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War Of Words Between BJP, Maharashtra Ally Over Article By RSS Leader

India-Pak impasse

If David Warner opens the bowling, it would be funny...

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Elon Musk's shoutout to Trump at Tesla meet, says he 'calls me for no reason'

World Elon Musk has revealed former US President Donald Trump calls him up sometimes out of the blue "for no reason". Onstage at Tesla's annual shareholder meeting in Austin, Texas, Musk also said Donald Trump was a huge fan of the Cybertruck. "I don't exactly know... I have had some conversations with him, and he does call me, out of the blue, for no reason... I don't know why, but he does," Musk said. "And it's like he's very nice when he calls, and I was like electric cars, I think are pretty good for the future, America's leaders like electric cars, buy America and stuff," he joked. "I think a lot of his friends now have Teslas, and they will love it, and he's a huge fan of the Cybertruck, so I think those may be contributing factors," Musk said. Earlier, Trump had praised Elon Musk at a rally in Arizona saying he was a "big fan" of both electric vehicles and the Tesla boss.

MUSK WINS SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL FOR \$56 BILLION PAY PACKAGE

Tesla TSLA.O shareholders approved CEO Elon Musk's \$56 billion pay package, the electric vehicle maker said on Thursday, a big thumbs-up to his leadership and an incentive to keep his focus on his biggest source of wealth. The approval underscores the support that Musk enjoys from Tesla's retail investor base, many of whom are vocal fans of the mercurial billionaire. The proposal passed despite opposition from some large institutional investors and proxy firms. Onstage at the annual shareholder meeting in Austin, Texas, Musk described himself as pathologically optimistic. "If I wasn't optimistic this wouldn't exist, this factory wouldn't exist," Musk said to applause. "But I do deliver in the end. That's the important thing. He had tipped off late on Wednesday that the proposals were garnering huge support. The approval does not, however, resolve a lawsuit on the pay package in a Delaware court, which some legal experts think could stretch out for months. The judge invalidated the pay package in January, describing it as "unfathomable."

Spiraling criminal violence causes morgue to overflow, foul odors to spread in Ecuadorian city

KOLLAM: A devastating fire in the southern Mangaf district of Kuwait claimed the life of Umarudheen Shameer, a 33-year-old native of Kollam, along with 48 others, mostly Indians. The blaze, which occurred on Wednesday, left dozens more injured. Shameer, hailing from Sooranad North, had been working in Kuwait for the past seven years.

Relatives were informed of the tragedy around noon on Wednesday. According to family sources, the bodies have been moved to a local government hospital. It is suspected that Shameer died while attempting to jump from the building in a panic. The repatriation of his body is expected to take several days. Shameer had returned to Kuwait unawaited. He was the son of Umarudheen and Sheebna and had one younger brother, Nijaz, who is in class 8. His father, known locally as Raju Mesthiri and has been working as a contractor of home construction. Shameer was married to Surumi, a PSC aspirant. The family had previously resided in Oyoor village for 15 years before

US sheriff deputies responding to distress call shot at, suspect wounded

Quito Spiraling criminal violence in one of Ecuador's most dangerous cities caused a buildup of unidentified and unclaimed bodies that exceeded the capacity of Guayaquil's main morgue, officials confirmed Thursday. The government of Guayas, the province of which Guayaquil is the capital, said Thursday afternoon in a statement that "the problem that has arisen in recent days in the morgue" has been resolved, its first acknowledgement that the problem existed in the first place. Local television and media reports had said about 200 bodies over the Forensic Medicine Service morgue's capacity had accumulated and a refrigeration unit used to store them had failed, causing nearby residents to complain of foul odours. Ecuadorian media outlets Ecuavisa and



Telemazonas broadcast images taken with drones showing morgue workers removing bodies from a refrigerated container and spraying the container's entrance with a product the outlets said was meant to neutralize the putrid liquids seeping out of it.

Both the Forensic Medicine Service and the Ministry of Health did not respond to requests for information from The Associated Press made on Wednesday.

The government statement did not say how many bodies were involved but said a malfunctioning refrigerated unit where bodies are kept when the morgue is full had been repaired. During the past week, forensic services collected 40 bodies that were victims of violence in a city that in 2023 recorded a total of 3,762 violent deaths, according to police figures. Most of the deaths are the result of clashes between gangs fighting over territory and drug distribution routes, which has created unprecedented levels of violence in this port city of 2.72 million inhabitants.

The former head of forensic medicine at the Guayaquil morgue, Juan Montenegro, told the AP that the "bodies are stored in containers without taking into account their cooling capacity," meaning the decomposition process is accelerated and bad odors spread and putrid liquids seep untreated into pipes. "I don't understand why they haven't sent the bodies to a mass grave in a timely manner, donated them to the universities, or why they haven't handed them over to the relatives, who are on the street demanding the bodies," he said.

Biden, Volodymyr Zelenskyy sign defence deal as Ukraine nears NATO membership

Borgo Egnazia, Italy US President Joe Biden and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a 10-year bilateral security agreement on Thursday aimed at bolstering Ukraine's defence against Russian invaders and getting Ukraine closer to NATO membership. The deal, signed on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy, aims to commit future US administrations to support Ukraine, even if former President Donald Trump wins November's election, officials said. "Our goal is to strengthen Ukraine's credible defence and deterrence capabilities for the long term", Biden said at a joint news conference with Zelenskyy. He said the G7's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin is "You cannot wait us out. You cannot divide us". The group of rich nations also agreed to a \$50 billion loan for Ukraine backed by profits from frozen Russian assets.

The US-Ukraine security deal is a framework for a long-term effort to help develop Ukraine's outdated armed forces and serve as a step towards Ukraine's eventual NATO membership, according

to the text. he Ukraine president called the agreement historic, saying it is a bridge toward his country's eventual NATO membership. "This is an agreement on security and thus on the protection of human life", he said. Zelenskyy has long sought NATO membership, but the allies have stopped short of taking that step. The Western alliance regards any attack launched on one of its 32 members as an attack on all under its Article Five clause.

In the event of an armed attack or threat of such against Ukraine, top US and Ukrainian officials will meet within 24 hours to consult on a response and determine what additional defence needs are required for Ukraine, the agreement says. Under the agreement, the United States restates its support for Ukraine's defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, amid a renewed push by Russia on Ukraine's eastern front. It also outlines plans to develop Ukraine's



own defence industry and expand its military. Ukraine needs a "significant" military force and sustained investments in its defence industrial base consistent with NATO standards, the text says.

It will allow the two countries to share intelligence, hold training and military education programs and combined military exercises. With Trump leading Biden in many election polls, the future of the agreement remains unclear. Trump

has expressed scepticism of Ukraine's continued fight, saying at one point that he would end the conflict on his first day in office. Trump has also pushed for Europe to take on more of the burden of supporting Kyiv. Zelenskyy, asked about what could happen for his country if there is a change in leadership in the United States and in other allied nations, said people stood with Ukraine because they have shared values and empathise with the Ukrainian people.

He said he does not think that popular support will change.

"If the people are with us, any leader will be with us in this struggle for freedom", he said. Biden recently shifted his policy against allowing Ukraine to use American weapons for attacks inside Russia, permitting Kyiv to fire long-range US missiles against Russian targets near the embattled Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

US man threatens to 'slaughter' FBI agent over Hunter Biden gun case, charged

A 43-year-old man from Texas was charged with making threatening communications against an FBI agent over the gun case involving President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden, who was convicted, on June 11.



Washington DC A Texas man was charged on Thursday with threatening to jail or "slaughter" an FBI agent over the criminal case against President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, federal prosecutors said. zimothy Muller, 43, was charged in a criminal complaint with making threatening communications across state lines and "influencing, impeding or retaliating" against a federal official.

It was not immediately clear if Mullr, of Fort Worth, had retained an attorney in the case, which was filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Prosecutors referred to Hunter Biden only by the initials "HB" but the dates of the criminal case against him match those of the president's son. According to the criminal complaint, Muller on June 11 called an FBI agent who had been

assigned to investigate a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden. When the agent disconnected the call, Muller called again and left a threatening voice message, the complaint alleged. Biden on June 11 was convicted of lying about his illegal drug use to buy a gun. Prosecutors say Muller accused the agent of covering up crimes committed by Biden and said that if former US President Donald Trump were elected in November, the FBI agent would be jailed.

"Or, you can steal another election, and then the guns will come out, and we'll hunt you down and slaughter you like the traitorous dogs you are in your own homes in your own beds," Muller said in the message, according to the criminal complaint.

South Florida at risk of 'life-threatening' floods as torrential rain continues

Florida, US, UPDATED: More torrential downpours deluged South Florida on Thursday, adding to more than a foot (30 cm) of rain that fell on parts of the state this week and leading forecasters to issue flood watches or warnings for an area where 8 million people reside. Some areas, including portions of Broward and Miami-Dade counties, were at risk of "life-threatening flooding," as water built up on roadways and lapped up against thresholds of homes, the National Weather Service said.

A few spots have reported up to 18-to-25 inches (46-to-63.5 cm) of rain since Monday, said Bob Oravec, a forecaster with the service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. More torrential downpours deluged South Florida on Thursday, adding to more than a foot (30 cm) of rain that fell on parts of the state this week and leading forecasters to issue flood watches or warnings for an area where 8 million people reside.

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With another five inches of rain possible before Friday night, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for five South Florida Counties late on Wednesday.

Media reports and social media posts showed stalled cars and people trying to wade in streets covered in hip-deep water, or paddling in small boats and kayaks. In some areas, water has swamped lawns and pushed up to the front doors of houses and other buildings.

Parts of Interstate 95, a main north-south route along the East Coast, were closed due to flooding on Wednesday. "The problem is that there is no place for the rain to go", said Oravec. "The ground is so saturated. In some places, water is rising up from the sewers". In nearby Fort Lauderdale, Mayor Dean Trantalis declared a city-wide emergency due to flooding. He said the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission was sending boats and high-water vehicles to assist any rescues if

Trantalis urged people to stay off roadways. "It's crucial to never attempt to drive through high water", he warned in a message on the X social media platform.

Canadian man stole Tesla trade secrets, tried to sell them to government agents

Canadian national Klaus Pflugbeil stole Tesla TSLA.O electric-vehicle battery manufacturing trade secrets and conspired to sell them to undercover government agents.

Tesla's secrets to FBI agents posing as Long Island businesspeople, the department said in a statement. Neither Pflugbeil's attorney nor representatives for Tesla immediately responded to Reuters requests for comment. Shao, who was also charged but remains at



large, could not be reached for comment. With his guilty plea, Pflugbeil is now being held accountable for this unlawful conduct that jeopardised our national security",

US Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said in a statement. Pflugbeil, who is also a citizen of Germany, was charged in New York in March. Prosecutors said Pflugbeil and Shao built their EV battery business on trade secrets from a "leading US-based electric vehicle company".

Prosecutors did not name the company but said it acquired a Canada-based manufacturer of battery-assembly lines in 2019, which matches the description of Tesla's acquisition of Canadian company Hibar.

