

As PM Modi concludes his Egypt visit



New Delhi: The International Press : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Egypt was aimed at strengthening historical ties between the two countries as they share ancient civilizational links in terms of trade, culture and people-to-people contact. No later than Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Egypt on Saturday, the first meeting he attended was with the India Unit of the Egyptian government which was set up by the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to boost bilateral relations. The India Unit is headed by Egypt's Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly and Prime Minister Modi appreciated the whole of the government approach as it will help reenergize the millennia-old relations between the two civilizations.

enough natural resources such as hydrocarbon and coal reserves at its disposal that are required by a fast-growing major economy such as India. With a population of over 100 million, Egypt is the 14th largest country in the world in terms of population and with an area of over 10 lakh square kilometres, this is the 29th largest country in the world, making it one of the most important players in the middle-east and north-Africa region, alongside Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran. Egypt is not only rich in terms of natural resources, including hydrocarbons and coals, but it also offers a huge market to the country as its gross domestic product has been estimated at \$1.8 trillion, the 18th largest economy in the world with a per capita income of over \$16,000 per year.

During the Egypt visit, Prime Minister Modi also held a meeting with Hassan Allam, CEO of Hassan Allam Holding Company, one of the largest Egyptian companies in the MENA region. He also held discussions with Tarek Heggy, renowned Egyptian author and petroleum strategist in Cairo as they discussed geo-politics and energy security. Egypt is an important player in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with a growing economy coupled with

According to officials, Egypt has been one of India's most important trading partners in the middle east and African region as both countries operationalised a bilateral trade agreement since March 1978 which is based on the most favoured nation clause. According to latest trade data, India was the 5th largest trading partner of the country from April to December 2022 when it was the 11th largest importer of Egypt and 5th largest exporter of the country.



Prime Minister's meeting with "India Unit" of the Egyptian Cabinet headed by Prime Minister of Egypt

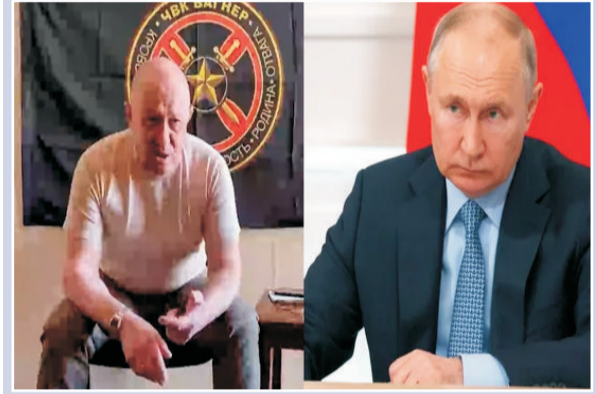
The International Press : Shortly after arriving in Cairo on a State Visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting on 24 June 2023 with the "India Unit" in the Egyptian Cabinet. This

■ **Shortly after arriving in Cairo on a State Visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting on 24 June 2023 with the "India Unit" in the Egyptian Cabinet. This India Unit was set up earlier this year**

India Unit was set up earlier this year following the State Visit of President of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, to India as Chief Guest for Republic Day 2023. The India Unit is headed by the Prime Minister of Egypt H.E. Mr. Mustafa Madbouly, and comprises a number of Ministers and senior officials. Prime Minister Madbouly and his Cabinet colleagues outlined the activities that the India Unit has been undertaking, and proposed new areas of cooperation. They appreciated the positive response from their Indian counterparts, and look forward to deepening India-Egypt bilateral relations in numerous sectors. Prime Minister appreciated the setting up of the India Unit and welcomed this 'whole of the government

approach' to take forward bilateral relations with India, and shared India's readiness to work closely with Egypt in various areas of mutual interest. Discussions took place on ways to strengthen cooperation in areas like trade and investment, renewable energy, green hydrogen, IT, digital payment platforms, pharma and people to people ties. Other than Prime Minister Madbouly, seven Egyptian Cabinet Ministers and senior officials were present at the meeting, including: H.E. Dr. Mohamed Shaker El- Markabi, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy H. E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hala Al-Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation H.E. Dr. Mohamed Maait, Minister of Finance H.E. Dr. Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology H.E. Eng. Ahmed Samir, Minister of Industry and Trade

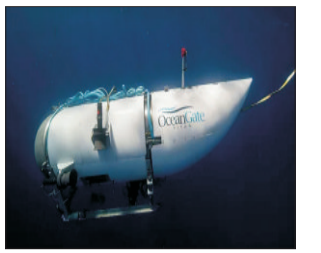
US Says Wagner uprising a direct challenge to Russian president Vladimir Putin



