

Yellen warns China banks over Ukraine

U S treasury secretary Janet Yellen wrapped up four days of talks in China with a warning to the country's banks and exporters: If you help bolster Russia's military capacity, Washington will come after you.



"I stressed that companies, including those in the PRC, must not provide material support for Russia's war, and that they will face significant consequences if they do," Yellen said on Monday in prepared remarks for a press conference at the US ambassador's residence in Beijing, using an abbreviation for the People's Republic of China. BLOOMBERG

Japan's Sharp plans \$4bn investment

Swati.Bharadwaj
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Japanese electronics giant Sharp is planning a \$3-4 billion investment in setting up a Gen 10 display fab for TVs in India.

“We are scouting for partners — local investor and state govt as partners as well as govt of India as a partner. The project will be under the India Semiconductor Mission scheme,” said Sharp’s newly appointed India chairman Sujai Karampuri. He said a project of such scale would require an area of around 1,000 acres and that the company was looking at multiple states, including Telangana, for the project.

“Currently, there is no display fab in India and displays are currently imported into the country,” said Karampuri.

97 killed as boat carrying about 130 fleeing cholera outbreak capsizes off Mozambique

Maputo: Rescuers carried out search operations off the northern coast of Mozambique on Monday after a makeshift ferry-boat carrying people fleeing a cholera outbreak capsized, killing at least 97. The converted fishing boat, with about 130 people on board, ran into trouble late on Sunday as it was headed for an island off Nampula province, officials said.

Most of those on board were trying to escape the mainland after disinformation about cholera caused a panic, according to Nampula's secretary of state Jaime Neto. Many children were among the victims, he added.

On Sunday, authorities said the boat was believed to have sunk as it was overcrowded and unsuited to carrying passengers. It was later clarified that the vessel capsized after taking on water. "Water filled the boat... and the tragedy happened,"



Television footage showed locals gathered around the red and green wooden boat, which had been pulled onto a beach off Mozambique

Menque Amade, a crew member who survived the accident, told national broadcaster TVM. Silverio Nauaito, the island's administrator, said that six bodies were pulled from the waters Monday, bringing the toll to 97. Rescuers have found 12 survivors and search operations are continuing, the official said.

The southern African country, one of the world's poorest, has recorded almost

15,000 cases of cholera and 32 deaths since Oct, according to govt data. Nampula is the worst affected region, accounting for a third of all cases. Locals said that health authorities recently stepped up outreach and prevention efforts. But the increased medical presence caused a scare among some residents, pushing a number of them to flee, they said.

In recent months, the province has also received a large influx of people fleeing a wave of jihadi attacks in its northern neighbour of Cabo Delgado. The boat was headed to the Island of Mozambique, a small coral islet that used to serve as the capital of Portuguese East Africa and gave its name to the country.

Nauaito said it was not clear how many people were missing at sea as authorities were yet to determine the exact number of passengers. AFP

Tata firm launches earth observation satellite

New Delhi: Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, in collaboration with Satellogic, announced on Monday the successful launch and deployment in low-earth orbit of India's first private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation or surveillance satellite, TSAT-1A, reports **Surendra Singh**. The

satellite was launched from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, by Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on April 7.

TSAT-1A, assembled and tested in India, will deliver high-resolution optical satellite images with increased collection capacity and low-latency delivery through its multispectral and hyperspectral capabilities. Indian armed forces

will be one of its major customers. TASL CEO and MD Sukran Singh told TOI, "Isro has launched high-resolution earth observation satellites, but this is the first sub-metre high-resolution earth observation satellite by private sector. It has 0.5-0.8-metre resolution natively, which will be enhanced to 0.5-0.6-metre super resolution using software."

'Must march with time': SC to govt on permanent stint for women in Coast Guard

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After granting permanent commission to women short service commission officers in Army, Navy and Air Force, Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine similar career opportunity to women short service agreement (SSA) officers in Indian Coast Guard while ordering interim reinstatement of a woman officer who was discharged in Dec 2023 after a 14-year stint.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also ordered transfer of the petition by the woman SSA officer Priyanka Tyagi from Delhi high court, which had declined to grant interim relief to her while agreeing to examine the larger issue of PC for women in ICG, to Supreme Court saying it presented a national issue of gender equality.

In a virtual one-sided hearing of Tyagi's lawyer, senior advocate Archana Pathak Dave, the bench said when different branches of armed forces have granted PC to women short service commission officer, ICG cannot remain an outlier. "The petition needs to be heard given the broader constitutional mandate of Article 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth)," it said.

When attorney general R Venkataramani and additional solicitor general Vikramjit Banerjee attempted to convey the factual aspects of the denial of permanent commission to Tyagi, the bench said, "Look at the resistance you have for absorbing women in permanent commission in ICG, which must march with time."

