IIT Bombay zone), Koduri Tejeswar (IIT Madras zone), Dhruvi Hemant Doshi (IIT Bombay zone) and Alladabona SSDB Sidhvik Suhas (IIT Madras zone), have bagged the subsequent ranks in that order.

The maximum number of candidates have qualified from the IIT Madras zone, followed by the IIT Delhi Zone and the IIT Bombay zone. Among the top 500 candidates, 145 are from the IIT Madras zone, followed by 136 from the IIT Bom-

probe into the matter, they added.

social media.

official said.

per hour.

ATC instructions.

the same runway has been shared on

operation with two crossing runways

ance by ATC at Mumbai Airport. The

"We are conducting a probe and



bay zone and 122 from the IIT Delhi zone. A total of seven foreign candidates have passed the exam while 179 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)

have also cleared it. A resident of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Lahoti was enrolled in one of the several coaching centres in Rajasthan's Kota -- a hub for competi-

tive examination preparation. Talking to PTI here, Lahoti said, "I devoted three to four hours for selfstudy every day and scored 332-340 in routine tests regularly. So, I was confident. Since the paper was a bit easy as compared to the test papers, I succeeded in securing 355 out of 360 marks.'

Lahoti said he kept himself away from social media while preparing for the exam for the last two years in Kota.

"I scored very low in one of the routine tests but I did not get disappointed and instead focused on my

weak aspects," he said in response to a query. Lahoti's father Yogesh Lahoti said he was proud of his son's performance which was no less than a miracle

"It is just like a miracle that my son has scored the highest ever marks in the history of JEE-Advanced. I was expecting this as my son has been very talented since childhood and that's why we named his Ved after Ved Vyas," Yogesh Lahoti, an engineer in a private company told PTI.

Maharshi Ved Vyas is credited for classifying the holy Hindu scripture Veda into four categories.

Explaining the criteria for inclusion in the rank list, a senior IIT Madras official said, "The aggregate marks will be calculated as the sum of marks obtained in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. The candidates have to satisfy the subject-wise as well as aggregate qualifying marks to be included in a rank list."

A total of 1,80,200 candidates appeared in both papers in IIT-JEE Advanced, of which 48,248, including 7,964 females, have qualified.

JEE-Main, which is the admission test for engineering colleges across the country, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced. The exam was conducted on May 26. The Joint Seat Allocation (JoSAA) counselling will begin on Monday. (PTI)

Air India utilising group airlines' engineering skills for improved aircraft maintenance works

NEW DELHI, June 9: Tata Group-owned Air India is utilising the engineering skills available with group airlines to carry out more maintenance work of the aircraft under its own quality control amid multiple instances of its legacy planes facing operational issues, according to a senior company official.

The official also said the airline is keen to lease aircraft but the market is very tight, especially for wide-body planes

After the takeover by the Tata Group in 2022, loss-making Air India has been making efforts for improvement and has embarked on a five-year transformation plan.

To address the engineering issues more effectively, the official told PTI that Air India is bringing the work of line maintenance component in-house as well as using the licensing and skills of the group airlines to do some things in certain types of aircraft.

Such an approach will help Air India in doing more "maintenance work under our own quality control", the official said on condition of anonymity. Air India is setting up a maintenance base in Bengaluru and the facility will be operational by the end of next year.

The group has four airlines -- Air India, Air India Express, AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India), and Vistara.

The systematic upgrade is being done to bring some aircraft to the healthy standard. These are old Boeing 787s and 777s, the official said. while speaking on the sidelines of the IATA annual general meeting in Dubai this week

The Boeing 777-200 LRs are the smallest fleet and ones that operate to the West Coast of the US. When something goes wrong with one of them, then there is relatively few to substitute and do that mission. One disruption

Belgian Malinois breed sniffer dog joins forest Charas worth ₹16 cr seized dept's patrolling team in Pench Tiger Reserve

NAGPUR, June 9: Bela, a 9-month-old Belgian such as identifying illicit products and apprehend- DEVBHUMI DWARKA, June 9: As

can have a big effect, the official said.

tinues to underscore the

importance of the ongoing, inde-

pendent investigation led by the

In recent weeks, at least four ultra long-haul flights of Air India, operated by Boeing 777 aircraft, faced inordinate delays due to technical and operational issues

Air India has at least 43 legacy wide-body planes -- 16 Boeing 777s and 27 Boeing 787s.

Earlier this week at a conference in the national capital, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said the airline will be retrofitting more than 100 planes, including 40 wide-body planes, and has ordered around 25,000 aircraft seats as part of revamping the fleet.

On plans to lease more aircraft to address the issues being faced with legacy planes operating ultra long-haul flights, the official said the airline will be happy to lease aircraft but the market is very tight, especially for wide-body aircraft.

At present, the carrier is also operating wide-body aircraft leased from Delta Air Lines and Etihad Airways.

While the airline sees continued opportunities for expansion, the official said it is also aware about the unreliability of the legacy aircraft and efforts are on to get them to the standard as well as replace them with new planes. Last year, Air India placed an order for 470 planes with Airbus and Boeing, including for 70 wide-body aircraft.

The carrier is already operating six A350s, which will be utilised more in international routes in the coming months.

As part of the consolidation of Tata Group's airline business, AIX Connect is getting merged with Air India Express, and Vistara is getting merged with Air India. Both mergers are expected to be complete by the end of this year. (PTI)

from Gujarat seashore

MUMBAI, June 9: Aviation regulator DGCA is probing an incident of an IndiGo plane landing and an Air India aircraft takingoff from the same

Two planes land, take off within close interval on same runway at Mumbai

> Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport had earlier this year announced it will handle 8 per cent more air traffic movement at 6,657 ATMs per week (951 per day) year-ago period.

"In this particular case ... the visibility was good and there was no air ox situation with respect to the landing IndiGo flight and the taking

"The tower controller is allowed to reduce separation minima between two aircraft if reasonable assurance has been established by visualising

According to the Guild, Mumbai airport is one of the high-density airports, which means that the number of flight movements is high.

"On a single runway RW27 at the airport, there are around 46 arrivals

Had there been a safety risk, the pilot himself would have initiated a

ATCs are allowed to clear up to two arrivals and two departures ithin three minutes as per standard

2 persons held for kidnapping 6month-old; infant

rescued

THANE, June 9: Police on Sunday arrested an auto-rickshaw driver and a tailor for allegedly kidnapping a sixmonth-old boy in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said.

The child has been rescued from the tailor's house in Ulhasnagar, he said.

The auto-rickshaw driver kidnapped the infant while he was sleeping with his mother, a garbage collector, on a footpath on Murbad road in Kalyan area in the wee hours of Friday, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone-III, Kalyan, Sachin Gunjal told reporters.

The woman later lodged a complaint with the MFC police who registered an FIR under Indian Penal Code section 363 (kidnapping) and launched a search for her child by constituting three teams, he said.

The teams worked on several leads, including CCTV footage, intelligence and technical inputs, and zeroed-in on the auto-rickshaw driver, identified as Dinesh Bhaiyallal Saroj (35), the official said.