The International Press : Day after the Wagner group called off its mutiny against the Russian military leadership after its forced advanced to within a few hundred miles of Moscow, the Yevgeny Prigozhin-led mercenary private army had returned to the base under the deal mediated by Belarus. China's deputy foreign minister Ma Zhaoxu and Russian deputy foreign minister Andrei Rudenko met in Beijing a day after Kremlin managed to defuse a major mutiny by the 50,000-strong Wagner army which just stopped short of the Russian capital. Wagner Group Russia Coup Live Updates Here are the top 10 developments unfolding in Russia 1. The Wagner forces have left the southern Russian city of Voronezh, which they had overtaken yesterday. Local governor Alexander Gusev said the movement of Wagner forces was underway without any incident. News agency quoted him saying that the travel restrictions will be lifted once the situation is 'resolved'. In Rostov where the mercenaries had taken over a military headquarters office, trains and bus services resumed and road restrictions were lifted. 5. There are no reports of Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin reaching Belarus after reaching a deal with Kremlin for exile and end the mutiny. It is unclear whether he would join his Wagner troops, if any of them are present there. It has now come to the light that the US intelligence agencies had briefed their military and administration officials on Wednesday after Prigozhin's plans to take on the senior Russian military leadership. But the agencies kept mum about the Wagner chief's plans, as they felt Putin would accuse them of orchestrating coup, New York Times reported. US secretary of state Antony Blinken has said Russia crisis reveals 'real cracks' in Putin's authority. He added that US President Joe Biden has not tried to reach out to his Russian

counterpart Vladimir Putin. The uprising by the Wagner private mercenary group and its leader Yevgeny Prigozhin over the weekend marked "a direct challenge to Putin's authority. So this raises profound questions, it shows real cracks", Blinken told CBS News 8. Russian troops deployed to protect the capital have withdrawn after mercenary forces headed toward Moscow retreated, AP reported. Moscow had braced for the arrival of the Wagner forces by erecting checkpoints with armored vehicles and troops on the city's southern edge. 9. In an interview apparently recorded before the revolt, Putin was heard expressing confidence in plans for Ukraine. "We feel confident, and, of course, we are in a position to implement all the plans and tasks ahead of us," Putin said. 10. Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu seen as Putin's key ally, seems to have vanished from public view. His position is apparently precarious due to the severity of the Wagner forces against him and the Russian president. The minister of defence was nowhere to be seen at the time and has, for the moment, completely vanished from the public view. Earlier in the day, foreign media outlet War Monitor tweeted that the Wagner still holds the airfield in Rostov. Later, the twitter handled informed that the airfield was functioning normally after the mercenaries had left. Kremlin said on Sunday that Beijing had backed its efforts to counter the armed uprising led by Yevgeny Prigozhin. The Russian foreign ministry in a statement said that the Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the Russian leadership to stabilise the situation in the country. Moscow added that Beijing 'reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia.. As per a latest AFP report, Wagner fighters have also left the Lipetsk region after the deal to call off the mutiny against Moscow materialised.

Youngest Titanic diver's chilling experience: Brush with death during the expedition



The International Press : The youngest diver to explore the Titanic wreckage, Sebastian Harris, shared a harrowing experience from his historic 2005 journey. Speaking amidst the aftermath of the OceanGate submersible tragedy, Harris recalled briefly losing consciousness during the dive, emphasizing the inherent dangers of such expeditions. Despite his father's near-catastrophic incident during their Titanic dive, Harris stated that he would never step foot on the Titan. He stressed the importance of learning from the tragedy and urged those interested in such tourism to prioritize their safety by conducting thorough research and understanding the risks involved.

Harris concluded by highlighting the need for the industry to use this tragedy as a turning point for improved safety regulations. He emphasized that no blame should be placed on the individuals aboard the Titan, but rather, the incident should serve as a catalyst for enhanced safety measures, similar to the impact of the Titanic's sinking on maritime regulations. At just 13 years old, Harris accompanied his father, G. Michael Harris, on a daring underwater expedition to the depths of the sea. However, their dive encountered a distressing incident. "During our dive, we had a small safety issue. Suddenly our oxygen levels started to drop, and I fell unconscious while we were diving down," Harris disclosed to The Sun during the search for the lost OceanGate vessel. Fortunately, Harris's father and their pilot remained unaffected by the oxygen depletion, averting potential disaster. Reflecting on the incident, Harris emphasized the regular occurrence of such challenges during these treacherous journeys. He stressed the crucial importance of certification and safety measures for submersibles, given the inherent risks involved. The recent submersible disaster involving OceanGate Expeditions, which claimed the lives of five individuals, further highlighted the perilous nature of these activities. "These activities are inherently dangerous," Harris asserted. He candidly admitted that, at 13, he was blissfully ignorant of the full extent of the risks. However, he acknowledged that under different circumstances, the outcome could have been tragic. Harris, who holds a Guinness World Record for his young age at the time of the Titanic dive, compared the safety measures of his expedition to the ill-fated OceanGate trip. He mentioned the presence of a dog hatch and tracking devices on the Mir I submersible that he used, emphasizing their absence on the Titan submersible. Regarding the Titan, Harris expressed concerns about the lack of a dog hatch and the placement of passengers in an open cylinder without proper safety standards. He believed this would have made any potential rescue extremely challenging and compromised the submersible's safety.