In her 14-year stint with ICG as an SSA officer in the rank of assistant



SC ordered transfer of a plea regarding permanent commission to women in ICG to itself from Delhi HC saying it presented a national issue of gender equality

commandant, Tyagi saved more than 300 lives in the sea, logged 4,500 flying hours — the highest among men and women in armed forces, and in 2016, was part of first-ever all women crew on Dornier aircraft to undertake maritime patrolling on the eastern region.

Yet for all her accomplishments, she was denied permanent entry into ICG, which issued an order in May last year for releasing her from service on Dec 30, 2023. Citing grant of permanent commission to women in all three wings of armed forces, she moved Delhi HC seeking similar relief. Though HC entertained her petition, it refused to grant her interim relief by directing ICG to continue her service till a judicial decision on her plea.

Tyagi said there is no policy for permanent absorption of SSA women officers in ICG. The petitioner said she cleared a special aviation medical test and completed 13 months of flying training to qualify as a navigator. She said she has highest-flying hours as per her seniority in all the forces including male and female — 4,500 hours on the Dornier Aircraft — and has saved more than 300 lives at sea.

Registration for NEET-UG now open till April 10

New Delhi: In a major relief to NEET-UG aspirants facing Aadhaar-related issues while registering online for the test, National Testing Agency has reopened the application window for them for two more days — it will open on April 9 and close the next day at 10.50pm.

Stating this as a “one-time opportunity”, NTA officials said candidates are advised to use it carefully as no further chances will be given for applying. The extension has been notified following representations from candidates facing Aadhaar-related issues.

“Some candidates have stated that their Aadhaar was not available or they were having issues in updating their mobile numbers,” said NTA director-general Subodh Kumar Singh. TNN

30% of Indians aged 18-54 have never got BP measured: ICMR

DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Nearly 3 out of 10 people in India, aged between 18 and 54 years, have never got their blood pressure measured.

This has been revealed by the ICMR — National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR) in a study published recently in the International Journal of Public Health (IJPH).

According to the ICMR-NCDIR study, the southern parts of the country have the highest average rates of 76% of those who have measured blood pressure at least once in their lifetime with stand-out states/UTs being Lakshadweep (91%), Kerala (89%), TN (83%) and Puducherry (83%). In north India, 70% people

TIMES VIEW: High blood pressure can be grievous to the heart, kidney and other vital organs of the human body. Low blood pressure too can be dangerous. Which is why it is important for each of us to know the state of blood pressure — normal, high or low — in our bodies. That 30% of us haven't got their blood pressure checked even once shows a low awareness of the possible perils of the condition. The health ministry should run mass media campaigns to raise public awareness. Ignorance, in this case, is certainly not bliss.

said they had got their blood pressure measures, at one time or the other. In contrast, the study found, comparatively lower numbers had their BP checked in certain regions and states, such as MP (62.4%) and Chhattisgarh (62%) in the central region, Rajasthan (58%) in the north, Odisha (56%) and Jharkhand (60%) in the east, Gujarat (58%) in the west, and Nagaland (58%) in the North-East.

According to the Ameri-

can Heart Association (AHA), high blood pressure means the pressure in your arteries is higher than it should be. Doctors said that high blood pressure is a precursor to many critical illnesses, for example heart attack, stroke and, in the long run, kidney failure.

According to the study, pre-hypertension prevalence in the country varied widely across districts, with an overall rate of 34%.

Arunachal was, is and will remain part of Bharat: PM

'Timely Govt Role Improved Situation In Manipur'

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: PM Modi has brushed aside China's territorial claims on Arunachal Pradesh and asserted that the state "is an integral part of India and will always remain so". He also said that timely intervention of the Centre and efforts of the Manipur govt led to marked improvement in the situation in the state.

"Arunachal Pradesh is, was and shall always be an in-

'SELA A STRATEGIC GAME-CHANGER'

► PM highlights strategic significance of **Sela tunnel**, which will facilitate swift movement of troops and material to Arunachal. 'It's a strategic game-changer'

► **About development in NE**, Modi says, 'For decades after Independence, NE states were relegated to the margins. Today, NE has emerged as New

India's greatest success story'

► **On Manipur violence**, he says, 'We've dedicated our best resources & administrative machinery to resolve the conflict. Home minister Amit Shah stayed in Manipur while the conflict was at its peak and held 15-plus meetings to help resolve the conflict'



► **Cong moves EC against PM's Muslim League remark, P 7**

► **Transgender seer to fight Modi, P 8**

tegral part of Bharat," the PM said in an interview to Assam Tribune. His remarks came against the backdrop of China's provocation in assigning

names to 30 places in Arunachal Pradesh to support its invented claim over the area.

► **Continued on P 13**