The auto-rickshaw driver led the police to the other accused, Ankitkumar Rajendrakumar Prajapati (25), a

The police traced Prajapati and

airport; DGCA probes incident there is high density traffic at the air-

The Adani Group-AAI promoted runway in less than a minute at the

Mumbai airport, officials said on Sun-The watchdog has derostered the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) who was on duty at the time of the incident on Saturday, while IndiGo has initiated a

during the summer schedule, which started from March 29, against the A purported video of one plane landing and another taking off from

off Air India flight," the Guild stated.

have already de-rostered the ATCO involved in the incident," the DGCA both aircraft," as per ATC Guild. Mumbai airport is a single-runway

and departures per hour," it said.

go around, the ATC Guild said. from Indore was given landing clear-

09/27 and 14/32 that handles over 850 flights per day. On a single runway RW27 at the Mumbai airport, there are around 46 arrivals and departures

IndiGo said its aircraft continued the approach and landing as per the "On June 8, IndiGo flight 6E 6053

Malinois breed sniffer dog, has joined the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to assist the forest department's patrolling team in anti-snare and antielectrocution operations.

The reserve's deputy director, Prabhu Nath Shukla, in a press release on Saturday said that after six months of training, the sniffer dog, along with two handlers, has joined the Rapid Rescue Team (RRT) of Pench.

The training was imparted at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Basic Training Centre in Panchkula. Bela was part of a group of 12 other dogs trained for similar duties in various protected areas.

Shukla said the training of sniffer dogs at the centre consists of three phases.

"In the first phase, dogs are paired with personal handlers to build a strong and trusting bond through strategic exercises. In the second phase, the dogs learn skills related to detecting wildlife crimes,

ing poachers. The final phase sharpens their skills in investigating crime scenes," he stated.

The training programme was organised by TRAFFIC and WWF-India.

Bela joins another sniffer dog Willy (also known as Daisy), a German Shepherd trained at the 23 Battalion Dog Training Centre in Bhopal from 2019 to 2020.

Five-year-old Willy has been instrumental in finding body parts and other evidence in several poaching and wildlife death cases in the Umred Pauni Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary and Pench. Willy was recognised by TRAFFIC India as

'Super Sniffers On The Prowl' in 2021

Bela is stationed at the Nagalwadi RRT centre located at Ambazari. Both buffer ranges now have one sniffer dog unit each.

Bela and Willy will join the forest department's patrolling team in anti-snare and anti-electrocution drives. (PTI)

pilot in command continued the apmany as 30 packets of charas, worth ₹ 16 crore, were found abandoned on the seashore in Devbhumi Dwarka district of ment

Gujarat, police said on Sunday. Three sacks containing the contraband were found on the shore near Varvala, an official said.

"While patrolling along the coast, personnel from the local police and special operations group (SOG) found three plastic sacks containing 30 packets near Varvala two nights ago," Devbhumi Dwarka Superintendent of Police Nitesh Pandev said.

Officials from the forensic science laboratory (FSL) were called for verification, and they ascertained that the packets contained 32 kg of charas, worth ₹ 16 crore in the international market, he said. (PTI)

proach and landing and followed ATC instructions," IndiGo said in a state-"At IndiGo, passenger safety is

paramount to us, and we have reported the incident as per procedure," it said. According to an Airports Ausure when there is high density traffic thority of India (AAI) source, as a at airports with the safety of aircraft and passengers. The DGCA probe rule, departing aircraft have to cross the end of the runway or take a turn, will be looking at whether all norms only after which the ATC can issue were followed by the ATC as well as the landing clearance for arriving airthe pilots concerned," the Guild craft. stated

"However, in this case, this was alparture has crossed V2 speed -- at legedly not followed," the source said. Air Traffic Controllers' (ATC) which the aircraft may safely climb Guild in a statement said there was with one engine inoperative and "no air prox" situation in the incident. nosed up and on the other end of run-It also alleged that the ATCs are way arrival is touching down," acunder "significant pressure" when cording to the Guild. (PTI)

tailor by profession, he said. operating procedures, subject to certain conditions. The separation minfound the child at his house, the offiima between two aircraft can be reduced if the visibility is good, it cial said.

"ATCs are under significant pres-

"In the video it can be seen that de-

The child was subsequently rescued and handed over to his mother, he said

During questioning of the accused, the police came to know that the autorickshaw driver, while passing by the road, noticed the child sleeping with his mother. He then quietly lifted the child and took him to the tailor's place, the official said.

The police added IPC sections 370 (trafficking of persons) and 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) in the case against the accused duo, he said. (PTI)

Sadhus reach Jammu ahead of annual Amarnath yatra

JAMMU, June 9: The famous Ram Mandir in the old city reverberates with chants in praise of Lord Shiva as Sadhus from across the country have started reaching here to take part in the annual yatra to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

The 52-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks --the traditional 48 km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14 km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal -- on June 29. A day ahead, the first batch of pilgrims will leave Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp and Ram Mandir for the valley.

The shrine houses the naturally formed ice-shivlingam and over 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the 3,880 meter high shrine last year.

PTL

Ram Mandir in the Purani Mandi area of Jammu, the city of temples, hosts the Sadhus and Sadhvis at its sprawling complex with the government departments lending their support to ensure various facilities including on-the-spot registration for vatra for the visitors.

The temple head Mahant Rameshwar Dass said all necessary arrangements including the

round-the-clock free community kitchen service and medical facilities are in place for the Sadhus, expressing confidence in a there. trouble-free yatra.

"The temple is serving them for generations, throughout the year. They are visiting the Amarnath shrine to seek blessings and pray for the welfare of the people and the country," ass told

He said the people in Kashmir will welcome the pilgrims as per age-old tradition so they do not back to overcome pain.

face any problems. "We are expecting a massive rush of pilgrims to Amarnath this year, given the improved security situation in the valley,"he said, lauding the role of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the security agencies for the positive change.

Amid chants of 'Bam Bam

Bhole and Jai Jai Baba Barfani', the Sadhus and Sadhvis are eagerly waiting for the yatra to

commence. "This is my first pilgrimage to Amarnath shrine and I am excited to get the blessings of my lord," Ram Baba, who had come from Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh said.

Gurvi Giri, a Sadhvi, said she has been visiting the cave shrine for the past five years, and it gives peace to her soul to be

Another Shiva devotee said he had come by foot from Himachal Pradesh in five days. "This is my 25th yatra without any break and I am feeling blessed to be here once again". A Sadhu from West Bengal is

confident of undertaking the arduous journey to the shrine with the help of his belt tied to his

"I have done a lot of pilgrimage across the country having visited Kedarnath, Badrinath and Gangotri. This time it came to my mind why should I leave Amarnath and

start my journey," he said, adding on the way, he came to know about the Ram Mandir and joined others here. (PTI)

Normally, the monsoon reaches Kerala by June 1, Mumbai by June 11, and the national capital by June 27 NEW DELHI, June 9: The south-



Monsoon reaches Mumbai 2 days early

The normal monsoon onset date

is June 1 for Kerala and June 5 for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam.

Between 1971 and 2024, the earliest onset of monsoon over Kerala was in 1990 when the annual rains reached the coastal state on May 18. The onset of monsoon over Kerala happened on May 22 in 1999, and on May 23 in 1974 and

El Nino conditions are prevailing Retaining its April forecast, the IMD in a May-end presser said the

at present, and La Nina may set in by August-September, scientists said.