Thursday's statement said that Pflugbeil and Shao both worked for the Canadian company before Pflugbeil joined Shao's business in 2020. The DOJ said that the unnamed business now has locations in China, Canada, Germany and Brazil, making the same battery-assembly equipment as their previous employer.

US Supreme Court junks bid to prevent access to abortion pill mifepristone

Washington DC, The US Supreme Court rejected a bid by anti-abortion groups and doctors to restrict access to the abortion pill, handing a victory on Thursday to President Joe Biden's administration in its efforts to preserve broad access to the drug. The justices, two years after ending the recognition of a constitutional right to abortion, ruled 9-0 to overturn a lower court's decision to roll back US Food and Drug Administration steps in 2016 and 2021 that eased how the drug, called mifepristone, is prescribed and distributed. The decision was authored by conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The pill, given FDA regulatory approval in 2000, is used in more than 60 per cent of US abortions. The justices ruled that the plaintiffs, who sued in Texas in 2022, lacked the necessary legal standing to pursue the case, which required that they show they have been harmed in a way that can be traced to the FDA.

The Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, in 2022 overturned its 1973 Roe vs Wade precedent that had legalised abortion nationwide, prompting 14 states to enact measures banning or sharply restricting the procedure.

Biden, a Democrat seeking a second term in office in the November 5 US election, took aim at Republican officials behind such bans, saying they want to outlaw abortion nationwide and that Thursday's ruling "does not change the fact that the

fight for reproductive freedom continues". "It does not change the fact that the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago, and women lost a fundamental freedom. It does not change the fact that the right for a woman to get the treatment she needs is imperilled if not impossible in many states," Biden added. Kavanaugh wrote that even though the plaintiffs, led by a group called the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, do not prescribe or use mifepristone, they wanted the FDA to make it harder for other doctors to prescribe it and women to receive it. "Under Article III of the Constitution, a plaintiff's desire to make a drug less available for others does not establish standing to sue," Kavanaugh wrote, referring to the constitutional provision laying out the authority of the US government's judicial branch.

Kavanaugh rejected the argument made by the plaintiffs that the FDA's actions will force them to provide abortions, violating their consciences, because federal law already protects them. A ruling in favour of the plaintiffs could have threatened the regulatory authority of the FDA over drug safety. The plaintiffs targeted FDA regulatory actions in 2016 and 2021, including allowing for medication abortions at up to 10 weeks of pregnancy instead of seven, and for mail delivery of the drug without a woman first seeing a clinician in-person. The suit initially had

sought to reverse FDA approval of mifepristone, but that aspect was rebuffed by a lower court. Biden and other Democrats have sought to make abortion rights a central theme against Republicans in the election. Biden said he



will continue to urge Congress to codify abortion rights in federal law. Biden noted that some state abortion bans include no exceptions for rape or incest. "Women are being turned away from emergency rooms, or forced to go to court to plead for care that their doctor recommended or to travel hundreds of miles for care," Biden said. "Doctors and nurses are being threatened with jail time, including life in prison, for providing the health care they have been trained to provide. And contraception and IVF (in vitro fertilisation) are under attack," he added. The Supreme Court by the end of June is expected to rule on the legality of Idaho's strict Republican-backed abortion ban that forbids terminating a

pregnancy even if necessary to protect the health of a pregnant woman facing a medical emergency. In the 14 states that have banned abortion with limited exceptions, medical providers cannot prescribe or dispense mifepristone under state law. Patients in those states might continue to take the legal risk of ordering the pills online from providers in other states or they might travel out-of-state to legally obtain the pills.

H E F I G H T O V E R M I F E P R I S T O N E

Erin Hawley, a lawyer with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group representing the plaintiffs, expressed disappointment with the ruling, but said it was on a "legal technicality" and not the merits of the legal arguments.

The plaintiffs argued that the FDA acted contrary to its mandate to ensure that medications are safe when it eased restrictions on mifepristone. The plaintiffs accused the FDA of violating a federal law governing the actions of regulatory agencies. Hawley said she expected the litigation to continue given that three states - Idaho, Missouri and Kansas - already have intervened in it.

"We are very hopeful that the federal courts will have a chance to hold the FDA accountable for its unlawful actions in removing these long-standing safeguards for women," Hawley said.

Modi, Macron discuss ways to enhance cooperation in AI, critical emerging technologies

RNS I New Delhi: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy, where they reviewed the bilateral relationship between India and France. The discussions centered on the 'Horizon 2047' Roadmap and the Indo-Pacific Roadmap. "Discussions included cooperation in defence, nuclear, space, education, climate action, digital public infrastructure, connectivity, and cultural initiatives such as the National Museum partnership and enhancing people-to-people ties. They agreed to further intensify strategic defence cooperation with increased focus on 'Make in India'," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs. The two leaders also agreed to expand cooperation in AI, critical and emerging technologies, energy, and sports. They com-



mitted to working closely in the context of the forthcoming AI Summit and the United Nations Oceans Conference, both to be hosted in France in 2025. Following the meeting, Modi posted on X: "Had an excellent meeting with my friend President @EmmanuelMacron. This is our fourth meeting in one year, indicating the priority we accord to strong India-

French ties. Our talks covered numerous subjects such as defence, security, technology, AI, Blue Economy and more. We also discussed how to encourage innovation and research among the youth. I conveyed my best wishes to him on the hosting of the Paris Olympics, which begins next month." The two leaders exchanged views on key global and re-

gional issues. "They emphasized that a strong and trusted Strategic Partnership between India and France is crucial for a stable and prosperous global order and agreed to work closely to make it scale greater heights," the statement added. Earlier in the day, Modi arrived in Italy to attend the G7 Summit.

US Celebrates Indian Election in Response to 'Hindu State' Query by Pakistani Journalist

Washington D.C.: In response to a question from a Pakistani journalist about whether he believed India was "turning into a Hindu state," U.S. State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller praised the recent Indian general election. Miller responded, "Electoral issues are for the Indian people to resolve. We applaud the Indian election, which was the biggest exercise of electoral franchise in any country in history." He refrained from commenting on the specific results of the election, emphasizing that it is not something the U.S. comments on. India conducted a seven-phase general election this year. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, emerged victorious, securing a third consecutive term in power. Despite expectations from exit polls, the BJP won 240 seats. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a total of 293 seats. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet took their oaths on Sunday. The opposition coalition, INDIA, also performed strongly, winning 234 seats in the elections.

NCRB launches Mobile App 'NCRB Sankalan Of Criminal Laws'; New Laws Effective from 1 July

RNS I New Delhi: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has introduced a new mobile application, "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws," designed to serve as a comprehensive resource for the new criminal laws set to take effect from July 1. The app consolidates information on the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, offering users an indexed guide to all chapters and sections of these new laws. A notable feature of the app is a chart that allows for section-wise comparison between the old and new laws, equipped with search and linking capabilities for efficient information retrieval. Designed to function offline, the app ensures accessibility even without internet connectivity. It is available for download on both Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. The "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws" app is expected to be highly beneficial for the general public, court officers, advocates, law students, and police officers by enhancing their understanding of the new criminal laws.

Mega Women's Health Camp Saves 10 Pre-Cancer Patients at West Singhbhum



by Siddharth Pandey

Chaibasa: In a significant step towards making Jharkhand the first cervical cancer-free state, a Mega Women's Health Camp was held at SAIL Gwa Club, organized by the IMA Women Doctors Wing, Jharkhand's Health and Forest Departments, and SAIL Management Gwa. The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary and Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Meena, and successfully identified and treated 10 women with pre-cancer symptoms. The camp, attended by Civil Surgeon Chaibasa Dr. Sahir Paul, Gwa SAIL CGM Kamal Bhaskar, and Saranda Forest Division DFO Avirup Sinha, was led by Dr. Bharti Kashyap. It aimed to eliminate cervical and breast cancer in Jharkhand, utilizing computerized video colposcopes and freezing machines in 14 state government hospitals. A total of 500 women were examined, with 70% presenting vaginal edema. Ten patients received colposcope-guided cryotherapy for pre-cancerous cervical conditions. Additionally, two women were found to have pyometra and five had cervical polyps. All attendees received a month's supply of complimentary iron, folic acid, and calcium tablets. Jyoti and Janani Suraksha Abhiyans plan to hold similar camps in Noamundi, Kiriburu, and Chakradharpur to treat genital ailments in disadvantaged women. The campaign, led by Gwa Forest Area Officer Parmanand Rajak and a team of health specialists, aims to reduce cervical cancer mortality, which claims 67,000 lives in India annually. Local officials praised the efficient and effective collaboration of the camp.

Induction programme for new Junior Assistants concludes at IIT-ISM

RNS I Dhanbad: A three-day Induction Programme for 30 newly appointed Junior Assistants concluded on Thursday evening (June 13) with a certificate distribution ceremony. Professor MK Singh, Dean (Academic), served as the chief guest and presented certificates to the participants. In his address, Professor Singh emphasized the dedication required to qualify for the position and encouraged the new appointees to work diligently for the institute's growth. He highlighted the importance of the skills learned during the training, expressing confidence that these skills would help the Junior Assistants perform their tasks efficiently and contribute to the institute's progress. Prabhodh Pandey, Registrar of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and course coordinator, also addressed the trainees. He stressed the value of the training, noting that it would enhance their competence and help them execute both daily tasks and special assignments



with increased efficiency. Rajan Chaudhary, Deputy Registrar (Estt.) and Course Co-coordinator, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Shri Prabhodh Pandey for his guidance in planning and executing the programme. He also thanked the trainers, including Faculty In-Charge, Deputy Registrars, and Assistant Registrars, for providing valuable insights during the sessions. On the concluding day, various training sessions were conducted, including: Government e-Marketplace and Project & Accounts by Kamesh Kanchan Katariar, Assistant Registrar (Project & Accounts); Student-related

matters, student mess, fee structure, scholarships, insurance, etc., by MN Pandey, Deputy Registrar (Students Welfare); Hostel Management and student-related matters by Shivjee Pandey, Assistant Registrar (Students Welfare); House Allotment Rules and Labour Welfare by Rahul Kumar, Assistant Registrar (Estate & Infrastructure) and Overview of Academics in IIT (ISM) by RD Sharma, Deputy Registrar (Academics). The programme aimed to equip the Junior Assistants with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles and support the institute's mission, informed Dean, Corporate Communications of ISM.