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Ministry of Law and Justice Organises Chintan Shivir to Shape Future Action Plan

The International Press : The Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department orchestrated a highly successful Chintan Shivir today at New Delhi. Esteemed dignitaries including Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal , Union Minister of State (I/C) Law and Justice; Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary; Shri S.K.G. Rahate, Current Incharge Secretary Legislative Department; Shri G.S Pannu, President ITAT & B.K Vidhatri , guest speaker for the event, graced the event with their presence. The Shivir commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp and a ceremonial honour to the distinguished guests. The department launched a short informative video documentary enumerating the significance and achievements of the Ministry of Law & Justice in the various sectors of



life and it's contribution in the overall growth of India. Additionally, a Coffee table Book 'DoLA at a Glance: 2022-23' was unveiled during the event, adding to the significance of the occasion. It carries a detailed account of ongoing work and

achievements of Year 2022-23 and stands as a testament of employees' relentless efforts and collective success. Dr. Niten Chandra, Law Secretary, delivered a warm welcome address, followed by Shri S.K.G. Rahate, Incharge Secretary Legislative

Department, who shared his remarks. The keynote speaker of the day, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal , addressed the audience and commended the department for hosting the Shivir. He reiterated his dedication to advancing ongoing initiatives and ensuring equitable access to justice for all citizens. Emphasising the need to repeal outdated laws and simplify complex ones, he expressed his commitment to relieving the burden on the courts through these endeavours. B.K Vidhatri, the esteemed guest speaker, engaged with the attendees and motivated them to step out of their comfort zones, break down silos, and work together as a cohesive team to achieve their goals, and inculcated a spirit to fight stress and work pressure. Following the motivational

REC Limited to provide ₹ 3,045 Crores financial assistance to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

REC Limited, a Maharashtra Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), for establishment



Russian strikes kill 11 in rebel-held Syria: monitor

Russian air strikes Sunday on Syria's northwest killed at least 11 people including five civilians, in retaliation for deadly drone attacks blamed on rebel forces, a war monitor said. "Six civilians were killed in



Editorial

Prime Minister's meeting with President of Egypt

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was received by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi at Al-Ittihadiya Palace on 25 June 2023.

The two leaders warmly recalled the State Visit of President Sisi as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2023, and welcomed the momentum it has imparted to bilateral relations. They agreed that the newly established 'India Unit' in Egyptian Cabinet was a useful tool in steering bilateral collaborations.

The leaders discussed ways to further deepen the partnership between the two countries, particularly in areas like trade and investment, information technology, defence and security, renewable energy, agriculture, health, culture and people to people ties.

Prime Minister and President Sisi also discussed further cooperation in G-20,

highlighting the issues of food and energy insecurity, climate change and the need for Global South to have a concerted voice.

Prime Minister looked forward to welcoming President Sisi in New Delhi in September 2023 for the G20 Leaders Summit.

An agreement to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" was signed by the two leaders. Three MoUs in the fields of Agriculture, Archaeology & Antiquities and Competition Law were also signed.

Prime Minister of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Mostafa Madbouly and a number of other senior Cabinet Ministers were present. From the Indian side, EAM, NSA and senior officials were present.



REC Limited to provide ₹ 3,045 Crores financial assistance to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

The International Press : REC Limited, a Maharashtra Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), for establishment and development of Metro Lines under Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro. The decision to extend the assistance was taken at the board meeting of REC, held in Bengaluru on 24th June, 2023, at which the Board approved the proposal of BMRCL. The Phase-II project of Namma Metro comprises



extension of existing two corridors of Phase-I, namely East-West Corridor and North-South Corridor; and 2 new lines, namely one from R.V. Road to Bommasandra and another from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara. These lines will traverse

some of the densest and high-traffic areas of the city. Phase-II of the project will enhance connectivity and ease traffic in the densely populated city of Bengaluru. With completion of Phase-II (72.09 km), the combined network of Namma Metro

shall stand at a line length of 114.39 km, with 101 stations. REC Limited is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India. The financial assistance to BMRCL forms part of REC's foray into funding infrastructure development. Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years of operations. It provides financial assistance to the complete power sector value chain; for various types of projects including Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Renewable Energy. REC's funding illuminates every fourth bulb in India.

Russian strikes kill 11 in rebel-held Syria: monitor



The International Press : Russian air strikes Sunday on Syria's northwest killed at least 11 people including five civilians, in retaliation for deadly drone attacks blamed on rebel forces, a war monitor said. "Six civilians were killed in Jisr al-Shughur and three rebel fighters were killed nearby by Russian air strikes," Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told AFP. Ahmed Yezidi of the civil defence in Jisr al-Shughur, a city in rebel-held Idlib province, said the strikes killed nine people, without specifying whether fighters were included in the toll. A fruit and vegetable market in the city was hit by the Russian strike, said the Observatory and an AFP correspondent at the scene. Yezidi called it "a direct attack on the popular market, which is a basic source of income for farmers" in the area. One civilian and one rebel fighter were also killed in a strike on the outskirts of Idlib city, said Abdel Rahman, whose Britain-based monitor has a wide network of sources inside war-torn Syria.

At least 30 civilians were wounded in Sunday's strikes, he said, adding that the death toll was likely to rise. Russian forces, which back the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, were responding to rebel drone strikes over the past week that killed four civilians including two children, according to Abdel Rahman. Damascus, with Russian and Iranian support, has clawed back much of the ground lost in the early stages of Syria's conflict, which erupted in 2011 when the government brutally repressed pro-democracy protests. The last pocket of armed opposition to the regime includes large swathes of Idlib province and parts of the neighbouring Aleppo, Hama and Latakia provinces. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, headed by ex-members of Syria's former Al-Qaeda franchise, is the dominant group in the area but other rebel groups are also active, with varying degrees of Turkish backing. Syria's war has killed more than half a million people and forced around half of the country's pre-war population from their homes.