El Nino -- the periodic warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean -- is associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India.

La Nina -- the antithesis of El Nino -- leads to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon season. (PTI)

after making an early onset over Kerala and northeastern region on 2009.

country could see above-normal

rainfall in the four-month monsoon

season (June to September) with

cumulative rainfall estimated at 106

per cent of the long-period average

is expected in northeast India, nor-

mal in northwest, and above-nor-

Below-normal monsoon rainfall

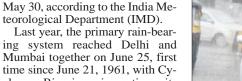
of 87 cm.

mal in central and south peninsular regions of the country. India's core monsoon zone cov-

ering most of the rain-fed agriculture areas in the country is predicted to receive above-normal rainfall this season, the MeT office said.

The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water, apart from power generation across the coun-

June and July are considered the most important monsoon months for agriculture because most of the sowing for the Kharif crop takes place during this period.



clone Biparjoy impacting its progress over southern India and the adjoining western and central parts of the country.

west monsoon reached Mumbai on

Sunday, two days earlier than usual

Normally, the monsoon reaches Kerala by June 1, Mumbai by June 11, and the national capital by June 27

On May 15, the weather office had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31.

Weather scientists said cyclone Remal, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh in Mayend, pulled the monsoonal flow to the Bay of Bengal, resulting in an early onset over the northeast.

The simultaneous onset of monsoon over Kerala and the northeast is quite rare and has happened on four occasions earlier -- 2017, 1997, 1995 and 1991.



ENTERTAINMENT

India doesn't support 'Cannes kind' of cinema, says Anurag Kashyap

Imagine As Light", Anasuya Sengupta

was awarded best actress in the Un Certain

Regard strand for "The Shameless", and

FTII student Chidananda S. Naik earned

the best short film award at the La Cinef

Ones to Know". "I get very upset when it's

said 'India@Cannes'. This is a boost... a

filmmakers but their victory is their own."

Cannes, not a single of those

films are Indian. We need to ad-

dress it the way it should be ad-

supporting such cinema, the kind

He said Kapadia's "All We

Imagine as Light", which was

of cinema that was at Cannes," he

dressed. India has stopped

shot in the arm for a lot of independent

Kashyap told PTI in an interview here.

"India didn't have any moment at

said

section for "Sunflowers Were the First

MUMBAI, June 9: India didn't have any moment at Cannes, says filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, stressing that the victory of independent filmmakers at the European gala is theirs alone and the government doesn't support that kind of award winning cinema.

India won an unprecedented three awards at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival last month Payal Kapadia became the first ever director from India to win the Grand Prix for her movie "All We also the first film from India in 30 years to feature in the main competition at Cannes known for giving a platform to new voices, received funding from a French company. The Malayalam-Hindi feature, which earned the second highest award at Cannes after Palme

d'Or, is an Indo-French co-production between Petit Chaos from France and Chalk and Cheese Films from India.

There were several films at Cannes with either India-set stories or Indian talent at the helm, but most were co-productions with banners from other countries.

Indian-British filmmaker Sandhya Suri's "Santosh" and Karan Kandhari's "Sister Midnight" were funded by the UK, while Konstantin Bojanov's "The Shameless" was almost self-funded. However, Chidanand's "Sunflowers..." is a production of the TV Wing One-year programme under the Film and Television Institute of India . "India just likes to take

credit for a lot of things, they do not support these films, and they don't even support these films to have a release in cinema," Kashyap said. In 2021, Kapadia had won

an award at Cannes for the documentary "A Night of Knowing Nothing" but that is yet to be released in India. "Stop taking credit for it.

Let's stop this fake celebration... Even if the film is released, no one will go to watch it in the theatre," the 51-yearold said.

He also cited the example of Shaunak Sen's documentary "All that Breathes", which won the Golden Eye award at Cannes 2022, that didn't release on Indian screens and went straight to a streamer. Then there were independent films such as "Jaggi" and "Pokhar Ke Dunu Paar" that won awards at festivals that will eventually find home in streamers.

Kashyap was also critical of the spotlight on influencers on the famed red carpet.

"This obsession India has with Cannes... More than Cannes, it's about the red carpet. That's on another level. I get more angry when I hear these things... Geetanjali Rao got three awards at Cannes in 2003, I wrote an article on it, but it was not recognised, rarely anyone wrote about that here. There's no support system here."

Days after her win, Kapadia, also an FTII graduate, penned an open letter in which she pushed for a government fund for women filmmakers and under-represented sections to foster independent filmmaking while praising the Kerala government for starting a similar initiative.

Kashyap, whose films such as "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Ugly", and "Kennedy" have screened at Cannes over the years across sections like Director's Fortnight and Midnight Screenings, said he was also surprised when former FTII chairperson Gajendra Chauhan took credit for Kapadia's win. Back in 2015, Kapadia was

one of the students who protested against the appointment of "Mahabharat" actor-BJP politician Chauhan as FTII head. Kapadia was among the 35 students charged under various Indian Penal Code sections for offences related to unlawful assembly, criminal intimidation, and rioting. (PTI)

Amitabh Bachchan to have cameo in Gujarati film 'Fakt Purusho Maate'

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA), June 9: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be seen in a cameo role in the upcoming sequel 'Fakt Purusho Maate.' The Gujarati film is a sequel to the 2022 film 'Fakt Mahilao Maate', which was directed by Jay Bodas and produced by Anand Pandit and Vaishal Shah.

'Fakt Purusho Maate' is a family drama that focuses on gender equality and conflicts between two generations. Big B will play the role of a God in the sequel.

Film producer Anand Pandit shared pictures with Big B on his Instagram handle.

While talking about the film, Pandit said in a statement, "We shot with Mr Bachchan on June 6 and everyone on the set was awestruck by his energy, dedication, legendary professionalism and his larger-than-life presence."

The ace producer shared that Big B is an important part of the film.

"He was a very special part of 'Fakt Mahilao Maate' as well and to be honest, it is hard for me to imagine a project without him. Anyone who has worked with him once wants to work with him again and again," he added.

Producer Vaishal Shah also spoke about the role of Amitabh Bachchan and shared, "Mr Bachchan plays a very interesting role in this sequel to 'Fakt Mahilao Maate' and is in a way central to the way the story unfolds. His enduring stardom is a phenomenon that cannot be put in words and this film will once again show why he continues to be a legend." "Fakt Purusho Maate' is produced by Anand Pandit and Vaishal Shah and is written and directed by Jay Bodas and Parth Trivedi. Apart from Amitabh Bachchan, it also features Yash Soni, Mitra Gadhvi, Esha Kansara and Darshan Jariwala. "Fakt Purusho Maate' is expected to be released around Janmashtami, 2024. (AGENCIES)



Marshalls again partners with Priyanka Chopra for community-based initiative to support women

HOUSTON, June 9: Leading American off-price family retailer Marshalls has reunited with Indian actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas to play an integral role in designing the Good Stuff Social Club programming and building awareness through her personal story and powerful platform. Marshalls is partnering with Priyanka for the second consecutive year. They are collaborating again to design impactful sessions on how to help find financial stability, how to embrace your selfworth and achieve your ambitions for a better life, how to turn connections into valuable community, and how to style with purpose and confidence. According to a press release,

the brand is taking its Good Stuff Social Club nationwide, starting from Monday, Atlanta, followed by Chicago later this year with more cities to be announced soon.