PM Modi holds series of bilateral meetings on sidelines of G7 summit in Italy

RNS I New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a series of bilateral meetings during the G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy. One of his key meetings was with French President Emmanuel Macron, where discussions centered on enhancing the partnership in defense, nuclear technology, space exploration, education, climate action, digital infrastructure, critical technologies, connectivity, and culture. Both leaders expressed a desire to bolster strategic defense cooperation, with a specific emphasis on India's 'Make in India' initiative. They also pledged to expand collaboration in artificial intelligence, critical and emerging technologies, energy, and sports, with a focus on the upcoming AI Summit and the United Nations Oceans Conference in France next year. PM Modi and President Macron stressed the im-



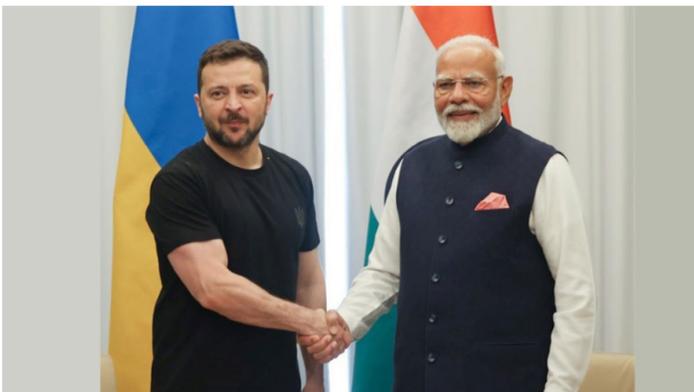
portance of their strong Strategic Partnership for global stability and prosperity, committing to elevating it to new heights. Modi also extended his best wishes for the upcoming Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. During his meeting with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Modi reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Discussions focused on deepening ties in areas such as semiconductors, technology, and trade, with a specific emphasis on strengthening defense cooperation. Additionally, PM Modi

met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to review bilateral relations and exchange views on the situation in Ukraine. Modi reiterated India's support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Modi is scheduled to hold further bilateral discussions with G7 leaders, representatives from Outreach Countries, and international organizations.

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G7 Summit: Modi advocates dialogue & diplomacy to resolve Russia-Ukraine conflict

RNS I Italy: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, on Friday. During their discussion, Modi emphasized that dialogue and diplomacy are the only viable methods to resolve the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. "Had a very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine. Regarding the ongoing hostilities, I reiterated that India believes in a human-centric approach and that the way to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy," Modi posted on X. Zelenskyy had earlier extended his congratulations to Modi following his victory in the recent Indian



general elections. Modi has now secured his third consecutive term as Prime Minister after his Bharatiya Janata Party won the polls. In addition to meeting Zelenskyy, Modi also met with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to discuss strengthening the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the third

term of the NDA Government. "It was a delight to meet PM @RishiSunak in Italy. I reiterated my commitment to further strengthening the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the third term of the NDA Government. There is great scope to deepen ties in sectors like semicon-

ductors, technology, and trade. We also talked about further cementing ties in the defence sector," Modi stated. Modi also had a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron during the G7 Summit. Earlier in the day, Modi arrived in Italy to participate in the Sum-

Chinmay Vidyalaya in Bokaro Achieves Historic NABET Accreditation

RNS I Bokaro: No other school in Jharkhand has achieved what Chinmay Vidyalaya has accomplished—being accredited by the National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET). A special prayer service was performed in the school's freshly built auditorium when the announcement was made. The school's dedication to offering high-quality education was acknowledged by Vishwaroop Upadhyay, Chairman of the School Committee and Director of the Eastern Region of Chinmay Education Cell, who was filled with delight and satisfaction at this accomplishment. According to Upadhyay, NABET is a constitutional body of the Quality Circle of India, a branch of the Indian government that works to improve the quality of education in India by accrediting and training institutions to international standards. The accreditation was received



with much jubilation and congrats from all those present, including instructors, staff, and students. The whole Chinmay family is celebrating this major accomplishment, and School Secretary Mahesh Tripathi congratulated Upadhyay for his leadership and supervision of the certification process. While speaking to members of the press, Principal Suraj Sharma highlighted the many positive impacts that the school has had over the past 47 years. Shri

Vishwarup Mukhopadhyay, President of the Chinmay Vidyalaya Management Committee, had a vision, and he applauded Shri Mahesh Tripathi for his collaboration and Mrs. Supriya Chaudhary, Head of the Human Resources Department, for her efforts. Sharma also thanked the venerable Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda Maharaj for his blessings and the hard work of everyone on staff, both in and out of the classroom.

Swamini Samyuktananda Saraswati, Vishwarup Mukhopadhyay, Mahesh Tripathi, R N Mallik, Supriya Chaudhary, Vice-Principal Narmendra Kumar, and other dignitaries were present at the press conference. They were quite complimentary of Principal Suraj Sharma's leadership, offered their congratulations, and voiced their expectation that the school will achieve great things while he was in charge.

CCL Central Hospital Hosts Blood Donation camp

RNS I Dhanbad: In celebration of 'World Blood Donor Day' on June 14, 2024, a blood donation camp was organized at CCL's Central Hospital in Gandhi Nagar. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Sushil Kumar, CMS Incharge at Gandhi Nagar. Distinguished attendees included Dr. R.K. Singh, CMO Admin at GNH, Dr. Anita Kumari, Dr. Khushboo Saran, Dr. Srimayi Mukherjee, Dr. Mohana Mandal, along with hospital employees.

A total of 37 units of blood were collected, with both men and women participating. The primary goal of the camp was to provide blood to patients in need and to raise public awareness about the importance of blood donation. Blood donation is a crucial, life-saving act that can significantly benefit patients suffering from blood deficiencies. By donating blood, individuals contribute to society in a meaningful way.

Not only does blood donation help patients, but it also benefits the donors by promoting new blood circulation, which contributes to overall health. Organizing blood donation camps serves the dual purpose of aiding patients and maintaining donor health. Participation in such initiatives is a valuable service to society. The doctors, technicians, and staff of Gandhinagar Hospital played an instrumental role in the camp's success.



Through initiatives like this, CCL is committed to fulfilling its social responsibilities while also

ensuring the country's energy needs.

CCL HQ Vigilance Department Hosts One-Day Workshop on Civil Contracts

RNS I Ranchi: Today, under the aegis of the Vigilance Department at CCL HQ, a one-day workshop on civil contracts was organized by the Rajrappa Area as part of a continued two-day capacity building program. A total of 46 participants from five areas—Barka Sayal, Argada, Hazaribagh, CWS Barkakana, and Rajrappa—attended the work-



shop. The event was inaugurated by GM Rajrappa Area, Sh. Binod Kumar. Sh. Vimal Kumar Azad, Staff Officer (Civil), served as the key resource person, provid-

ing valuable insights and guidance throughout the workshop.

War Of Words Between BJP, Maharashtra Ally Over Article By RSS Leader

In an article, a senior RSS leader questioned the BJP's move to enter an alliance with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, terming the move "ill-advised".

Mumbai: The BJP and its ally in Maharashtra, the Nationalist Congress Party, seem to have hit a rocky road after their rivals, the INDIA alliance, won more Lok Sabha seats in the state. The two parties on Thursday engaged in a war of words over an article in

Organiser, a weekly known to be close to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The article had criticised the BJP for contesting the elections along with Ajit Pawar's NCP. The INDIA bloc won 30 seats in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. The BJP and its allies won 17, of which NCP scored only one. Maharashtra sends second-highest representatives to the Lok Sabha - 48 - only next to Uttar Pradesh's 80. According to reports, the BJP has launched an internal survey to assess if they should contest alone in the Assembly elections to be held later this year.

In an article, a senior RSS leader questioned the BJP's move to enter an alliance with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, terming the move "ill-advised". "Why was this ill-advised step taken? BJP supporters were hurt because they had fought against this Congress ideology for years and were persecuted. In a single stroke, BJP reduced its brand value," RSS' Ratan Sharda wrote in the article. "Maharashtra is a prime example of unnecessary politicking and avoidable manipulations. Well-performing parliamentarians were ignored to



accommodate such late comers," it added. Rajya Sabha MP and senior NCP leader Praful Patel though said that the article shouldn't be seen as a sign that all is not well between the two allies. "An article in a weekly does not reflect the BJP's stance. It should not be interpreted in that manner," he said. However, NCP youth wing leader Sooraj Chavan lashed out saying that when the BJP performs well, credit is given to the hard work of the RSS but a defeat is blamed on Ajit Pawar. Hitting back, BJP leader Pravin Darekar said, "The RSS is like a father figure to all of us. There is no need to make

comments about the RSS. Sooraj Chavan should not have rushed to comment on the organisation. The BJP has not commented against the NCP. It would be better if such issues are discussed during NDA meetings." The first signs of discord between the two parties emerged when the NCP denied a Minister of State post in the new government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel both expressed a desire for a cabinet berth while rejecting the offer. The argument from the NCP's side is that Mr Patel, as a former cabinet minister, is too senior a figure to

hold a junior minister's post. Ajit Pawar told reporters his party is "ready to wait" for that cabinet berth.

Mr Patel was similarly resolute, telling reporters, "I was earlier cabinet minister (in the Congress-led UPA government and being made MoS (Minister of State) is a demotion." The Ajit Pawar-led NCP, part of the ruling alliance in Maharashtra along with the BJP and the Shiv Sena, managed to win just one seat (Raigad) of the four it contested in the Lok Sabha polls. It also lost the prestige battle in Baramati, where Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar was trounced by the sitting MP from the rival NCP faction and his cousin, Supriya Sule.

The Indo-Asian News Service, citing unnamed sources, reported that after the results, the BJP is considering whether to continue the alliance with Ajit Pawar or not. "These surveys have been launched to find out how the party will get the simple majority going solo.

Besides, the surveys will also show how the BJP will perform in an alliance with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. It will also gauge the mood about whether to continue its alliance with the NCP," a BJP source told IANS.

'Saas, Beta, And Bahu Sammelan' For Family Planning In UP

Lucknow: The second phase of Population Stabilisation Fortnight, focusing on Community mobilisation, is set to begin on June 27 and run until July 10. During this period, the Yogi government will organise various activities, such as 'Sarathi Vahan' and 'Saas-Beta-Bahu Sammelan,' to raise public awareness about the importance of family planning. Following this, the third phase of the fortnight will be observed from July 11 to 24. "During this, consultations on various family planning methods (basket of choice) will be provided at all health units, and these methods will be made available to eligible and willing beneficiaries," as per an official release.



Sarathi Sen Sharma has issued a letter with necessary guidelines to all District Magistrates and Chief Medical Officers in the state," the release stated. Dr Pinky Jovel, Mission Director of the National Health Mission, stated that Population Fortnight is celebrated annually with active participation from officials, health

workers, and the community.

"Numerous family welfare programs are also conducted during this time. These efforts have led to a decrease in the state's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), as evidenced by the National Family Health Survey. According to NFHS-5 (2019-20), the TFR is 2.4, down from 2.7 in NFHS-4 (2015-16)," as per the release. The initial phase of Population Stabilisation Fortnight began on June 1 and will run until June 20. During this period, preparations are underway to motivate targeted couples and effectively implement service delivery activities. "Efforts include capacity building for service providers, ensuring a supply of family planning methods, and fostering coordination between various departments," the release stated.

This year's slogan for Population Fortnight is 'Viksit Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchan, Parivar Niyojan Har Dampati Ki Shaan' and the theme is 'Right time and gap of pregnancy for the health of mother and child'.

This Is What Amit Shah Told Tamilisai Soundararajan During Andhra CM Oath Ceremony

New Delhi: BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan cleared the air surrounding a viral conversation between Union Minister Amit Shah and her. Soundararajan said that the home minister asked her 'to carry out political and constitutional work extensively.' The two were attending the swearing-in ceremony of TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister on Wednesday, and a video clip from the ceremony surfaced on social media.