Third Infrastructure Working Group Meeting to take place in Rishikesh from June 26-28, 2023



The International Press : The third G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 Indian Presidency is scheduled to

take place in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, from 26th to 28th June 2023. Total 63 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee

countries, and international organisations will participate in the meeting to further the discussions on the 2023 Infrastructure

Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency and follow up on the discussions held during the second IWG meeting held in March

2023 in Visakhapatnam. The G20 Infrastructure Working Group deliberates on various aspects of infrastructure investments, including developing infrastructure as an asset class, promoting quality infrastructure investment, and identifying innovative instruments for mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure investment. The outcomes of the Infrastructure Working Group feed into the G20 Finance Track priorities and promote Infrastructure Development. In the third IWG meeting, substantive progress will be discussed towards the various workstreams of the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda. The flagship priority to be discussed in this meeting is "Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable", along with other priorities. During the three-day

meetings, various official meetings and cultural programmes have been planned for the delegates. In addition to the formal discussions, the delegates will experience Rishikesh's rich culture and beautiful landscapes. The Presidency has also arranged an excursion for the delegates on the afternoon of 28th June. On the sidelines of the IWG meetings, two side events have also been planned. On 26th June, the "High-Level Seminar on Roadmap to Sustainable Cities" is being organized in partnership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The discussions across the three sessions will allow G20 decision-makers to hear key challenges, from climate change to infrastructure resiliency, fast urbanization, and inclusiveness, along with exploring the role of

technology, Infratech and digitization. The delegates will also learn from a unique perspective in launching one of the world's most ambitious new city development NUSANTARA in Indonesia. Many International and national experts are joining the discussion. On 27th June, "A Roundtable on Making India an MRO Hub" is scheduled with an agenda to discuss opportunities that India has to offer in the MRO space. The delegates will also be hosted for "Ratri Bhoj Par Samvad" (Conversation over Dinner) to provide an opportunity to enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Uttarakhand and relish the local cuisines. The Presidency has also planned a "Yoga Retreat" on 26th June 2023 for the delegates to experience.

News Continue

Contd. from P/1

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session, presentations were delivered by the representatives of the Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, and Central Agency Section. These presentations encompassed a comprehensive review of the department's accomplishments thus far and deliberated on the future course of action, aligned with the Prime Minister Shri Modi's vision as India embarks on the Amritkaal of Indian independence to achieve remarkable growth prior to 2047.

An interactive session ensued, enabling the staff members to express their opinions, offer suggestions, and pose questions. Each contribution was given due consideration, fostering meaningful discussions.

Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, Additional Secretary and Legal Advisor, concluded the event with a vote of thanks. She extended her heartfelt congratulations to all attendees for the successful completion of the momentous Chintan Shivir and expressed deep gratitude to everyone for their unwavering commitment and dedication.



The International Press : The 2-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for civil servants of Maldives organised in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) concluded on 23rd June, 2023. NCGG has signed MoU with the Government of Maldives to enhance the skills and capabilities of 1,000 civil servants in the field of public administration and governance by 2024. As part of the agreement, NCGG has already imparted training to

685 officers from Maldives. The successful conclusion of the capacity building programme for civil servants of Maldives signifies the convergence of shared values and spirit of collaboration, serving as a testament to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'neighbourhood first' approach. The valedictory session was presided over by Shri Bharat Lal, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance. With a firm

focus on improving the quality of life for citizens, Shri Bharat Lal urged the officers to capitalize on their learnings and translate them into tangible actions that drive positive change and holistic development. By embracing innovative approaches and incorporating lessons gleaned from the programme, the officers can effectively contribute to elevating the well-being and welfare of the people they serve. Recognizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to ensuring necessities for all citizens, such as housing, cooking gas, education, healthcare, financial services, and skill development, among others, he highlighted the need for officers to emulate these initiatives and make significant strides in enhancing the ease of living. The DG emphasized the importance of working with speed and scale and leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of efficiently delivering these fundamental amenities.

A well-educated and skilled workforce forms the backbone of a thriving economy, fostering innovation, productivity, and competitiveness in the global arena. Mr. Bharat Lal emphasized that civil servants hold a unique position of responsibility, as they are instrumental in designing and implementing policies that impact the education sector. He urged them to provide equitable access to education, address gaps in learning opportunities, and foster a holistic approach to skill development. The DG stressed the importance of creating an enabling environment for women through the provision of essential facilities, such as 24-hour water and power supply, and adequate sanitation facilities. Empowering women through the provision of basic amenities not only boosts economic outcomes but also fosters gender equality. By ensuring their equal participation in economic