"I was honoured to be invited to keynote at the first ever Good Stuff Social Club and what I loved most about the experience is that it fostered a supportive community where women could network and access incredible experts and their life-changing advice, tools, and resources, but also peers, and new friends. It was the sense of community and togetherness that was so powerful," Priyanka said in the release. "After that experience, I wanted to expand the reach of the Social Club to women in different

cities. Every woman deserves to live the life they want, and it's refreshing to partner with a brand like Marshalls who has prioritized community-based initiatives like this to support women," she added. Marshalls has long upheld the belief that women should have access to the good stuff in life, said Sonya Cosentini, Vice President, Brand Marketing, Marshalls. "Last year, we made a

'Munjya' raises ₹ 11.61 crore on day two



NEW DELHI, June 9: Horror comedy "Munjya" has earned Rs 11.61 crore nett at the box office in two days of its release in the country, the makers said on Sunday. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, the movie had collected Rs 4.21 crore nett on its opening day. It stars Abhay Verma, Sharvari, Mona Singh, and Sathyaraj. Maddock Films shared the film's box office update on X.

"The love from our audience made #Munjya's second day unforgettable! #Munjya, a mustwatch entertainer for families and kids, is in cinemas now!" the banner said.

watch entertainer for families and kids, is in cinemas now!" the banner said. According to the poster shared by the production house, "Munjya" earned Rs 7.40 crore on Saturday, following which its total box office collection (nett) in the domestic market stood at 11.61 crore.

Set in Pune and the Konkan region of Maharashtra, the film follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature which has its roots in Marathi folklore. It is reportedly set in the Maddock Films' horror comedy universe, comprising films such as "Stree", "Roohi", and "Bhediya". "Munjya" also stars Suhas Joshi. (PTI)

great impact in helping provide women the tools and resources they need to make their ideal life a reality. It's evident, though, from our recent research that there is still work to be done. All women deserve the good stuffTM in life, but for so many reasons, the life they want to live can feel just beyond their grasp.

"By taking the Marshalls Good Stuff Social Club to two more cities, and making it accessible to all digitally, we are able to reach more women. And, in turn, help them get closer to the life they want to live," Cosentini said.

As part of Marshall's mission, the brand will also donate USD 400,000 via the TJX Foundation to change-making organisations like MENTOR, Girls Inc, and Savvy Ladies, to sponsor programming that gives girls and women access to opportunities to grow and thrive nationwide. (PTI)

Shah Rukh Khan, Kangana Ranaut, Rajinikanth attend Modi's swearing-in ceremony

NEW DELHI, June 9: Indian cinema personalities Shah Rukh Khan, Kangana Ranaut, Rajinikanth, and Akshay Kumar were among the dignitaries who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi as the prime minister for a third consecutive term on Sunday evening.

Modi took the oath as the head of a coalition government at the ceremony, which was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Also part of the event were actors Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Raveena Tandon, Vikrant Massey, director Rajkumar Hirani and producer Mahaveer Jain.

While Shah Rukh was accompanied by his manager Pooja Dadlani, Rajinikanth took part in the event with producer-wife Latha Rajinikanth.

Actor Ranaut, the BJP MPelect from Mandi, had shared a series of videos of her getting ready for the ceremony on her Instagram Stories.

Rajinikanth, who flew in from Chennai for the function, p had earlier told reporters that it was a "very historic event".

"I congratulate PM Modi ji for becoming the prime minister for the third consecutive time..." he added. Hours before the ceremony,

Kher said it would be his third opportunity to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

"This is indeed special. But the bigger and more special thing is that #SameToSame is the Prime Minister all three

times. The dialogue this evening will also be the same!!! I am Narendra Damodardas Modiů. Jai Ho! Jai Hind! #PrimeMinister @narendramodi," the actor alongside the photo of the invitation letter on X.

Actor and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan arrived at the venue with his wife Anna Lezhneva. Manoj Tiwari, a former

Bhojpuri cinema star-singer and BJP's candidate from North East Delhi, was also part of the event and so was actor-BJP politician Dinesh Lal Yadav, better known by his stage name Nirahua. Earlier in the day, actors

Ajay Devgn, Rajkummar Rao and Rishab Shetty congratulated Modi on social media. "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji on his re-election! Wishing continued success in guiding India towards prosperity and greatness with his wisdom and compassion," Devgn wrote on X.

"My heartiest congratulations to our esteemed PM Shri @narendramodi ji on this historic third consecutive win. May our country continue to flourish under your exemplary leadership. God bless you sir. @PMOIndia," wrote Rao.

"Kantara" star and director Shetty congratulated Modi on his third term as prime minister of India. "We deeply value your dedication towards the development, education, and national safety," he added. (PTI)



Sports

COLOMBIA ROUTS SLOPPY US 5-1 IN COPA AMERICA WARMUP, EXTENDS UNBEATEN STREAK TO 22 GAMES

South

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"Obvi-

it's a

The U.S. faces

American oppo-

learning experi-

ence for all the

boys," Weah said.

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LANDOVER (USA), June **9:** Matt Turner kept falling to the field, the American goalkeeper punching the ground in frustration

A defensive lapse by Antonee Robinson and aimless defensive play by Johnny Cardoso, Tim Weah and Cameron Carter-Vickers led to four goals in an embarrassing 5-1 defeat to Colombia in a Copa America warmup match on Saturday.

"I'm going to apologize to the fans," Turner said. "That's not what we're about. And, yeah, we need to bounce back in a big way.

Since a 5-1 loss to Czecho- up two goals in the first 20 slovakia in the 1990 World minutes since a March 2016

Cup, the U.S. had given up that many goals only in a 5-0 loss to Mexico in the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup final. It was the Americans' first four-goal loss since a 4-0 defeat in a 2016 World Cup qualifier at Costa Rica that caused the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann. Jhon Arias put Colombia ahead in the sixth minute after

the ball deflected to him when Robinson tried a sliding clearance without checking who was near. Rafael Santos Borré doubled the lead with a spectacular overhead kick in the 19th. The U.S. had not given

World Cup qualifier. Weah cut the deficit to 2-1 in the 58th, but Cardoso's turnover led to Richard Ríos goal in the 77th, Weah's giveaway to Jorge Carrascal's in Colombians the 85th and Carter-Vickers' pass that didn't appear aimed in five games at anyone to Luis Sinisterra's against

in the 88th. "We had a lot of trouble through the middle," Weah said. Colombia extended its winning streak to seven and its unbeaten string to 22 since a 1-0 defeat at Argentina in a World Cup qualifier on Feb. 1, 2022. "Everybody could look in the mirror after that game or needs to look in the mirror after that game and figure it

out," Turner said. "They just had a different intensity about them that we didn't have.' The U.S. has six losses and

guests to the tournament, two draws against the South America's champisince onship. Ĉolombia meets 2005 and is winless

Bolivia in an exhibition at Denver on June 15, then is in a firstround group with Paraguay, Costa Rica and Brazil. The U.S. and Colombia could meet in the