In the video clip, Shah can be seen speaking to Soundararajan in an animated manner while gesturing with his finger as he talks.

Her comment is important as it comes amid rumours of a feud within the Tamil Nadu BJP. Many alleged that Shah seems to be scolding her as he is upset, especially since Soundararajan criticised BJP Tamil



Nadu leader K Annamalai for the party's poor election results in the state.

Her supposed remarks about 'criminal elements' in the BJP and that 'the party would have won if it had teamed up with the AIADMK' were among the other triggers that sparked the controversy.

She mentioned that she met Shah for the first time after the Lok Sabha election results were announced, and they were discussing "post-poll follow-up." In a post on X on Thursday evening, Soundararajan, who is the former Governor of Telangana, wrote, "Yesterday, as I met our Honorable Home Minister Sri Amit Shah ji in AP for the first time after the 2024 Elections, he called me to ask about post-poll follow-up and the challenges faced. As I was elaborating, due to the paucity of time, with utmost concern, he advised me to carry out the political and constituency work intensively, which was reassuring. This is to clarify all unwarranted speculations around."

Soundararajan ran for the South Chennai Lok Sabha seat but was defeated by DMK's Tamizhachi Thangapandian.

Amid Suspense Over Lok Sabha Speaker Post, JDU Leader Says Will Back BJP Nominee

New Delhi: Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi has said that his party and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) are part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and will support the candidate nominated by BJP for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker. "JDU (Janata Dal-United) and TDP (Telugu Desam Party) are strongly in NDA. We will support the person nominated (for Speaker) by BJP," Mr Tyagi told the news agency ANI. He was asked about remarks of some opposition leaders that the new Lok Sabha Speaker may be from TDP or JD-U. BJP is leading a coalition government with its allies at the Centre.



Mr Tyagi's remarks are an indication that BJP is likely to put up its nominee for the Speaker's post and the candidate may not be from among allies of the party. The election for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker is scheduled for June 26 in the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha. Asked about

the controversy surrounding NEET-UG results, Mr Tyagi said the matter is under the consideration of the Supreme Court. "We refrain from commenting anything on the issue." Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge had alleged that there has been fraud and a "paper

leak" in the NEET-UG exam conducted by the National Testing Agency. The Congress has alleged a "scam" and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the matter.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has dismissed these allegations and said there is no paper leak and the government is ready to give answers in court. Speaking about AAP's allegations on BJP regarding Delhi's water crisis, Mr Tyagi said, "Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi government should refrain from politicising the issue and sit together to find solutions for the problem. The public is the sole sufferer." He said there will be a discussion on the demands of people during the union budget.

"There will be positive discussions in the parliament. The elected MPs will carry forward the expectations, demands and issues of their constituencies," he said.

'You have no role in this': Delhi court says ED can't object to Arvind Kejriwal's plea seeking relief in jail

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is in judicial custody in Tihar jail, has requested that his wife be allowed to join him via video conferencing while his medical checkups were going on.

New Delhi: Hearing a plea filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a Delhi court on Friday told the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that it cannot object to his requests related to his medical checkup in Tihar jail. Kejriwal is currently in judicial custody in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. "Accused (Kejriwal) is in judicial custody, not ED (custody). If he wants any relief, you have no role in this," Judge Mukesh Kumar told the central probe agency while directing the jail superintendent of Tihar jail to respond to Kejriwal's application for allowing his wife to join him via video conferencing while his medical checkups were going on. In his plea, Kejriwal had also requested to be allowed to provide his inputs regarding his health condition to the medical

board which a Delhi court had in April directed AIIMS to constitute to examine Kejriwal to determine whether he needs insulin to control his sugar levels.

ED Special Counsel Zoheb Hossain requested the court to call for a report from the jail authorities about providing the video conferencing access to Kejriwal's wife. "Hum jail se reply manga lenge par aapka to koi role hai nahi isme (We will seek a reply from the jail but you have no role in this)," the court held. While Kejriwal's plea for regular bail will be heard on June 19, a Delhi court had earlier denied him interim bail noting that his extensive election campaigning indicated that he was not suffering from any serious or life-threatening ailment. The interim bail plea highlighted fluctuating sugar levels and



increased ketone levels. Senior Advocate N Hariharan, representing Kejriwal, had earlier told a court that the increased ketone levels could be indicative of diabetic ketoacidosis, a complication which could be fatal. The advocate also said tests such as PET scan, LFT, KFT, CBC and the 'Holter test' had to be conducted and these could cumulatively take as long as a week.

The ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21 in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The central agency had earlier said that Kejriwal was "directly involved in the formulation" of the now-scrapped excise policy, which was drafted "considering the favours to be granted to the 'South Group' — a group of individuals from the southern part of India. The ED claims the 'South Group' "secured uninhibited access, undue favours, attained stakes in established wholesale businesses, and multiple retail zones (over and above what was allowed in the policy)", and paid Rs 100 crore to AAP leaders in return. The agency also alleged that bribes received from the 'South Group' were funnelled into the AAP's Goa Assembly poll campaign in 2021-2022.

Time to put S&T policies back on track

IN the past 10 years, innovation was perhaps the most quoted buzzword in speeches of the Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers and science bureaucrats in India. Several awards, missions and schemes were announced to promote science-based innovation in different sectors. It is, however, surprising that all this was happening without a proper enabling environment. The grand intentions of the Modi 2.0 government to boost scientific research remained a 'work in progress' at a time when the global research landscape is fast changing with the emergence of deep tech. Little progress was made on three critical counts — science and technology (S&T) policies, funding mechanisms and research priorities — and the new government's agenda should be to prioritise them. An exercise to develop a new National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy was initiated during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Several drafts were prepared, but the policy remains on paper and is yet to be finalised. The policy was to replace the one released in 2013 by the UPA government. The first task of the new government on the science and technology front, therefore, should be to finalise the STI Policy and start its implementation in earnest. If the new dispensation finds that the draft is not good enough, it should junk it and continue with the 2013 STI policy framework. The policy goals enunciated in 2013 remain unfulfilled even after a decade. Among the key objectives of the 2013 policy was to 'position India among the top five global scientific powers by 2020' and to increase the gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to 2 per cent of the GDP. We have seen little progress on the expenditure front. India has slipped on this parameter. The GERD in 2013 was 1 per cent of the GDP. It came down to 0.66 per cent and 0.64 per cent during 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively, according to the latest available data from the Department of Science and Technology. The 2013 policy was unequivocal about the need to increase GERD and enhance public investment in scientific research, but the 2020 STI draft is vague on this count. It talks of developing a 'financial landscape of the STI ecosystem' in which departments and ministries of the central, state, and local governments as well as government and private companies will set up an STI unit with 'a minimum earmarked budget to pursue STI activities.' On the face of it, it is an outdated idea. It was first proposed in the 1980s.

The technology development roadmap suggested in the draft is equally adrift. The policy draft seeks to promote technology self-reliance and indigenisation to achieve the larger goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. For this, a two-way approach has been prescribed — indigenous development of technology as well as technology indigenisation. At the same time, it says, "international engagements will be facilitated to gain essential know-how towards creation and development of indigenous technologies."

Another grand idea of the Modi government was the National Research Foundation (NRF) as a supra-research funding agency. It was first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in 2019. The NRF is still to see the light of day even after Parliament passed a Bill for its formation in 2023. The idea of a funding agency along the lines of America's National Science Foundation was first proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister, headed by Prof CNR Rao, in 2005. As a result, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) was established in 2008 to streamline funding for scientific research. The NRF Act of 2023 repealed the SERB Act of 2008 and dissolved SERB. There has been no credible justification from the government for replacing SERB with a new body. The only intention seems to be to create a centralised body to fund and also regulate research. NRF's Governing Board will be presided over by the Prime Minister and two ministers (Science and technology and education) will be the Vice-Presidents. Even with SERB, researchers complained of bureaucratic delays, one can imagine the fate of such a heavily political governing structure for the NRF. In a large and diverse country like India, do we need a centralised funding mechanism based in New Delhi or multiple channels of funding in different sectors?

Manpower shortage calls for a rethink of Agnipath scheme

It is intriguing that the Dept of Military Affairs waited for two years to launch an inquiry into manpower crunch resulting from the new scheme.

THE Agnipath scheme was a big issue for the Opposition during the recent election campaign. Referring to the scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Opposition of using the Army as a political weapon. This is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Now, NDA allies Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party in the Modi 3.0 government have sought a review of the scheme. According to recent reports, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has launched an inquiry into manpower shortage resulting from the scheme. Why the DMA waited two years is intriguing, for it was clear as daylight that unacceptable deficiencies would accrue as the quota for recruitment was woefully inadequate in the backdrop of the rate of retirement, especially after the nearly three-year drought in recruitment amid the Covid-19 pandemic. But there was a method to the madness.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was seated among Service Chiefs when the transformative Agnipath scheme was announced in June 2022. Officers of the tri-service DMA spelt out its virtues: arguably a more youthful profile for below-officer rank personnel. Serving Chiefs, whose deep selection generally ensures conformity, later lauded the controversial reform. Gen MM Naravane (retd), predecessor of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Manoj Pande, reportedly mentioned in his long-delayed book, *Four Stars of Destiny*, the shock and awe generated by Agnipath, which was described as 'a bolt from the blue' for the Air Force and the Navy. The Tour of Duty scheme, conceived earlier by the late Gen Bipin Rawat, was a short-term recruitment plan to be test-bedded for 5,000 personnel. Even before the DMA launched its investigation into Agnipath, I had begun to quiz officers and others about it. The negative views of veterans are well-known. I visited two infantry regimental centres — Gorkha and Garhwali — in Shillong and Lansdowne and the Signals Training Centre in Goa. Until recently, infantry regiments, barring Gorkhas, were only marginally deficient in manpower, but managing units on the LOC and LAC was not easy. The Gorkhas were the ones to take a hit. Sixty per cent of the manpower for 38 Gorkha battalions comes from Nepal-domiciled Gorkhas (NDGs). Nepal had quietly rejected Agnipath, which was imposed unilaterally — without any consultation — though recruitment is in accordance with the 1947 tripartite treaty between the UK, India and Nepal. Last month, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said India would act in its national interest and not at the behest of any other country, referring to Nepal. No one needs to tell Jaishankar that NDGs joining the Indian Army is not just recruitment but a strategic bonding and an Indian asset in Nepal. In the absence of recruitment for four years, many Gorkha battalions are nearly 100 soldiers short of the authorised strength. Further, the 40



per cent Indian-domiciled Gorkha (IDG) quota is undersubscribed: so, Garhwalis and Kumaonis are being recruited in lieu of Gorkhas. Last year, Gen Pande even considered disbanding Gorkha battalions.