activities, societies can unlock the full potential of their human capital and drive sustainable growth, he said. He placed significant emphasis on the need for civil servants to harness the potential of the digital revolution and embrace the latest IT innovations as a means to advance digital governance. The adoption of digital tools and platforms can enable faster decision-making, improved data management, and increased accessibility to government services, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of governance. Recognizing their role as change agents and their deep understanding of local contexts, he expressed confidence in their ability to successfully implement policies and achieve favourable outcomes in their respective domains. Giving the overview of the programme, Dr. B. S. Bisht, course coordinator said that in the 24th capacity building programme, NCGG shared

various initiatives taken in the country, such as changing paradigm of governance, centralised public grievances redressal and monitoring system, India Maldives relations, Aadhar: a tool of good governance, implementation of public policies, women inclusive governance, innovation in public administration, Digital governance and public service delivery, Smart City development, housing to all, leveraging digital technology, best practices from various development schemes, urban governance, low cost desalination for drinking water, Climate Change, tourism, Jal Jeevan Mission, e-governance and digital India UMANG, leadership, coordination and communication, Mudra Yojana, poverty elimination initiatives, health care governance, sanitation and public health behaviour, circular economy, skill India, anti-corruption strategies, India's policy towards Indian Ocean region among others.

The participants had the opportunity to engage in visits that were carefully curated to provide them with a comprehensive understanding of a diverse range of developmental projects and institutions. Among the notable visits, the participants had the opportunity to explore the Smart City in Dehradun, Central Information Commission, Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya which enriched their knowledge of the practical aspects of governance. The 24th CBP was supervised by Dr. B. S. Bisht, course coordinator for Maldives. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, co-course coordinator and the entire CBP team of NCGG. Their contributions to curriculum development, session coordination, and knowledge dissemination were instrumental in creating a comprehensive and impactful learning experience for the participants.

Empowering women with basic facilities serve as catalysts for economic growth says DG, NCGG

Incident at under construction Bridge on Galgalia - Bahadurganj section of NH 327E in Bihar

The construction of 4-laning of the Project between Galgalia - Bahadurganj having total length of 49 km has been awarded to M/s GR Infra Projects Highway Ltd. The appointed date of this project is 10.01.2022. At



Kiara Advani joins Hrithik Roshan's 'War 2'

Bollywood star Kiara Advani has officially joined the cast of the highly anticipated sequel to the action-packed blockbuster, "War". She is set to share the screen with Hrithik Roshan and Jr



Incident at under construction Bridge on Galgalia - Bahadurganj section of NH 327E in Bihar



The International Press : The construction of 4-laning of the Project between Galgalia - Bahadurganj having total length of 49 km has been awarded to M/s GR Infra Projects Highway Ltd. The appointed date of this project is 10.01.2022. At present physical progress is 70%. An unexpected settlement of 600 mm (approx.) occurred on 23.06.2023 afternoon at the pile foundation beneath pier P3 on Major Bridge at CH 24+461 having span configuration of 1x20m + 5x36m + 1x20m (total length 222 m) with PSC girder superstructure resting over spherical bearings on an RCC circular column and pile foundation consisting of four piles of 1500 mm diameter. The superstructure was erected in May 2023 and the Bridge is not yet in operation. There is no casualty or injuries to any construction workers. Preliminary investigation reveals that recently there is sudden rise of water flow from Nepal in Meachi river on which this bridge is constructed. Further preliminary investigations have also revealed that the entire river was channelized through the P2-P3-P4 spans during the construction activity, leading to the constriction of

water flow and excessive scour of the sandy river bed. This has possibly contributed to the settlement of the pile foundation at P3. Team of NHA officers, the Concessionaire and Independent Engineer reached at site and taking necessary preliminary rectification work to avoid any further settlement in pile foundation at P3. In the meantime, Team Leader & Bridge Engineer of Independent Engineer, M/s Chaitanya Project Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. and Sr. Project Manager & Dy. Project Manager (Structure) of Concessionaire, M/s GR Galgalia Bahadurganj Highway Private Limited have been suspended with immediate effect to avoid any influence on the ongoing investigation. Further, a Committee of experts comprising of (i) Sh. A. K. Shrivastava, ADG (Retd.), MoRTH (ii) Sh. S. K. Sharma, Pr. Tech. Officer - Bridges (Retd.), CRRI and (iii) Sh. Venkatram P. G., M/s L&T Infrastructure Engineering Limited has been constituted & is scheduled to visit the site today for detailed investigation and ascertain cause of settlement of pile foundation at P3 on Major Bridge at CH 24+461 and consequent remedial measures to be undertaken.

Acquisition of MQ-9B drones: Speculative reports uncalled for



The International Press : The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), on June 15, 2023, accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for acquisition of 31 MQ-9B (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for Tri-Services from the USA through Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route. The AoN included the number of UAVs to be procured along with associated equipment. The AoN noted the estimated cost of 3,072 million US dollars provided by the US Government. However, price will be negotiated once policy approval of the US Government is received. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered by General Atomics (GA) to other countries. The procurement is in progress and would be

completed as per the laid down procedure. Under the FMS route, a Letter of Request (LOR) would be sent to the US Government where Tri-services requirements, details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be

included. Based on LOR, the US Government and MoD will finalise the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) where details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised in accordance

with the FMS program and the price and terms offered by the US Government and GA to other countries. Meanwhile, some speculative reports emerged in sections of social media referring to the price

and other terms of purchase. These are uncalled for, have ulterior motives and aimed at derailing the due acquisition process. Price and other terms & conditions of the purchase are yet to be finalised and subject to

negotiations. In this regard, all are requested not to spread fake news/misinformation which can have serious impact on the morale of the Armed Forces and adversely impact the acquisition process.