Brazil in another friendly quarterfinals. Before a majority pro-

on Wednesday at Orlando, Florida, then plays its Copa Colombian crowd clad in yel-America opener on June 23 low jerseys at Commanders

followed by matches against Field, American players wore Panama and Uruguay. The rainbow numbers on their jer-U.S. is among six invited seys for Pride Month

For the first time in American history, all 11 starters played for clubs in England, Germany, Italy, Spain and France. Just six of 143 starting positions have been filled with Major League Soccer players for the 13 matches the full pool has been available since the 2022 World Cup, including three of 99 since Gregg Berhalter returned as coach. Colombia went ahead in the sixth minute when James Rodriguez threaded a pass that went off the left leg of a sliding Robinson to Arias. He took

Ream and from 6 yards beat Turner over the goalkeeper's

left shoulder to the near post. Colombia doubled the lead in the 19th after Rodriguez played a short corner kick to Arias, who crossed. Tom Ream headed the ball in a clearance attempt, and Mateus Uribe headed the ball back in front. With his back to the goal from 5 yards out, Santos Borré leaned back as he jumped and with his right foot made an overhead kick that sent the ball in on a hop to Turner's left. Weah, a son of Liberia president and former FIFA Player of the Year George Weah, scored his sixth internaa touch to get clear of Tim tional goal. (AP)

Colombia routs sloppy US 5-1 in Copa America warmup

LANDOVER, Md., June 9: Matt Turner kept falling to the field, the American goalkeeper punching the ground in frustration.

A defensive lapse by Antonee Robinson and aimless defensive play by Johnny Cardoso, Tim Weah and Cameron Carter-Vickers led to four goals in an embarrassing 5-1 defeat to Colombia in a Copa America warmup match on Saturday.

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Since a 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia in the 1990 World Cup, the U.S. had given up that many goals only in a 5-0 loss to Mexico in the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup final. It was the Americans' first four-goal loss since a 4-0 defeat in a 2016 World Cup qualifier at Costa Rica that caused the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

'We're not framing it as a lesson learned. We're actually framing it as a wakeup call. Really poor performance against a top team," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "From the 75th minute on, it was I think a lack of respect for our opponent, the game of soccer and what we were doing."



in the sixth minute after the ball deflected to him when Robinson tried a sliding clearance without checking who was near. Rafael Santos Borré doubled the lead with a spectacular overhead kick in the 19th. The U.S. had not do that. given up two goals in the first 20 minutes since a March 2016

"There's some glaring things that you have to address if you're going to compete at this level," Berhalter said. "Guys just didn't do their job. It's about your role, your responsibility and we didn't

Weah cut the deficit to 2-1 in the 58th, but Cardoso's turnover streak to seven and its unbeaten

led to Richard Ríos' goal in the 77th, Weah's giveaway to Jorge Carrascal's in the 85th and Carter-Vickers' pass that didn't appear aimed at anyone to Luis Sinisterra's in the 88th.

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string to $2\overline{2}$ since a 1-0 defeat at Argentina in a World Cup qualifier on Feb. 1, 2022.

"Everybody could look in the mirror after that game or needs to look in the mirror after that game and figure it out," Turner said. "They just had a different intensity about them that we didn't have.'

The U.S. has six losses and two draws against the Colombians since 2005 and is winless in five games against South American opponents since 2019.

"We take responsibility as a coaching staff, for sure. We can't put this all on the players," Berhalter said. "This game will help us understand that when we don't do the things we're supposed to do, we'll get hurt really quickly.'

The U.S. faces Brazil in another friendly on Wednesday at Orlando, Florida, then plays its Copa America opener on June 23 followed by matches against Panama and Uruguay. The U.S. is among six invited guests to the tournament, South America's championship.

Colombia meets Bolivia in an exhibition at Denver on June 15, then is in a first-round group with Paraguay, Costa Rica and Brazil. The U.S. and Colombia could meet in the quarterfinals (AP)

With 10 points in his kitty and lying in the 14th position before Race 2 of the third round in Motegi, Kavin needed a solid performance to close the gap with his nearest rival -- Ngyuen Huu Tri from Vitenam. Kavin was four points behind the Vietnamese, who races for

MOTEGI (JAPAN), June 9:

Honda Racing India could not

earn any points from Race 2 of

with his bike while Mohsin

Paramban ended in P17 in the

AP250 class, here Sunday.

only made it tougher. Meanwhile, Diandra pushed Wang down to move to 17th position but the Indian team's worst fears came true when Kavin retired in Lap 6.

KARCHER

"It's difficult to catch the group, so the best is to stay with the group. But my RPM suddenly dropped, the bike was overheating and there was no power, so I had to take back the bike. It's part of the game," said Kavin, putting on a brave face.

Round 3 at the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship as Kavin Samaar Quintal did not finish the race due to an engine issue

KARCHER

Kavin retires due

to technical snag,

Mohsin finishes

P17 in Motegi

Hosein's fifer fashions West Indies' 134-run win over Uganda

June 9: Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein worked his inimitable sorcery with a fifer as hosts West Indies hammered Uganda by 134 runs in the T20 World Cup here.

Hosein knocked the wind out of the Uganda batting unit with career-best figures of 5/11, helping West Indies bowl out Uganda for 39 in 12 overs, the joint-lowest team total in the men's T20 World Cup

This was after Johnson Charles (44) emerged the top scorer while Andre Russell (30 not out) provided the hosts with the final push to help West Indies post a challenging 173/5.

The win has boosted West Indies' Net Run Rate to a healthy 3.574, which will help them in their bid to finish in the top two in Group C.

"It gets tougher from here but we understand conditions and cricket is not easy in the Caribbean," West Indies skipper Rovman Powel said after the match.

"We talk about improving 10-15 percent every match. Last game, we were flat so we just wanted to improve as a team. When you are playing at home, the pressure can sometimes get to vou. So, a little bit of rust (in the first match). We started off at 60, now up to 70-80 percent," he added

The gulf between the two sides was evident when the West Indies bowlers were operating.

"Tough day for us. It is a very steep learning curve. Just shows the difference in class. We were outplayed but we must take the learnings from it: as a batting unit, what we can do better to keep us in the game," Uganda captain Masaba said.

"There were some positives in that bowling performance. To

PROVIDENCE (GUYANA), keep them under 200 stood out. The way we bowled at the death, that was very impressive. Hopefully we can build on that."

As was the case in their previous two games, Uganda's top order fell like ninepins with half the side back in the dugout inside the Powerplay.

Opening the bowling, Hosein picked three wickets in as many overs. He struck off the second ball of the innings with Roger Mukasa becoming his first victim. He came back to trap Alpesh Amjani leg-before wicket in the third over. Riazar Ali Shah became his third victim an over later. "I needed this. In the nets and in

the previous series, I felt the ball was coming out good but I was just not getting the rewards,' player of the match Hosein said.

The Ugandan batters just couldn't read Hosein as the spinner picked two more wickets in his last over to register his maiden five-wicket haul and also the best figures by a West Indian bowler at the T20 World Cup.