In Shillong, Sabathu, Banaras and Lucknow, the Gorkha regimental centres are training Agniveers from other regiments. The truncated 31-week training programme is producing yet-to-be-tested short-service soldiers. Even in Goa, where they train communication specialists, no one spoke well of Agnipath. During the election campaign, anti-Agnipath protesters demanded a return to the old recruitment system, whose star attraction was pension. Even as the government is keen to project Agnipath's resultant youthful profile, the real motive is the reduction of salary and pension bills to create funds for modernisation. In 2023-24, the capital outlay pertaining to defence modernisation and infrastructure development was Rs 1.63 lakh crore, while Rs 1.38 lakh crore were allocated for pensions. No recruitment for nearly three years of pandemic created a void in the Army alone of 1,80,000 personnel. In addition, the Agniveer intake of around 42,000 (28,000 Army, 8,000 Navy and 6,000 IAF) annually tells a different story. The Army is

recruiting for four years with 25 per cent retention from 28,000 personnel, which is 7,000, while nearly 70,000 will retire every year. On top of this, 2023 was the Army's year of transformation and right-sizing. An additional 1,00,000 soldiers were to be retrenched in addition to the shortfall of 1,80,000 in 2023, plus the yearly depletion. By April last year, after the Integrated Defence Staff ordered a 10 per cent reduction in combat units, manpower deficiency had risen to alarming levels. I raised the matter at a veterans' seminar last year, which was presided over by Gen Pande. Stunned silence prevailed. No one in the armed forces is prepared to bell the cat. A Lieutenant General who dealt with manpower — he has superannuated but still can't be named — went to meet the Joint Secretary concerned in the PMO to inform him about the alarming deficiency. When he spelt out the estimated shortfall, he was informed: "Sahib ko sab malum hai" (Sahib knows it all). Agnipath and Agniveer are believed to be the PM's contribution to the vocabulary of transformational defence reforms. However, the scheme has severely undermined the operational capabilities of the armed forces. That's why the DMA has launched an internal survey.

India-Pak impasse

Both nations should strive to reduce trust deficit

SHORTLY after assuming charge as Foreign Minister for a second term, S Jaishankar said with reference to Pakistan that India would want to find a solution to the years-old cross-border terrorism. 'That cannot be the policy of a good neighbour,' he added. His statement comes on the heels of the messages posted on X by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and ex-PM Nawaz Sharif, congratulating PM Narendra Modi on his re-election. While Shehbaz confined himself to a terse sentence, Nawaz expansively appealed for replacing hate with hope and seizing the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia. Modi was equally terse in thanking Shehbaz and no less eloquent in reminding Nawaz that the people of India had always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas. The exchange of messages is significant as India-Pakistan ties have been in deep freeze since the Pulwama terror attack and the retaliatory Balakot



airstrikes of February 2019. The situation worsened after India revoked Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir in August that year, even

as the hopes raised by the opening of the Kartarpur corridor were snuffed out soon. However, some positive signs have been visible of late. Alluding to the 25-year-old Kargil War, Nawaz admitted last month that Pakistan had violated the Lahore Declaration in 1999. Interestingly, during their Lok Sabha election campaign, some BJP candidates promised the resumption of India-Pakistan trade via the Attari-Wagah crossing.

Amid backdoor diplomatic efforts, India has been asserting that terrorism and talks cannot go together. But as last week's Reasi attack has shown, it's an onerous task for Pakistan's military-controlled political leadership to turn off the terror tap overnight. Both New Delhi and Islamabad need to take a step forward, even if it's tentative to start with. This will help in reducing the trust deficit and bringing the two neighbours to the talks table.

Recalling Ambassador Asrani's Lagos masterstroke

Like the words of the Japanese poet, Basho, he loved, Asrani is now on a 'journey... my dream goes wandering'

THERE is much for which to remember Ambassador Arjun Asrani, who passed away recently. He was one of the surprisingly few Indian Foreign Service officers who served thrice in the same embassy — Tokyo, in his case, first as 'language trainee', then as second-in-command and finally as Ambassador. As Deepa Wadhwa, who headed the Japan mission 20 years later, remarked, "he was a mentor to many who followed him, maintaining a close association with the country where he was highly regarded and honoured with their highest civilian award." Much earlier, he was the only one to be transferred from Washington, where he had made a mark as the head of the Embassy's economic wing, to New York, where those abilities were thought necessary for the post of Consul-General. Most of his designations through a distinguished pre-ambassadorial career sported the letter 'e' for 'economic', though, as he once said, it could well have stood for 'ecumenical', the aspiration to bring together all the 'churches' in foreign policy — political, economic, commercial, consular and cultural — in the union that a rising power demanded.

But the 'e' could have stood for 'exultation' or 'exaltation' as well — two words, as he once smilingly told me, he always confused, secure in their seeming synonymy, each or either a fitting description of the service to which he belonged, the service that belonged to him, and the experiences it afforded. Such as the exultation of punting down the Chervell river during his probationary courses at Oxford and, a few months later, the exaltation of seeing a rice farmer's yield outside Mysore, where he was on 'district' training, the crop burgeoned by the still new Japanese method of cultivation with high productivity seeds planted at regular distance, energised by fulsome fertilisers and careful irrigation. It was these immediacies of experience that were to make him, in his phrase, a "born-and-bred bilateralist at heart", although he ensured that a brief foray into multilateral diplomacy served his country and its interests well.

It was in March 1987 that the government of Nigeria convened an unusual meeting in capital Lagos,

describing it as the "concert of medium powers".

The concert was a fairly arbitrary selection of nations, including Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, in addition to the host. The idea of such a grouping had been put forward in the mid-1970s by a distinguished Nigerian academician, Bolaji Akinyemi, who was the Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs; 10 years later, he was given the opportunity to realise it on his appointment as Foreign Minister by then President Babangida in 1985. As the professor-turned-practitioner phrased it, medium powers "can assist in consolidating international peace and security through the process of confidence-building among states (and) can operate as a voice of reason in a discordant world, where might is often mistakenly regarded as synonymous with right." When the invitation to participate reached New Delhi, a number of factors came into play while taking a call. While India did not want to offend the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, it also did not want to appear to challenge the primacy of Zimbabwe, which had taken over as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) just eight months earlier. That conundrum was resolved by Harare, which confirmed that it would attend the Lagos meeting. India was also against a proliferation of 'groups' without a defined purpose, having just helped create the "six-nation, five-continent" initiative on disarmament and being in discussion with other non-aligned countries on a 'Group of 15' within the movement to interact substantively with global financial and trade organisations, a group that was to be formalised two years later. But there was much India admired in Nigeria (and its Foreign Minister), including its leading of a 30-nation boycott of the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in protest against Britain's apparently acquiescent attitude to apartheid South Africa and its call



for a nonaligned solidarity fund for the frontline states and liberation movements in southern Africa, which was to take shape as the Africa Fund chaired by India. If India were to help rethink the idea of the 'concert', it would have to be done on the margins with grace and tact, attributes which were immediately identified in Ambassador Asrani, who was asked to lead the Indian delegation. Lagos a few days ahead of the meeting, and preliminary discussions with other delegations suggested a shared puzzlement about what exactly the outcome would be. His front-page interview with a Nigerian newspaper was both upbeat in spirit and non-committal in specifics. It also brought him recognition, manifest in the many heads that turned when we went out for dinner before the conference.

One of them came up to our table and introduced himself as Keswani, an Indian businessman and entrepreneur; he spoke in companionable Hindi with Asrani briefly before wishing us good night. "He will go far," Asrani said to us. "He wants to launch department stores which his associates want to name after this city; he feels — rightly, I think — that calling them 'Lagos Mart' or the like will be too limiting, and he must have a name that can expand comfortably." He paused and, suddenly, like

the Grateful Dead, his eyes glowed with the gold of sunshine. "That is it!" he exclaimed. "That is what, Arjun?" asked Deb Mukharji, High Commissioner in Lagos. "Don't you see?" Asrani replied. "If adding 'Lagos' to the name limits Keswani's possibilities, think of how much it would the convening of 'medium powers.' If we bring 'Lagos' into the name, there is no other country which would venture to host a second meeting. Let's talk to our hosts first thing tomorrow morning. But what name should we suggest?"

"The Lagos Concert?", I suggested hopefully, but it was brushed aside with the jhadoo it deserved. "Forum", said Asrani suddenly. "A group committed to conversations, not conclusions. But we don't need to spell that

out." Early next morning, Asrani met a senior Nigerian officer. "We feel, Excellency," he said, "the name 'Concert of Medium Powers' is too anonymous. This conference should be identified with its creator, just as the Congress of Vienna or the conference at Versailles were. Why not the 'Lagos Forum'?"

And so the title came into being. What it implied was that no other nation would choose to host another conference, constrained by the specificity of its name. It was left to Nigeria to organise a second one some months later, but the growing lack of interest was palpable. Even Zimbabwe chose to opt out of the group with an explanation that could, at best, be considered disingenuous from the NAM Chairman, that it was "a small country just coming out of armed struggles that led to independence in 1980, (and which) could not be in the league of medium power states."

And so the Forum, indeed the Concert, faded gently into memory — reminiscent, in a sense, of the words of Japanese poet Basho, whom Asrani studied and grew to love, "on a journey, ill, my dream goes wandering, over withered fields".



हिंदुओं के गौरव की पहचान स्वामीनारायण मंदिर

भारत ही नहीं पूरी दुनिया के अलग-अलग देशों में ऐसे हिन्दू देवस्थान हैं, जो सनातन संस्कृति से पूरी दुनिया के लोगों को जोड़ते हैं। यह मंदिर मात्र धर्म और आस्था के ही स्थान नहीं है, बल्कि अपनी अद्भुत और अनूठी वास्तुकला के लिए भी पूरी दुनिया में जाने जाते हैं। इन मंदिरों में से एक है कनाडा देश के टोरंटो शहर में स्थित स्वामीनारायण संप्रदाय का स्वामीनारायण मंदिर।

यह मंदिर कनाडा में किच पेन्सु के पास हाईवे नंबर 427 पर स्थित है। इस मंदिर की मुख्य विशेषता है कि इसके निर्माण में इस्पात या लोहे का उपयोग नहीं किया गया है। साथ ही इस मंदिर का अधिकांश भाग अलग-अलग प्रकार के पत्थरों से बना है। जिन पर भारत में ही हस्तशिल्प कार्य किया गया। यह मंदिर मात्र 18 माह की छेटी सी अवधि में बनकर तैयार हुआ। इसका निर्माण स्थानीय हिन्दू धर्मावलंबियों द्वारा किया गया। इसके निर्माण में लगभग 40 मिलियन डॉलर खर्च हुए।