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Kiara Advani joins Hrithik Roshan's 'War 2'

The International Press : Bollywood star Kiara Advani has officially joined the cast of the highly anticipated sequel to the action-packed blockbuster, "War". She is set to share the screen with Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR in this eagerly awaited film, which will be helmed by director Ayan Mukerji. Production is scheduled to commence by the end of this year. A reliable trade source has confirmed the news, stating, "Kiara Advani is a perfect fit for YRF's Spy

Universe and "War 2". With her current popularity, Aditya Chopra's choice of casting her in War 2 is a clear indication of her prominence." The source further revealed, "Aditya Chopra is leaving no stone unturned to make this film the most stylish and thrilling action entertainer ever witnessed in India. It will be truly exciting to witness Kiara's presence in this universe and see how Ayan and Aditya present her character in War 2. All the female leads of the Spy

Universe have left an indelible mark on Indian cinema. Now, it's Kiara's turn, and we all know she has the potential to create a tremendous impact on-screen with War 2." Kiara Advani made her debut in 2014 with "Fugly", and has since appeared in notable films like "MS Dhoni: The Untold Story" (2016) and the thrilling "Machine" (2017), directed by Abbas-Mustan. However, it was her role in the 2018 Netflix anthology "Lust Stories" that proved to be a turning point in her career.



Hindu Sena files writ petition against 'Adipurush' film in Delhi HC

The International Press : Hindu Sena filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court against 'Adipurush' demanding that the film not be certified for public exhibition. Hindu Sena national president Vishnu Gupta on Friday filed the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Delhi High Court against 'Adipurush film'. In the writ petition filed in Delhi HC, Gupta stated, "This is a writ petition in the shape of public interest litigation under article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of an appropriate writ in the nature of direction to the respondents for removal of objectionable scenes depicting religious leaders /characters/figures in bad taste and issues a writ of mandamus to the respondents directing

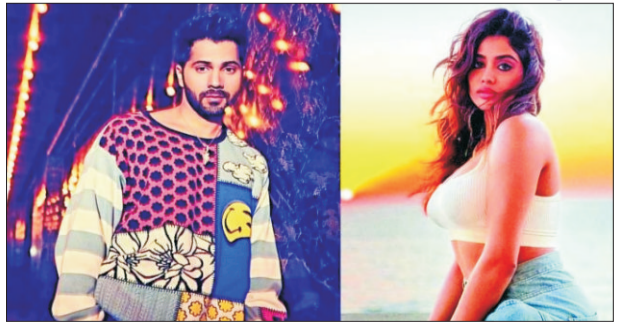


them to not certify the feature film Adipurush for public exhibition and pass such other or further order as this hon'ble court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case." The petition further alleged that the film 'hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community by depicting

the religious leaders/characters/figures in an inaccurate and inappropriate manner.' "That the petitioner has preferred the aforesaid Writ petition in the shape of PIL against the feature film "ADIPURUSH" directed by Om Raut which has hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community by

depicting the religious leaders/characters/figures in an inaccurate and inappropriate manner contrary to the description of Hindu religious leaders/characters as described in Ramayana authored by writers like Maharishi Valmiki, Saint Tulsidas etc."

Janhvi, Varun's film to release on Amazon Prime this July



The International Press : Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor will be seen sharing the screen in the upcoming film "Bawaal", directed by Nitesh Tiwari. The announcement of the new on-screen pair has generated high expectations among Bollywood enthusiasts. Initially, there was uncertainty surrounding whether "Bawaal" would have a theatrical release or an OTT premiere. However, Amazon Prime Video has now unveiled the first look poster of the film yesterday, putting all doubts to rest and indicating that it will be directly released on the streaming platform. Amazon Prime Video shared

the romantic poster featuring Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor on Instagram, accompanied by the caption, "Everyone's heart will see a change as there will be a commotion around the world. As Bawaal Goes Global, an ambience will be created this July." The feel-good poster captures Varun and Janhvi, lost in each other's arms. Varun gazes affectionately at Janhvi, while the actress appears shy, flashing a coy smile. Although the exact release date remains undisclosed, the poster has confirmed that "Bawaal" is scheduled for release sometime in July on Amazon Prime.