"It is a lot of hard work. When you get success, guys are going to study you and have a plan. You always have to stay a step ahead. For me, it is just about trying to react to what the surface is doing and planning it out," Hosein said. Earlier, Brandon King (13) and Charles, who was dropped on 23 in the fourth over, scored at a quick pace to give West Indies a

solid start after skipper Rovman Powell decided to bat first. But left-arm spinner Alpesh Ramjani cleaned up King to pro-

vide Uganda their first breakthrough. New batter Nicholas Pooran (22) took a couple of deliveries to settle in before going down on one

knee, launching the ball hight over deep mid-wicket for a maximum. (PTI)

Luis Suarez will play in his fifth Copa America

ΜΟΝΤΕΥΙΡΕΟ (URUGUAY), June 9: Luis Suárez, Uruguay's all-time leading scorer, will play in his fifth Copa América. The 37-year-old Suarez, who

plays for Inter Miami, was in the 26-man squad named by national coach Marcelo Bielsa on Saturday.

Suárez said on social media he was "very happy and proud" to be picked Uruguay faces the host United

States, Bolivia and Panama in Group C.

"Let's go Uruguay, let's go," Suarez wrote.

He won the Copa America in 2011 and was the player of the tournament. He was picked for 2016 but injury kept him on the bench, and played in 2019 and 2021 when they reached the

quarterfinals. He did not play in 2015 because he was suspended for biting Giorgio Chiellini in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Uruguay beat Mexico 4-0 with a hat trick from Darwin Núñez in a friendly on Wednesday in Denver. Núñez, who plays for Liverpool, will play in his first Copa América.

Among those to miss out were Liverpool striker Luciano Rodríguez and Orlando City midfielder Facundo Torres. Uruguay's Copa opener is

against Panama on June 21 in Miami. Uruguay

Goalkeepers: Sergio Rochet (International), Santiago Melé (Junior), Franco Israel (Sporting Lisbon).

Defenders: Ronald Araujo (Barcelona), José María Giménez

(Atlético Madrid), Sebastián Cáceres (América), Nicolás Marichal (Dynamo), Mathías Olivera (Napoli), Lucas Olaza (Krasnodar), Matías Viña (Flamengo), Guillermo Varela (Flamengo), Nahitán Nández (Cagliari).

Midfielders: Manuel Ugarte (Paris Saint-Germain), Rodrigo Bentancur (Tottenham), Federico Valverde (Real Madrid), Emiliano Martínez (Midtjylland), Nicolás de la Cruz (Flamengo), Giorgian de Arrascaeta (Flamengo), Agustín Canobbio (Paranaense).

Forwards: Brian Rodríguez (América), Brian Ocampo (Cádiz), Facundo Pellistri (Granada), Maximiliano Araujo (Toluca), Cristián Olivera (Dallas), Darwin Núñez (Liverpool) Luis Suárez (Inter Miami). (AP)

Honda Racing Veitnam. However, starting $\overline{18}$ th on the grid, it was a herculean task for the Indian rider, who mostly trains and competes in Spain.

Still, he fought well after losing a position early into the race to Vrei-Ar Marcosuba from JRT Tech -2.

By Lap 3, Kavin had got back his grid position, going past Vrei-Ar and Watcharin Tubtimon from NJT Racing team. When the gap between Kavin and the riders ahead began to increase, it appeared the Indian was probably struggling with his speed.

From +6 seconds, it gradually went up to +10 seconds. He needed to pass China's Gao Ziang and Mohammad Diandra Trihardika to get into points contention but the declining speed

A crash near the end of the race helped Mohsin gain a position. Kavin remains at 10 points and Mohsin on two. Mohsin had the challenge to earn some points after being unlucky in three previous races.

The Kerala rider had scored two points in the season-opening race, finishing in 14th position. But since then, he has not logged points in four straight races.

"For me it's more about learning. Earlier I was a bit scared to negotiate the corners but now I am more confident in approaching the corners," said 22-yearold Mohsin

Astra Honda Racing's Mohammad Kiandra Ramadhipa logged his second win in a row to open up a four-point championship lead over teammate Herjun Atna Firdaus (77), who crashed in the last lap.

Ryota Ogiwara (Sanwa Racing) and Yuta Date (Victor Racing) were the other podium finishers. (PTI)

Olympic 100-meter champ Marcell Jacobs defends his European title but still can't crack 10 seconds

ROME, June 9: The Paris ing through the finish Olympics are less than 50 days away and defending 100-meter champion Marcell Jacobs still hasn't dipped under the 10-second mark in nearly two years. He's got another gold medal to hang around his neck,

though. Jacobs clocked a season-best 10.02 to win on his home track and defend his European Cham-

pionship title on Saturday. "The times are not what's important in these competitions,

it's the result that counts," Jacobs said. "The goal is to be in my best form in two months when it counts even more and I know that I still have a lot of work to do. The Texas-born Italian looked smoother in his semifinal heat

when he ran 10.05 despite eas-

"Considering how I felt in the semifinal, we had calculated that I could have ran between 9.92 and 9.95," Jacobs said. "So when I saw the display I wasn't very happy. But at the same time, as I said, medals count more than times. Medals remain forever.

After the final, Jacobs was shaking his left calf, which he said was due to a cramp that he felt toward the end of the race, not an injury.

"I had three goals entering this season; to stay healthy, to defend my European title and to win at the Olympics again," said Jacobs, who dropped his longtime coach last year and moved to Florida to train with American coach Rana Reider. "So far so good.

Jacobs led an Italian 1-2 with Chituru Ali taking silver in a personal-best 10.05, and Romell Glave of Britain claiming bronze in 10.06.

The last time Jacobs broke the 10-second mark came in August 2022 when he won in 9.95 at the previous Euros in Munich.

Jacobs succeeded Usain Bolt as Olympic champion three years ago in Tokyo when he ran 9.80.

Jakob Ingebritsen, the Norwegian world champion whose father was recently accused of abusing one of his other children, won the 5,000 in 13:20.11 by surging ahead in the final 100 meters.

It was Ingebritsen's fifth European title from the 1.500 to

gold in the 1,500. Greek long jumper Miltiadis Tentoglou confirmed he's intent on defending his Olympic title by improving his own champi-

onship record with consecutive leaps of 8.65 in his final two attempts.

It was Tentoglou's third consecutive European title. He also won the world title last year. Italian 19-vear-old Mattia Furlani took silver with 8.38 to improve his world under-20 record and Simon Ehammer of Switzerland claimed bronze with 8.31

The long jump was held on a raised platform directly in front of one side of the Stadio Olimpico stands.

Cyrena Samba-Mayela of France set a championship 5,000 — to go with his Olympic record of 12.31 in the 100 hur- be mine." (AP)

dles for the best time in the world this season, a positive sign for the host country entering the Paris Games.

Leonardo Fabbri, another Italian standout, won the shot put before his home crowd with a championship record 22.45.

Perseus Karlstrom won the 20-kilometer race walk for his first major championship gold after two silvers and three bronzes at worlds and Euros. The Swede celebrated by performing pushups on the blue track.

Karlstron writes the names of the championships where he won medals inside his walking hat. So now he's got a golden entry to inscribe.

"My goal," Karlstrom said, "is that this season is going to

SPORTS

South Africa take on plucky Bangladesh

NEW YORK, June 9: South Africa will hope for a better batting performance when they take on a plucky Bangladesh in their Group D match of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Both teams will have their task cut out as they will have to navigate the unpredictable surface at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

While South Africa may have a slight edge having played their previous two games here, Bangladesh are somewhat familiar with the conditions having faced India in their warm-up fixture at this venue.