इस मंदिर के निर्माण से जुड़ी अनेक रोचक बातें हैं।

- इस मंदिर के निर्माण में उपयोग किया गया लाईम स्टोन और संगमरमर क्रमशः टर्की और इटली से भारत लाया गया। बाद में इस पर हस्तशिल्प कर फिर से कनाडा ले जाया गया।
- इन पत्थरों पर भारत के 26 स्थानों पर लगभग 1800 हस्तशिल्पियों ने कार्य किया।
- यह मंदिर 18 एकड़ क्षेत्र में फैला है।
- मंदिर के 132 तोरण, 340 खंबों और छत के 84 भागों के लिए 24 हजार नक्काशीदार संगमरमर और लाईमस्टोन पत्थर के टुकड़े उपयोग किए गए।
- इस मंदिर का निर्माण 100 भारतीय कारीगरों और हस्तशिल्पियों ने इन पत्थरों को जोड़कर किया।
- पत्थरों में की गई नक्काशी में भारतीय धर्म ग्रंथों और पुराणों से जुड़े देवी-देवता और चिन्ह दिखाई देते हैं। सनातन संस्कृति के अनुसार मंदिर की पवित्रता बनाए रखने के लिए मंदिर में अनेक नियम और व्यवस्थाएँ हैं।
- मंदिर में भगवान के दर्शन सुबह 9 से 12 बजे के बीच और शाम को 4 से 6 बजे तक होते हैं।
- मंदिर का अध्यात्मिक वातावरण बनाए रखने के लिए शांत रहने का नियम बनाया गया है। साथ ही सुंदर नक्काशी को नुकसान न पहुंचे इसलिए दीवारों का छूना निषेध है। - मंदिर में वस्त्रों की भी मर्यादा नियत की गई है। शर्ट या घुटने से ऊपर तक ऊंचाई वाले कपड़े की अनुमति न होकर उसके स्थान पर धोती या लुंगी दी जाती है।
- जूते-चप्पल, धूम्रपान, मोबाइल आदि मंदिर में लाने और मंदिर के अंदर खान-पान पर पाबंदी है।
- यह मंदिर कनाडा में भारतीय वैदिक संस्कृति का पहला मंदिर माना जाता है।

गुणों की खान तिरूपति बालाजी

हिन्दू धर्मग्रंथों में भगवान के छ-गुण बताए गए हैं - ऐश्वर्य, धन, यश, श्री, वैराग्य और मोक्ष। तिरूपति बालाजी मंदिर और यहां प्रतिष्ठित भगवान वैकटचलापती की प्रतिमा में भगवान के ऐसे ही दिव्य गुणों और भव्य स्वरूप के साक्षात् दर्शन होते हैं।

तिरूपति बालाजी मंदिर में भगवान विष्णु की पूजा वैकटचलापति के रूप में होती है। यहां भगवान विष्णु की कमल पाद पर खड़ी लगभग 10 फिट ऊंची प्रतिमा है। यहां भगवान अपने पूर्ण स्वरूप में विराजित हैं।

यहां भगवान विष्णु लक्ष्मीपति का साक्षात् स्वरूप हैं। भगवान विष्णु अनेक प्रकार के स्वर्ण आभूषणों, हीरे मोतियों की मालाओं से श्रृंगारित होते हैं। इसलिए भगवान विष्णु के साथ ही प्रतिमा में दिखाई देने वाला वैभव देवी लक्ष्मी की दर्शन की अनुभूति भी देता है। भगवान को पहनाए जाने वाले आभूषणों में लक्ष्मी माला शामिल होती है। जिसमें देवी लक्ष्मी की 108 छबियां होती हैं। इसी के साथ सोने में जड़ा गया सालगराम हार भी भगवान को पहनाया जाता है। भगवान की कटि या कमर पर उकेरा गया सुंदर दशावतार पट्टा भी दिखाई देता है। इस पट्टे पर लटकी हुई सोने से बनी सूर्यकटारी भी है। भगवान के वक्षस्थल पर सोने की नक्काशी से बनी लक्ष्मी और पद्मावती के दर्शन भी होते हैं। गर्भगृह में भगवान वैकटचलापती की ही मूर्ति है। भारत में यही एक ऐसा विष्णु मंदिर है, जिसके गर्भगृह में भगवान विष्णु की एक मूर्ति है। मलयाप्पन स्वामी को उत्सव मूर्ति के नाम से पूजा जाता है। यह भगवान की मूल प्रतिमा की प्रतिकृति है। इस प्रतिमा के आसपास श्रीदेवी और भूदेवी की प्रतिमा हैं। मंदिर के मण्डप में उग्र निवास, कोलवू निवास की प्रतिमाएँ भी प्रतिष्ठित हैं। इनके अलावा भगवान श्रीकृष्ण, श्रीराम, सीता और लक्ष्मण की मूर्तियां भी मंदिर में विराजित हैं। गर्भगृह में बनी सुदर्शन चक्र की आकृति भी देखी जा सकती है। तिरूपति बालाजी मंदिर में भगवान वैकटेश्वर की नियमित पूजा होती है। पहली पूजा प्रातः तीन बजे होती है, जो सुप्रभात कहलाती है। इसका अर्थ होता है भगवान को शयन से जगाना। आखिर में एकांत सेवा नाम की पूजा होती है जिसका अर्थ है भगवान को शयन कराना। इस आरती का समापन रात्रि एक बजे होता है। भगवान के नियमित अंतराल से सेवा-उत्सव मनाए जाते हैं। भगवान की प्रार्थना-स्तुति हर दिन, सात दिन और पन्द्रह दिनों के अंतर से की जाती है।



हिंदू धर्म में 33 करोड़ देवी देवता कैसे?



सामान्यतः कहा जाता है कि हिंदुओं के 33 करोड़ देवी-देवता हैं। इतने देवी-देवता कैसे? यह प्रश्न कई बार अधिकांश लोगों के मन में उठता है। शास्त्रों के अनुसार देवताओं की संख्या 33 कोटि बताई गई है। इन्हीं 33 कोटियों की गणना 33 करोड़ देवी-देवताओं के रूप में की जाती है। इन 33 कोटियों में आठ वसु, ग्यारह रुद्र, बारह आदित्य, इंद्र और प्रजापति शामिल हैं। इन्हीं देवताओं को 33 करोड़ देवी-देवता माना गया है। कुछ विद्वानों ने अंतिम दो देवताओं में इंद्र और प्रजापति के स्थान पर दो अश्विनीकुमारों को भी मान्यता दी है। श्रीमद् भागवत में भी अश्विनीकुमारों को ही अंतिम दो देवता माना गया है। इस तरह हिंदू देवी-देवताओं में तैत्तिरीय करोड़ नहीं, केवल तैत्तिरीय ही प्रमुख देवता हैं। कोटि शब्द के दो अर्थ हैं, पहला करोड़ और दूसरा प्रकार या तरह के। इस तरह तैत्तिरीय कोटि को जो कि मूलतः तैत्तिरीय तरह के देव-देवता हैं, उन्हें ही तैत्तिरीय करोड़ माना गया है।

भूत-पिशाच मार भगावे श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी

यहां श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी के प्रति श्रद्धा और विश्वास के कारण अनेक धार्मिक कर्म और गतिविधियां चलती रहती हैं। यहां दान के साथ गरीब, अनाथ, बेसहरो, कमजोर और असक्षम लोगों के लिए भोजन कराया जाता है। गावों के लिए चारा और अन्य सूखे-प्यासे पशु-पक्षियों के लिए दाना-पानी उपलब्ध कराया जाता है।

राजस्थान में मेंहदीपुर बालाजी का मंदिर श्री हनुमान का बहुत जाग्रत स्थान माना जाता है। लोगों का विश्वास है कि इस मंदिर में विराजित श्री बालाजी अपनी देवीय शक्ति से बुरी आत्माओं से छुटकारा दिलाते हैं। इसमें मंदिर में हजारों भूत-पिशाच से त्रस्त लोग प्रतिदिन दर्शन और प्रार्थना के लिए यहां आते हैं, जिन्हें स्थानीय लोग संकटवाला कहते हैं। भूतबाधा से पीड़ित के लिए यह मंदिर अपने ही घर के समान हो जाता है और श्री बालाजी ही उसकी अंतिम उम्मीद होते हैं। यहां श्री बालाजी के सेवा और पूजा करने वाले महंत सभी पीड़ितों को भूत बाधा से मुक्त करने के लिए सारी श्री बालाजी के सामने सभी उपचार करते हैं। इसके लिए वह पवित्रता का पूरा ध्यान रखते हैं। वह सादा और शाकाहार करते हैं। कभी भी इस कार्य को लोक कल्याण की भावना के साथ करते हैं।

यहां पीड़ाओं से मुक्त होने के लिए आस्था और विश्वास की ताकत को देखा जा सकता है। यहां पर प्रेतबाधाओं से लोगों को मुक्त करने के लिए अनेक असाधारण और असामान्य, कष्टप्रद भौतिक चिकित्सा के उपाय देखे जा सकते हैं। किंतु उनका उद्देश्य मात्र व्यक्ति के दुःख और कष्टों से मुक्ति होती है। इनमें कुछ उपायों में प्रेत बाधा से भयंकर पीड़ित व्यक्ति के शरीर पर हाथ, पैर और छतरी पर भारी पत्थर रखे जाते हैं। बहुत ज्यादा पीड़ित और हिंसक व्यक्ति को मंदिर परिसर में ही जंजीरों से भी बांधा जाता है।

यह सारे तरीके पहली नजर में विभत्स और असहनीय दिखाई देते हैं। किंतु प्रेतबाधा से मुक्त होने के लिए हजारों श्रद्धालुओं की इस तरह के तरीकों और उपचारों पर विश्वास और श्रद्धा है। श्रद्धा को ही देव शक्ति से कोई भी फल पाने की सबसे बड़ी ताकत मानी जाती है। हालांकि चिकित्सा विज्ञान भूत प्रेत से ग्रसित व्यक्ति को रोगी मानता है। इसलिए श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी में भूतप्रेत से मुक्त करने के लिए अपनाए गए शारीरिक कष्ट देने वाले उपायों को अध

विश्वास मानता है। किंतु श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी और इस स्थान पर विश्वास और अगाध श्रद्धा रखने वालों की असंख्य है और उनके अनुभव के अनुसार श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी की शक्ति अद्भुत, अलौकिक है और भौतिक संसार से परे है।

अन्य दर्शनीय स्थान -

श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी में अन्य दर्शनीय देवस्थान भी हैं। जिनमें नीलकंठ महादेव मंदिर, माताजी का मंदिर, के लादेवी का मंदिर और प्रताप वाटिका प्रमुख हैं। पहुंच के संसाधन -

श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी दर्शन हेतु पहुंचने के लिए वायुमार्ग, रेलमार्ग और सड़क परिवहन की सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

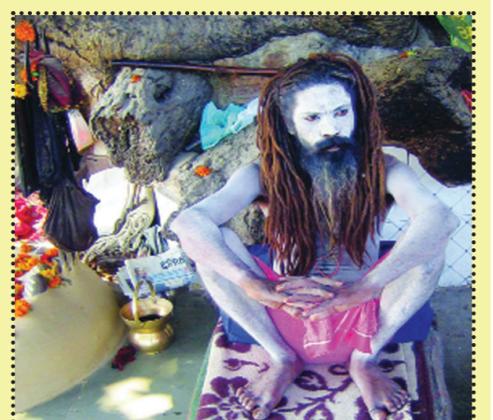
वायुमार्ग - श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी पहुंचने के लिए सबसे नजदीकी हवाई अड्डा सांगानेर, जयपुर में है। जिसकी यहां से दूरी लगभग 113 किलोमीटर है। रेल मार्ग - श्री बालाजी के दर्शन हेतु आने के लिए निकटतम रेलवे स्टेशन बांदीकुई है। जिसकी यहां से दूरी 40 किलोमीटर है।