Sports News

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South Korea held by El Salvador after conceding late goal

South Korea were held to a 1-1 draw by El Salvador after conceding a late equaliser on home turf on Tuesday. Substitute Hwang Ui-jo scored in the 49th minute to put the hosts ahead at Daejeon World Cup



Japan get confidence boost with win over Peru

Japan head coach Hajime Moriyasu said his players could take confidence from Tuesday's 4-1 friendly win over Peru, with the Asian Cup less than seven months away. Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma scored a goal and set up another as Japan



Diaz helps Colombia past Germany to deepen Flick's woes



The International Press : Second-half goals from Luis Diaz and Juan Cuadrado took Colombia to a 2-0 friendly win over Germany on Tuesday, deepening home coach Hansi Flick's woes a year out from Euro 2024. Liverpool forward Diaz leapt high to head in a looping Cuadrado cross before the Juventus wing-back scored a late penalty after Germany captain Joshua Kimmich handballed in the box a minute after coming off the bench. It was Colombia's first

win over Germany and means the four-time world champions have won just one of five games since their disastrous group-stage exit at the Qatar World Cup in December. Germany, who qualify for next year's Euro as hosts, lacked fluidity in Gelsenkirchen, ramping up the pressure on under-fire boss Flick, with the side not playing again until September. "I'm very disappointed for the fans," said Flick. "We wanted to try something but it went belly up." Flick was bullish on his

side's long-term chances, saying his side would "show a different willingness, a difference performance" in the next round of friendlies. "From September, we'll settle in and then the results will come." With isolated boos and whistles ringing out across his home-town stadium in Gelsenkirchen, local boy turned captain Ilkay Gundogan said he could "understand" the crowd's response. "We know it was not good and we know what needs to get better." Asked if he was worried

by the team's latest display, midfielder Leon Goretzka said: "I don't know if that's the right word." "It's dramatic, you have to say that clearly... We're missing things across all levels. All in all it was far too little." After making nine changes for the 1-0 loss to Poland in Warsaw on Friday, Flick again switched things up with five alterations in the starting XI. The coach handed the armband to Gundogan after the treble-winning Manchester City captain's recent

successes, with Kimmich starting from the bench. But Germany again looked disjointed and were lucky to avoid conceding a penalty midway through the first half when the home side were caught out by a lightning-fast Colombia counter. Centre-back Malick Thiaw, in just his second match for Germany, appeared to have brought down Diaz in the box but the referee ruled the AC Milan defender got a toe to the ball. Diaz got on the scoresheet however in the second half, heading in Cuadrado's ball after Emre Can was dispossessed in his own half. Flick brought Kimmich on for Gundogan with 10 minutes remaining and the Bayern Munich midfielder gave away a penalty moments afterwards. Cuadrado stepped up to the spot to send Germany goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen the wrong way. While Flick has repeatedly defended his side's results on the basis of a desire to experiment before Euro 2024, his position may now be called into question. Germany play two home friendlies against Japan and World Cup runners-up France in September.

South Korea held by El Salvador after conceding late goal



The International Press : South Korea were held to a 1-1 draw by El Salvador after conceding a late equaliser on home turf on Tuesday. Substitute Hwang Ui-jo scored in the 49th minute to put the hosts ahead at Daejeon World Cup Stadium but Alex Roldan levelled the score with a diving header in the 87th minute to give the visitors a hard-fought draw. The result means Jurgen Klinsmann remained winless in four matches as South Korea's coach. "A bit disappointed because obviously we wanted to score more goals. We could have scored 4, 5, 6 but we did not," the German said after the match, adding that it was "frustrating very frustrating". The teams were goalless at halftime despite South Korea's substantial edge in possession. The hosts dictated the match from early on, with midfielder Lee Jae-sung firing a shot from close range in the fifth minute and Cho Gue-sung trying to head home a cross from Kim Jin-su four minutes later. Cho then took a right-footed shot that sailed over the target in the 13th minute. El Salvador had their first chance in the 18th minute when Narciso Orellana stole the ball near the top of the South Korean box and shot it high and right. South Korea ratcheted up the pressure, with RCD Mallorca's Lee Kang-in peppering shots off both feet in the 20th and 28th minutes.

Christian Martinez tried to respond for El Salvador but his attempt from the right wing hit the leg of defender Kim Jin-su and bounced out of play. Hwang In-beom's stoppage-time shot was turned aside by a diving Tomas Romero. Hwang Ui-jo had broken through soon after the restart when he span around in front of Bryan Tamacas in the box and sent a shot through the defender's legs and into the net. South Korea kept pushing for the next goal and Lee Kang-in's corner found Cho's head, but the forward pushed his attempt over the target. Hwang Hee-chan's 69th-minute header also floated over the bar and landed on the top of the netting. South Korean talisman Son Heung-min came on for Hwang Hee-chan in the 70th minute after sitting out Friday's 1-0 loss to Peru while recovering from hernia surgery. Son failed to add to South Korea's lead and Roldan made South Korea pay for wasting their scoring chances by heading home a Jairo Henriquez free kick in the 87th minute. "Where I think we did a good job was compressing the middle a lot, especially in the second half," El Salvador coach Hugo Perez said. "Today, the difference was our mentality, how we came to play, how we bounced back after Korea scored the goal. We did not come down psychologically. The effort from everyone was excellent."