South Africa laboured to victory against the Netherlands on Saturday and their batters didn't look comfortable in the win against Sri Lanka either while chasing 103 and 77 respectively.

The Proteas are not expected to tinker with their four-pronged pace attack comprising Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Ottneil Baartmen that has served them well in the tournament so far with Keshav Maharaj taking on the spin duties.

The batters, however, will have to do better. Against the Netherlands, South Africa managed just 33 after 10 overs.

Had it not been for their No. 4 Tristan Stubbs and David Miller, firmly in the driver's seat for a



who walked in at number six to

score an unbeaten fifty, the Porteas would have been staring at a hattrick of defeats at the hands of the Dutch at the World Cups.

A win will put South Africa

Super Eight spot. History is also on South Africa's

side as they haven't ever lost to Bangaldesh in T20Is and have beaten the Tigers in each of the last two editions of the World Cup. Bangladesh began their cam-

paign with a win over rivals Sri

Australia nails England by 36 Arevalo and Pavic beat Bolelli and Vavassori to win men's French Open doubles title

him.

runs in the T20 World Cup

BRIDGETOWN (BARBA-DOS), June 9: Defending champion England charged at Australia's tournament-best 201 total and came up 36 runs short in a one-sided Twenty20 World Cup contest on Saturday.

The first big heavyweight match

— a day before India vs. Pakistan — failed to live up to the billing as Australia impressively squeezed England, which hit only three boundaries in the last six overs at Kensington Oval.

Forced to bat first, Australia made a brutal start by openers David Warner and Travis Head — 70-0 in 4.5 overs — but was pulled back and posted 201-7, the highest

to backward point after 42 off 28, including five boundaries and two sixes.

England was 92-2 in the 10th over and on track, but the middle order failed to fire as they were pinned down by the Australian bat-

tery. Starc was expensive but his brilliant diving catch on the boundary removed Jacks.

England needed 14 runs an over with seven to go, and blasted 20 off Maxwell, including three sixes by Ali.

But Maxwell then caught Jonny Bairstow on the boundary for a 13ball 7 and blew a kiss to the England fans who had been ribbing

PARIS, June 9: Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Mate Pavic of Croatia won the French Open men's doubles against Italians Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-5, 6-3 in the final on Saturday. Pavic completed the set of win-

ning all four Grand Slam titles in men's doubles and rushed to celebrate with his team on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"First (title) for me here, so I'm very happy," Pavic said. "It feels special. I lost here twice the final." Arevalo grabbed a scarf with his country's name on it, raised it aloft and chanted "Salvador, Salvador." It was Arevalo's second men's doubles title after winning at Roland Garros in 2022 with Jean-Julien Rojer.

"I want to thank Mate for trustin disbelief. ing me and believing in me, to fight together. We did it together, man," an emotional Arevalo said. "My second title here also feels special.'

With Arevalo serving for the match at 40-30, Pavic missed a straightforward-looking volley. The ball clipped the top of the net, landed on the wrong side, and

They won on the second match point when Vavassori hit a forehand wide, and the ninth-seeded winners both fell to the red clay. Pavic put his hand over his mouth The 38-year-old Bolelli is a

backward.



Vavassori has lost both major finals he has played in men's doubles. They were seeded 11th.(AP)

Puja Tomar becomes first Indian to win in UFC



Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan **KENTUCKY**, June 9: India's Puja Tomar scripted history as she Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain became the first mixed martial arts Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton fighter from the country to win a Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan bout at the Ultimate Fighting Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Championship (UFC) in UFC Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah Riyad, Louisville here.

Debutant Tomar eked out a 30-27, 27-30, 29-28 split-decision win over Brazil's Rayanne dos Santos in the straw-weight (52kg) bout on Saturday. "This win is not my win. This

dian fighters. before everyone

thought that Indian fighters did not

stand anywhere. I only thought I

have to win and show the world

that Indian fighters are not losers," Tomar told Sony Sport Network

The 30-year-old, known as "cy-

clone", signed a contract with the

UFC last year in October to be-

come the first woman from India

to compete in the biggest Mixed

Anshul Jubli and Bharat Kan-

dare have represented India on the

world stage in the UFC, as has

Canada-based Arjan Singh Bhullar.

Martial Arts promotion.

after her win.

win is for all Indian fans and all In-

and also against Sri Lanka.

testing conditions.

for Bangladesh.

Teams:

Stubbs

The top-order is prone to col-

lapses and while Liton Das has

done well, the others have to take

more responsibility, especially in

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is

Bangladesh's pace attack lacks a

genuine tearaway fast bowler who

can rock the opposition at the top

and they might struggle against a formidable South African line-up

comprising several power hitters.

(c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Co-

etzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco

Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich

Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan

South Africa: Aiden Markram

not firing either with the ball or the bat, which is a cause for concern

> home thinking that I will win. I have worked really hard that's why I am here and the crowd is cheering me. I was very strong and motivated so that's why I won.' Born in Budhana village of Uttar

Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, Tomar is a five-time national wushu champion and also has a background in karate and taekwondo.

"I was confident of winning, I attacked a lot. But I wasn't able to give my 100 percent. I felt pressured in the second round. I need to improve on a lot of skills like take downs

"My MMA journey was not easy, this win is for my mother, she has fought with the world for me. So this win is for her.'

She has competed in other tournaments including Matrix Fight Night, where she won the strawweight title twice.

MMA is a full-contact combat sport based on striking, grappling and ground fighting, incorporating techniques from various combat sports from around the world

Ultimate Fighting Championship is an American mixed mar-"I feel great, I had come from tial arts promotion company. (PTI)

Theegala rises to seventh, Akshay slips to tied-18th at Memorial

DUBLIN (OHIO), June 9: Sahith Theegala made a smart upward move in the third round of the Memorial even as world No.1 Scottie Scheffler continued his imperious march in world golf.

Indian-American Theegala's 3-under 69 saw him in tied-seventh place after being T-20 at the end of the second round. Meanwhile, Akshay Bhatia (75) slipped from T-7 to T-18.

Scheffler was at 10-under 206 and four ahead of Colling Morikawa (68), Adam Hadwin (72)

and Sepp Straka (68). It was a strange day for Scheffler, who had a triple bogey when he went out of bounds in his 1-under 71



morale

Jaker Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Lanka which will boost their Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful But like the Proteas, the Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib. Trav-Bangladesh batters will also have elling reserves: Afif Hossain, to do better. They had struggled in Hasan Mahmud. the warm-up game against India Match starts 8pm IST. (PTI)

total in a week-old tournament featuring tricky pitches.

Tasked with making the third biggest successful run chase in tournament history, England took a swipe but decayed to 165-6. Adam Zampa and Pat Cummins took two cheap wickets each.

Australia moved on top of Group B with two wins from two matches, while England remained winless with Oman and Namibia to come.

England threw offspin at lefthanded openers Warner and Head without success. Head smashed Will Jacks' first two deliveries for sixes, and Warner smoked him in the same over.

Pace didn't bother the batters either. Warner hit three sixes and a boundary in one Mark Wood over. Warner, playing England for possibly the last time, was out for 39 off 16 when he backed up to a Moeen Ali delivery that stayed low

Head went in the next over, bowled by Jofra Archer for 34 off 18. Australia finished the powerplay 74-2.