सड़क मार्ग - मेंहदीपुर बालाजी का मंदिर उत्तर भारत के सभी मुख्य शहरों से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा जुड़ा है। आगरा और जयपुर राजमार्ग पर तेज गति की बस सेवा उपलब्ध है। निजी वाहन द्वारा भी दिल्ली से अलवर-महवा या मथुरा-भरतपुर-महवा सड़क मार्ग से होते हुए श्री मेंहदीपुर बालाजी पहुंचा जा सकता है।

ऐसा आचरण करें -

- मंदिर में अन्य भूत-प्रेत पीड़ित लोगों के साथ अस्व व्यवहार करें।
- मंदिर में स्नान कर, स्वच्छ कपड़े पहनकर, पंक्ति में लगकर ही प्रवेश करें।
- बच्चों को ऐसे सुरक्षित स्थान पर रखें, जहां शौच आदि की व्यवस्था हो, ताकि मंदिर की स्वच्छता भी बनी रहे और बच्चे भयभीत न हों।
- मंदिर में झूठ बोलना या कोलाहल करने की अनुमति नहीं है।

- मंदिर के केन्द्रस्थान में भगवान को चढ़ाने के लिए प्रसाद पुजारी को ही दें।
- भूत प्रेत से बाधित व्यक्ति और महिलाओं द्वारा दर्शन हेतु मंदिर में आने पर किसी को साथ होना आवश्यक है।
- मंदिर में आपत्तिजनक स्थिति में आना और धूम्रपान करना प्रतिबंधित है।
- भूतप्रेत बाधा से मुक्ति श्री बालाजी की कृपा और आशीर्वाद से हो सकती है। इसके लिए मंदिर ट्रस्ट के जिम्मेदार प्रतिनिधि से संपर्क करें न ही किसी साधु-संन्यासी या फकीर के झांसे में आए।



NEWS BOX

'I get in trouble when...': US official's banter on Pak upset at T20 World Cup

White House official Matthew Miller was asked to comment on the USA cricket team defeating Pakistan in the T20 World Cup. In a cheeky response, Miller said he would "get into trouble" if he spoke on matters that were not his area of expertise.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller indulged in fun banter with a reporter when he was asked about the USA cricket team shocking Pakistan in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

During a press briefing, Miller was asked by a reporter to comment on the USA, an associate team, winning against Pakistan, a full-member team. In a cheeky response, the official said he would "get into trouble" if he spoke on matters that were not his area of expertise. "I often get in trouble when I try to comment on things beyond my area of expertise, and I would say Pakistan's cricket



team is certainly in that category," Miller said. Miller's response underscores the fact that cricket, despite its global following, remains relatively niche in the US. Other sports like football, basketball or baseball are a rage in the country. However, with the US hosting a major cricket tournament for the first time, the ICC is hoping to gain more followers after the USA cricket team's historic showing so far. On June 6, the USA cricket team stunned Pakistan and registered its first-ever victory at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas. The match went into a Super Over after both sides scored 159 runs.

In a game which had loads of twists and turns, it was the USA that emerged victorious over a hapless Pakistani side, who were guilty of dropping catches and misfielding at critical junctures. This is the first time that the US is hosting a major ICC cricket tournament with the West Indies as its co-host. India is leading the table in Group A, followed by the USA in second place with four points after two wins and one loss.

Rashid Khan ecstatic after Afghanistan book Super 8 berth: Boys made it easy for me

Rashid Khan was over the moon after Afghanistan stormed their way into the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024. On Friday, June 14, they defeated Assad Vala's Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 7 wickets in a Group C match at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. With 6 points and a net run rate of +4.230 thanks to wins in both their matches, the Afghans also went back to the top of the table. Rashid lauded Fazalhaq Farooqi and Rahmanullah Gurbaz for putting their hands up and taking Afghanistan through to the second round. Farooqi picked up 3 wickets against PNG and is sitting on top of the charts with 12 scalps to his name. Gurbaz, meanwhile, is the top run-scorer in the mega event with 167



runs at an average of 55.66. I am feeling great to qualify for the next round. It has been a great effort from the boys since game one. They know what they do and have executed beautifully, making things easy for me. It is important to have someone like him, Gurbaz who goes out and takes on the bowling or Farooqi who picks up wickets in the powerplay," Rashid said in the post-match presentation ceremony. "If the batter is attacking, then as a bowler you have to attack too, especially with pitches helping you. They have given us good starts in the last two games and today was a good opportunity for the others to spend some time in the middle," Rashid said.

Everyone has the skill to adjust'

After fielding first, Afghanistan bowled PNG out for 95 in 19.5 overs. Thereafter, Gulbadin Naib stayed not out on 49 as they romped home with 29 balls to spare. Rashid said that domestic cricket and knowledge of the conditions in the West Indies have helped the Afghan cricketers. "We had a domestic competition before coming here and everyone are in form. That is the beauty of playing franchise cricket, as you know the conditions, some of them have played at St Lucia and know how the pitch will play which will help others.

If David Warner opens the bowling, it would be funny: Michael Jones before AUS vs SCO

T20 World Cup 2024: Michael Jones suggested that it would be really funny if David Warner would open the bowling for Australia during the match against Scotland. He also light-heartedly welcomed Josh Hazelwood's suggestion on going easy against Scotland.

New Delhi. Scotland's opener Michael Jones welcomed Josh Hazelwood's remarks, suggesting that Australia might go easy on them during the Group B match at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St Lucia on June 16, Sunday. Jones even joked about it and said that he would like to see David Warner opening the bowling for

Australia during the match. Speaking at the post-match press conference after Australia's win against Namibia, Hazelwood suggested that they might look to "drag it" against Scotland, if they get into a winning position, in order to affect England's team's net-run-rate. However, Australian captain Mitchell Marsh will get a one-match ban if Australia intends to manipulate the result against Scotland to knock England out of the T20 World Cup 2024.

The Scotland team seems to have been enjoying the banter between 2 arch-rivals England and Australia as they take a relaxed approach heading into the encounter. Former Australian captain Tim Paine also suggested that "the Australian team should go for a holiday and the England team should pack their bags." Jones suggested that he also enjoyed Paine's remarks, and he is looking forward to see if Scotland would benefit from this banter.

"I was watching it live actually, laughing to myself," Jones told the Press Association of Hazelwood's comments. "I watched that



interview and I watched Tim Paine when he was saying they should field half a side. I'm not particularly close to them, I don't know any of the Australian players, but it would be good if we could have a little word and sort something out," Jones added. "Will David Warner open?" "The rivalry between England and Australia is massive. If they want to play that way then happy days. We won't be

complaining. If they want to let David Warner open the bowling or something like that it would be pretty funny."

Scotland would need to beat Australia in order to edge past England in the Super 8 stage. England have shot up their net-run-rate above Scotland after an 8-wicket win over Oman.

Jones was eager to take on Australia and suggested that the Mitchell Marsh-led side would put up a tough fight against Scotland.

"At the end of the day our team wants the best result we can get, but on a personal level you want to challenge yourself against the best," he said. "The Australians are renowned for being extremely diligent and extremely professional. I'm absolutely certain they will come out all guns blazing like they do for every game at every tournament."

"I almost hope they do go full strength on Saturday and we can show the cricket world we're up to the challenge. I'm absolutely certain they will come out all guns blazing like they do for every game at every tournament."

How Fazalhaq Farooqi drew strength to steer Afghanistan into T20 World Cup Super 8

New Delhi. Afghanistan (AFG) fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi revealed his success mantra after registering match-winning figures of 3/16 in four overs against Papua New Guinea (PNG) in Match 29 of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Friday, June 14 at Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad. Notably, Afghanistan beat PNG by seven wickets to register their third consecutive win of the tournament and qualify for the Super 8 stages.

Farooqi was adjudged Player of the Match for his performance as he helped his side bundle out PNG for just 95 in 19.5 overs. Reflecting on his performance, the 23-year-old spoke about his preparations heading into the tournament and expressed disappointment for not getting a single chance to play for SRH in the Indian Premier League 2024. The right-arm seamer also revealed his bowling plans and said that he's always looking for wickets irrespective of the conditions.



"I want to congratulate people of Afghanistan for qualifying to the Super 8, I think we've played some good cricket. I was in the IPL, unfortunately I didn't get a game, so I came here and gave myself the strength to come and perform. I have two plans while bowling - just get wickets if there's any swing or seam, if there's no movement, I just bowl in the right areas and keep it simple. We just need to give our 100% and do our best (in the Super 8)," said Farooqi in the post-match

presentation. Afghanistan become second team to qualify from Group C. Afghanistan took 15.1 overs to chase down the target of 96 as Gulbadin Naib remained unbeaten on 49* (36). Following their win, they became the second team to qualify for the Super 8 stages of the tournament from Group C after West Indies. Afghanistan's win meant the end of the road for New Zealand in the tournament.

The Kane Williamson-led side got off to a disastrous start to the event losing their first game against Afghanistan by 84 runs followed by a narrow 13-run loss against the West Indies. Meanwhile, Afghanistan will next take on West Indies in their last Group game on Monday, June 17 at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia. The Rashid Khan-led side will look to continue their winning momentum in the upcoming fixture and head into the Super 8s unbeaten.

T20 World Cup: Team India arrive in Florida ahead of last Group game against Canada

The Indian Cricket Team arrived in Florida ahead of their last match of Group A in the T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada on Saturday, June 15 at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground. The Men in Blue have qualified for the Super 8 stages of the tournament having won three matches on the trot against Ireland, Pakistan and USA played in New York.

Having played their last game at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, India will now move to Florida before the action shifts to the West Indies for the Super 8 stage. The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) shared glimpses of their journey from New York to Florida as all the players looked rejuvenated after a day's break. In a video shared by the BCCI on their X handle, left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed expressed excitement about visiting Florida after a gap of five years and recalled India's tour to the West Indies in 2019. Further ahead in the video, Mohammed Siraj and



Yuzendra Chahal were seen getting involved in a hilarious banter regarding the Indian snack 'Samosa'. USA and Pakistan in battle for second spot in Group A

Meanwhile, India are on top in Group A with three wins from as many matches having a positive net run rate of +1.137. The Rohit Sharma-led side will look to continue their winning momentum against Canada before advancing to the Super 8s. Apart from India, the USA are the second favourites to advance to the next stage from Group A having won two out of their three matches so far.

They will be up against Ireland in their last Group game on Friday, June 14 in Florida. The Monank Patel-led side will hope to win their last fixture to seal their berth in the Super 8s as a loss will leave their fate in the hands of Pakistan. The Babar Azam-led side is on the third spot in Group A with one win from three matches. They will next face Ireland on June 16 and desperately need to win the last fixture and also have to hope for the USA's loss in their last game.