Japan get confidence boost with win over Peru



The International Press : Japan head coach Hajime Moriyasu said his players could take confidence from Tuesday's 4-1 friendly win over Peru, with the Asian Cup less than seven months away. Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma scored a goal and set up another as Japan beat the South Americans in Osaka, five days after thrashing El Salvador 6-0. The Blue Samurai are looking to win a record fifth Asian title in Qatar in January and Moriyasu urged his players to "keep improving in every department". "Peru have a similar world ranking to us and they're a strong team in South America, so this was a good test for us," he said. "Beating a good South American team like this gives us confidence and next time we get together we will be looking to improve even further." Mitoma, who enjoyed a breakout debut season in the Premier League with seven goals for the Seagulls, struck in the first half to double Japan's lead after Hiroki Ito opened the scoring. Japan's number 7 collected the ball on the left before cutting inside a defender and unleashing a shot that deflected past Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese. He then set up Junya Ito for his team's third before substitute Daizen Maeda added another to cap a successful week for Japan. "It was a bit of a miskick but that just shows it was worth taking the shot," Mitoma said of his goal, his seventh in 17 appearances for Japan. "It was a good win and once we've had a break now that the season is finished, we'll keep going with the national team." Christofer Gonzales grabbed a late consolation for Peru, who arrived in Osaka fresh from a 1-0 win over South Korea in Seoul. Japan have three more friendlies to play before qualifying for the 2026 World Cup begins in November. "We need to be able to function no matter who is on the pitch so we have to reflect on the goal that we conceded," said Moriyasu. "But I think the score and the performance should give the players confidence in what we are doing."

Alcaraz survives Queen's scare, Murray's winning streak ends



The International Press : Carlos Alcaraz survived a scare against lucky loser Arthur Rinderknech at Queen's Club on Tuesday as Andy Murray's winning streak on the grass was ended by Alex de Minaur. Alcaraz was playing only his seventh match on grass and his first outside of Wimbledon as he prepares for the third Grand Slam tournament of the season next month. Rinderknech, ranked 83 in the world, only found out he was playing the Spaniard hours before the match after Frenchman Arthur Fils, Alcaraz's scheduled opponent, withdrew from the tournament. But the 27-year-old almost stunned world number two before Alcaraz edged through 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) in just over two-and-a-half hours. "It has been a really tough match, he has played four or five

matches on the grass and this was my first one," said Alcaraz. "It was really difficult to adapt my game to the grass. For me it's tough to play here, but Queen's is a tournament I really wanted to play." Alcaraz was playing his first match since losing to Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals at the French Open and is hoping to improve once he gets accustomed to the conditions. "I couldn't play tennis on grass at home but I practised the movement on grass. I practised here a little bit before the tournament and I felt really good, even though it was the first match. "I would say I'm going to be better in the next round." Alcaraz will face Czech Jiri Lehecka in the second round. Murray had been on a 10-game winning streak after winning Challenger Tour events at Surbiton and

Nottingham. But the former world number one found the step up in quality to hard to handle as De Minaur eased to a 6-3, 6-1 victory. Murray had been hoping to rise into the seeds for the Wimbledon draw, but that is now unlikely as he started the week ranked 38 in the world. "I was so excited to play Andy on Centre Court at Queen's. I'm super proud of how I played and it couldn't have gone any better for me," said De Minaur. Second seed Holger Rune was also pushed by American Maxime Cressy before the Dane progressed 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) to secure his first ever grass court win on the ATP Tour. World number 10 Frances Tiafoe was more comfortable as he saw off Botoc van de Zandschulp 6-2, 6-4 to continue his winning streak after lifting the title in Stuttgart last week.

Pakistan's cricket is far superior, India can go to hell: Javed Miandad



The International Press : Former captain Javed Miandad has launched a fresh and scathing attack on the BCCI for refusing to tour Pakistan for the Asia Cup 2023. Miandad, who has been highly critical of India's reservations of coming to Pakistan to play cricket, did not hold back after the ACC (Asia Cricket Council) approved the 'hybrid model' for the Asia Cup, as India will play all its matches in Sri Lanka. This proposal has not pleased Miandad, who insists that Pakistan should boycott travelling to India unless the Indian cricket team visits them to play a series. "Pakistan has been to India in 2012 and even

in 2016 now it is the turn of the Indians to come here. If I had to make a decision, I would never go to India to play any match, even the World Cup. We are always ready to play them (India) but they never respond similarly. Pakistan cricket is bigger, we are still producing quality players. India can go to hell. I don't think even if we don't go to India, it will make any difference to us," Miandad told reporters. The India-Pakistan drama isn't only confined to Asia Cup. There was plenty of hue and cry over Pakistan's participation in the World Cup 2023 which is scheduled to be held in India. Although the ICC

is yet to announce the official schedule, the blockbuster India-Pakistan tie is expected to be played on October 15 in Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, which promises to garner worldwide attention. Besides, as per the latest reports, the PCB's analytical team has suggested that Pakistan shouldn't play their World Cup match against Afghanistan on Chennai's spin-friendly surface. Miandad however, reckons Pakistan should take a firm stance and refuse unless the BCCI sends its team first. It is to be noted that India last toured Pakistan for a series in 2008 for the Asia Cup relations

between the two nations started to sour after 26/11. The last bilateral series between the two nations dates back to 2012-2013 when Pakistan toured India for a three-ODI series in December-January. "I always say one can't choose its neighbours, so it is better to live by cooperating with each other. And I have always said cricket is a sport which brings people closer to each other and can remove misunderstandings and grievances between countries. It was on the cards that they would again not send their team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup so it is time we also take a strong stand now," he pointed out.