Adil Rashid was put on the roof by captain Mitchell Marsh, and Chris Jordan went for 18 in an over.

A change to Liam Livingstone's legspin was profitable, as Marsh was stumped for 35 and three balls later Glenn Maxwell departed for 28

Marcus Stoinis greeted Rashid with a one-handed six over backward square, and smacked Livingstone over his head.

Australia reached 200 with three balls to go, and Stoinis was out for 30 off 17 — Jordan's 100th T20 wicket — and Cummins was run out.

England's chase was measured but cruising. Phil Salt and Jos Buttler had them 54-0 after the powerplay then took 19 runs off a Mitchell Starc over.

Zampa spun the momentum back Australia's way.

His first ball bowled Salt for 37 off 23. Buttler then hit Zampa straight

After Ali was caught in the deep for 25 off 15, Harry Brook and Livingstone were tied down by Hazlewood, Cummins and Zampa,

the man of the match. Earlier, David Miller bailed South Africa out of deep trouble against their bogey team the Netherlands in a four-wicket win on Long Island.

Miller's unbeaten 59 off 51 balls, with four sixes and three boundaries, rescued South Africa from 12-4 in the fifth over.

This was after the Netherlands was restricted to 103-9. Miller and Tristan Stubbs, with

33, saved the day in making 106-6 with seven balls remaining.

The Netherlands was going for a hat trick of wins against South Africa in World Cups, after winning their T20 in 2022 and one-day international in 2023.

Chasing a paltry 104 for victory, South Africa's big T20 hitters failed

Quinton de Kock was run out for a duck, and fellow opener Reeza Hendricks was bowled for 3. Aiden Markram was caught behind playing down the leg side for a threeball duck and Heinrich Klaasen holed out for 4.

Dutch medium-pacer Vivian Kingma finished his four overs with 2-12.

Miller and Stubbs put on a cautious 65 off 72 balls on a challenging pitch.

Stubbs was caught in the 17th over and Marco Jansen was dismissed for a golden duck in the next over, and the situation tensed up again

But Miller held his nerve and the Proteas earned their second win in two games in Group D.

Earlier, pacer Ottneil Baartman grabbed 4-11 in four overs as the Netherlands was cut down to 48-6 in 11.5 overs.

Sybrand Engelbrecht scored 40 off 45 balls to anchor the Dutch, and Logan Van Beek scored 23 to push the total past 100.

The West Indies and Uganda play late Saturday in Guyana.(AP) **Russell takes Canadian Grand Prix pole, edging** F1 points leader Verstappen on tiebreaker

MONTREAL, June 9: George Russell edged Formula 1 points leader Max Verstappen on a tiebreaker for the pole position in the Canadian Grand Prix. Russell and Verstappen had identical laps of 1 minute 12.000 seconds at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, with the Mercedes driver getting the top spot Sunday by setting the time first. It's the second time F1 qualifying has ended in a tie since the start of three-decimal timing. Now Russell faces the challenge of keeping Red Bull star Verstappen behind him in the race.

Why not? Of course. Let's go for it," Russell said. "The car has been feeling amazing. Since we brought some upgrades to Monaco, we've sort of really been in that fight now. We're going for it tomorrow.

The 26-year-old Russell claimed his second career pole.

"Such a buzz. It's been a while since we've experienced this feeling," Russell said. "So much hard work going on behind the scenes ... we've almost felt like all of that hard work hasn't been paying off. But I think these last two race weekends has really shown that.

Verstappen won the pole last year and led every lap of the race amid a historically dominant season. This year, he's facing more challengers

"When you look at the whole grid, there are quite a few surprises," Verstappen said. "Just shows that everyone is closing up, and it's really details that make the difference. It's good for Formula 1."

McLaren's Lando Norris was third at 1:12.02. Both Ferraris failed to reach the third qualifying session for the first time since 2021. (AP)

He also had six birdies. Yet, at the end of the day he had increased his lead to four shots over Morikawa, who played bogey-free for a 68. With Morikawa and Hadwin in a tie for second

was Sepp Straka (68), who

like Morikawa was bogey free. Hadwin shot 72 with one eagle, a double bogey, one birdie and one bogey in an even-par round.

Rory McIlroy (73) was lying T-11 and eight shots behind Scheffler, while Xander Schauffele (71) was in the bunch tied at fifth place.

Scheffler was in command despite all the mistakes on a tough Muirfield Village Golf Club course. He is now one round away from his fifth PGA Tour victory of the year.

Morikawa will be in the final group with Scheffler, just as he was at the Masters. Defending champion Viktor Hovland seemed to be in the fray till he went into the water on the par-5 11th for a bogey.

He had further bogeys on the 12th, 13th and 14th. He birdied the 15th, but again put his tee shot into the water on the par-3 16th for a triple bogey. In the stretch between 11th and 16th he had four bogeys, a triple bogey and one birdie for a back nine 42 and a round of 77. He dropped to T-14 and nine shots out of the lead. (PTI)

Pulling out of IPL best thing for me moving forward into this World Cup: Zampa

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), June 9: Australia spinner Adam Zampa said that pulling out of IPL 2024 was the "best thing" to do coming into the T20 World Cup, adding that skipping the league also allowed him to spend time with family and tend to injuries.

Zampa played a pivotal role Australia's 36-run win against arch-rival England at the Kensington Oval here on Saturday with the leg-spinner getting rid of both the openers, Phil Salt and Jos Buttler, in quick succession after they had given the defending champions a solid 73-run start in the chase of 201/7.

"Yeah, obviously made that decision a little while ago to pull out of the IPL and I thought it was the best thing for me moving forward into this World Cup," said Zampa at the post-match press conference.

"I was tired, I had some niggles and I'm a family man as well, so trying to put them first over work sometimes is pretty important.

"I actually am a bit of a slow starter and I put in a little bit of extra work. My body feels great and I just did that bit of extra



work. Maybe a bit more bowling than I usually would before a tournament like this. And then the practice games and everything just feels nice at the moment," he added.

With the win, Australia climbed to the top of Group B with four points, while England slumped to fourth.

Cricket pundits have started drawing comparisons between Zampa and the legendary Shane Warne, following the former's crucial role in Australia's title-winning run

Zampa also stepped up in big matches during the ODI World Cup last year, but the

32-year-old said the thought had never crossed his mind.

"Never really thought of it that way, to be honest. Like I had to fight for my position in the team for a long time. And then I was lucky enough to have captains that backed me, (Aaron) Finch really backed me in. And it's the same with (Pat) Cummins and (Mitchel) Marsh as well.

"And under this coaching management, my role is clear, I've done the work over time to build up that skill level. But in terms of actually my role in the team, I get backed to take wickets and try and win the game for us and I absolutely feel that with our leadership

Zampa feels his skills had improved over the years.

"As I said, I reckon I did the work when I was young, I went through some rough patches for sure, I got dropped I was in and out of the team a little bit and then I was probably in the team and not bowling that well -- but in the last few years that skill is definitely better than it was eight years ago when I started. And then as I said, the leadership, it helps me feel at home." (PTI)

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at the the 2021 T20 World Cup.