From Cristiano Ronaldo to Luka Modric: Stars playing their last UEFA Euro 2024

New Delhi. As the UEFA Euro 2024 beckons, European football stars like Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modric and Toni Kroos gear up for what could be their last dance in the top-tier European Championship. Top European international sides like England, France, Portugal and Spain are all set to battle it out in the upcoming UEFA Euro 2024, set to be hosted in Germany from June 15. The tournament will also see many star players extend their already massive international careers, while they battle out their experience with the young and rising names in the football structure. For starters, this UEFA Euro 2024 will mark the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo extending his phenomenal tally of playing the highest number of games in the competition in what will be his record-extending sixth European Championship. On the other hand, the likes of France will also walk into a new era with Euro 2024, under their new captain and star-forward Kylian Mbappe. Additionally, the three-time winners of the competition in Germany have further increased the hype around Euro 2024, after coach Julian Nagelsmann brought 34-year-old Toni Kroos back from retirement for the

tournament. **Luka Modric - Croatia** he Croatia skipper is one of the biggest names who is likely to take the field in this edition of the European championship for the last time, and will surely be at the centre of the sides' plans like many years and tournaments before. Luka Modric will walk into UEFA Euro 2024 as Croatia's most capped player, after his 175 appearances across all competitions, and arguably their best player since the last decade. Having already played a crucial part in leading Croatia to a runners-up finish in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, followed by a third-place finish in the 2021 World Cup, Modric will be eyeing his long-desired international title in what could be a swansong for the midfielder. The 38-year-old Real Madrid number 10 has already talked about his desire to continue with Los Blancos for at least one more year, but his international career might just meet an end in the Euro.

Toni Kroos - Germany Modric's Real Madrid teammate and midfield partner Toni Kroos has set up an exciting opportunity for his last dance in the German jersey. Having already announced his

retirement from international football back in 2021, the 34-year-old's brilliant playmaking and top-notch set-piece abilities have been deemed a must-have yet again by coach Julian Nagelsmann. However, this has already been confirmed to be Kroos's last major tournament before his ultimate retirement from professional football. The iconic Los Blancos legend has already drawn curtains on his prestigious club career after clinching the 2023-2024 La Liga and the UEFA Champions League title for the sixth time, and has even confirmed that the UEFA Euro 2024 will also mark a second end to his international career. Cristiano Ronaldo - Portugal the biggest name on this list will surely be that of the five-time Ballon D'or and UEFA Euro 2016 winning Portugal superstar, Cristiano Ronaldo. At 39-years-old, Ronaldo will be walking into the European Championship for a record sixth time, and will yet again be one of Portugal's main attacking focuses. The Al Nassr forward has showcased some ageless brilliance everytime he has graced the competition, which even saw him clinch the Golden Boot winner in the 2021 edition of the competition.

Pat Cummins clarifies controversy around Australia manipulating result vs Scotland

Australian pacer Pat Cummins clarified the controversy around the team manipulating the result in the Scotland match. He affirmed that the Australian team's mindset and their approach won't change despite England's predicament. He also said that Josh Hazelwood's 'joke' on the easy-going approach against the Scotland team was taken out of context. Mitchell Marsh's Australian team had come under scanner with questions being raised on 'spirit of cricket' after Hazelwood's remarks. Australia will face Scotland in the Group B match on June 16, Sunday at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St Lucia. Cummins suggested that Australia will look to put a tough fight against Scotland, who have a chance to qualify for the Super 8 stage.

"When you go out and play, you're trying your best every time. And if you're not, it's probably against the spirit of cricket," the

Test and ODI captain, who handed the reins to Marsh for the T20 side, told the media. "I haven't really thought too deeply because it's never really popped up." "I was speaking to Joshy who had a bit of a joke about it the other day and it got taken a bit out of context. We'll go out there and try to play Scotland who have had a really good tournament so far so it's going to be tough."

What Hazelwood said?

During the post-match press conference after the game against Namibia, Hazelwood was asked if they would go easy against Scotland. The pacer had said that the team had not had any discussions about it yet, but they would not rule out the possibility of this happening, knowing England could pose a major threat in the later stage of the tournament. Cummins pointed out that



Australia would never intend to under-perform in order to knock England out of the context. "It's something you discuss as one of the quirks of the setup, but it does it change the way we play? Absolutely not."

Will Australia manipulate result?

Hence, Scotland would need to beat Australia in order to edge past England in the Super 8 stage. Meanwhile, captain Marsh could face a ban if Australia manipulate Scotland's result to knock England out.



Supritha Naidu

Adds Sass To Her Summer Style In Floral Mini Ruched Dress

Supritha Naidu, daughter of the famous actress Surekha Vani, is quite active on social media as she continues to set social media ablaze by sharing some of her most beautiful pictures on her Instagram handle. With her incredible fashion sense and gorgeous looks, she keeps winning the hearts of her fans and admirers. Supritha has yet to enter the film industry, however, her social media presence has already derived thousands of followers. Supritha Naidu recently took to her Instagram account to share another set of stunning photos of herself. In the new post, Supritha looks astonishing in her pink-coloured rose-printed dress. The mirror selfies of the young woman grabbed the attention of many fans on the platform. Her 8 lakh 59 thousand followers on her Instagram profile prove her already earned popularity. The photos are clicked in a washroom. Supritha set the beauty standard high by wearing simple earrings in the picture with golden chains around her neck. She is seen showing off her brown coloured purse in different poses making her fans admire her even more. Her unique tattoos and expensive rings on her fingers make a bold fashion statement. Her toned physique and gorgeous looks attracted many fans.

The photos posted from her Instagram handle received more than 42,000 likes and many comments. Someone from her fans added a comment that reads, "You look like Jhanvi Kapoor ditto". Another person commented, "Oh boy, what kind of girl is this?" Even after facing many negative comments from social media, Surekha keeps on posting her beautiful photos on social media. However, she has hidden most of the comments from her recent Instagram post after so many negative comments and trolling. In another post on Instagram, Supritha Naidu was seen raising the temperature by showing off her looks by wearing a gorgeous black dress. She shared some of her photos clicked in front of the mirror that received nearly 30,000 likes.

Recently, Surekha Vani addressed the rumour of her daughter joining the film industry. To which, she explained that she had no objection to her daughter joining the industry. According to Supritha, the decision completely depends upon the wish of her daughter Supritha. Surekha, on the other hand, is rumoured to act in a film very soon.



Trailer Of Telugu Film Seetha Kalyana Vaibhogame Promises Intense Action Drama



The trailer of the film Seetha Kalyana Vaibhogame starring Suman Tej and Garima Chouhan was released by the makers. The film is directed by Sateesh Paramaveda and produced by Rachala Yugander under the banner of Dream Gate Productions. The story of the film is penned by director Sateesh Paramaveda while the music is directed by Charan Arjun. The film is all set to hit the theatres soon. Recently, an event was held to launch the trailer of the film. The trailer was launched by famous film producer Harshith Reddy. Talking about Seetha Kalyana Vaibhogame at the launch event, Harshith Reddy said, "I got to know Satish during the time of Oh My Friend in 2011. He told me about this movie earlier around one and a half years ago. He mentioned that he is starring a young talent named Suman. Best of luck to Suman for his first film and to Satish for his second film. Best wishes to the whole team. I will request everyone to watch the film in theatres."

Director Sateesh Paramaveda mentioned that the whole unit has worked hard to make this film a great success. He added, "The songs of the film were released earlier by T-Series Telugu. All the songs were loved by the audience. In this film, Suman Tej is making his debut. The music direction was done by Charan Arjun. Producer Rachala Yugander has worked with full passion for this film. Everyone in the unit has worked hard to make this film a great success. The film will hit the theatres on June 21. Please watch the film at the theatres and support us."

The lead actor of Seetha Kalyana Vaibhogame, Suman Tej is all set to make his debut in the Telugu Film Industry. Speaking at the trailer launch event of the film, Suman said, "Thank you Harshith Anna for coming to this event. This film will surely be loved by all the 90s kids. I want to request everyone to watch the film at the theatres."

Alia Bhatt Begins Working On Love and War? Actress Visits Sanjay Leela Bhansali's House



Earlier this year, Alia Bhatt announced that she is all set to reunite with Sanjay Leela Bhansali for an intense love story Love And War. The actress would be seen sharing screen space with hubby Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal for the same. Ever since the announcement, fans have been excited to know more about the film. Today, Alia was spotted outside Bhansali's office, raising the anticipation. Alia kept it comfy and casual, pulling off a denim on denim look. She briefly waved at the paps and made her way to the office residence. The photo instantly went viral.

Earlier this year, in an interview with Variety, SLB opened up about the film. The film marks Bhansali's first film with Ranbir since his fallout during Saawariya and their recent patch-up. This is also the filmmaker's first film with Vicky. This will mark his second film with Alia Bhatt after their hit film, Gangubai Kathiawadi. Speaking in a new interview, Bhansali hinted he is excited about the film.

"It's a love story that I'm making after a long time. A slightly contemporary work, different from the dances, pillars, architecture, drapes, curtains and jewellery [of "Heeramandi"]. It's a new language, milieu and ambience for me. I needed [it] very much to excite me as a filmmaker to do something new, to speak of a different period, a different set of characters and new circumstances," Bhansali told Variety.

It's nice to work with this wonderful cast of Ranbir, Vicky and Alia. It'll be nice to see how their chemistry works. And [it is] a triangular love story, which has not come in Hindi cinema for a long time. So let's see how it all shapes up," he added. The film was announced earlier this year.

Alia and Vicky had announced the film on Instagram. Around the same time, Pinkvilla reported that it is an original love story. "To set things straight, it's an original love story and not, inshallah. Sanjay Leela Bhansali has been very keen to take a step back from the period drama's intense tone. He has been looking to make a love story, and this subject has been at the back of his mind for a while now."

Kareena Kapoor

Khan Aces The Chakrasana Yoga With Perfection, Photos Go Viral

Kareena Kapoor Khan has always been committed to her workout routine. From pilates to yoga, the actress does it all to keep herself healthy and fit. Be it a vacation, or a relaxing day at home, Kareena never compromises with her fitness regime. Having said that, she recently shared a bundle of photos nailing the Chakrasana yoga with much needed perfection. Sharing the photos, she wrote, "As i fly for the summer, my favourite yoga asana is a must ~ the chakrasana to go #Summer2024 here we come ♡ #ChakrasanaSeries @anshukayoga." The yoga pose showcased by Kareena, involves a seamless flow of movements between different poses. It's a testament to her dedication that she effortlessly includes such challenging asanas into her routine.



Kareena and her love for yoga is widely known. The actress loves to practice Chakrasana, also known as the wheel pose. Earlier too, the actress shared a snapshot with her fans in which she could be seen doing the back-bend pose with perfection. "Sunday plans? Yoga for me..Crew for you." Kareena wrote.

On the professional front, Kareena was recently seen in the comedy-drama film Crew. The film also featured Tabu, Kriti Sanon, Diljit Dosanjh and Kapil Sharma in pivotal roles. Helmed by Rajesh A Krishnan, the film garnered widespread acclaim from critics and audiences. Bebo will be next seen in director Rohit Shetty's upcoming action drama film

Singham Again which also stars Ajay Devgn, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar in the lead roles

